



## Gathering the threads...

Tailored support for local homelessness action

Scottish Churches  
Housing Action



no room for homelessness!

# Understanding homelessness

This session outlines homelessness at a national level, and what is being done to tackle it. It sets out the reasons for homelessness, and explains why the figures are rising despite recent legislation.

## Understanding homelessness – locally & nationally

It looks at the local picture, explaining the role of the council and other organisations. It looks ahead to the target year of 2012, when the Scottish Executive wants every homeless applicant to get an offer of permanent accommodation. It explores what can be learnt from people with direct experience of homelessness.

By the end of the training session, we hope you will

- **Know what legislation affects homeless people**
- **Understand policy issues, such as support needs, supply of affordable housing, and user involvement**
- **Know which organisations are involved in homelessness locally, and their different roles**

The *Threads* programme starts where you are, and tailors learning to your needs. It encourages participation, and relates learning directly to the workplace. The *Understanding Homelessness* session is particularly relevant to induction of staff, volunteers and committees.

## Programme outline

### 1. Homelessness – the big picture

How many are homeless in Scotland; who becomes homeless; what does the law do about it; why does it persist?

### 2. In your area

Are we typical; what does the local homelessness strategy achieve; which organisation does what?

### 3. The 2012 target

Is there enough housing to be able to offer a home to everyone who is homeless; what about other people – eg on waiting lists?

**“I didn’t realise the magnitude of the homeless issue...”**

### 4. Other needs of homeless people

It’s not just about putting a roof over people’s head... what about support, employment, health; how do people pay for housing?

### 5. Homeless people’s contribution

The experts in homelessness are those who experience it. How can our project learn from them; can users enhance our work?

## Scottish Churches Housing Action...

promotes an understanding of homelessness in Scotland in churches throughout the land.

To book or discuss, contact

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