



Scottish Housing
Regulator

**Corporate
Parenting Plan**

December 2017

About us

We are the independent regulator of social landlords in Scotland.

We regulate:



nearly
200
social landlords



around
160 Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)



32 Local Authorities (LAs)

Our one **objective is to safeguard and promote the interests of:**



nearly
610,000
tenants

who live in homes provided by
social landlords



around
118,000
owners

who receive services of social
landlords



around
40,000
**people and
their families**

who may be homeless and seek
help from local authorities



over
2,000
Gypsy/Travellers

who can use official sites
provided by social landlords

Our **role** is to **monitor**, **assess** and **report on** social landlords' performance of housing activities and RSLs' financial well-being and standards of governance. We intervene, where we need to, to protect the interests of tenants and service users.

Our **Regulatory Framework** explains how we regulate social landlords. It is available on our website www.scottishhousingregulator.gov.uk



HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

Introduction

We are a corporate parent under the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#). This plan explains how we fulfil the duties the legislation places on us.

Our role

We operate under the [Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#). This legislation sets our functions. We monitor, assess and report on local authorities' and registered social landlords' (RSLs) performance in delivering services and RSLs' financial well-being and standards of governance. We have powers to intervene where necessary.

We are a risk-based regulator, and we target our resources at addressing the issues that present the greatest risk to tenants' and service users' interests.

Corporate parenting: our approach

Our context

We are different from many corporate parents in some important ways. We regulate independent organisations (social landlords) rather than delivering a service. We have no direct relationship with the children and young people to whom the duties in the Act relate. And some of the organisations we regulate (local authorities) are themselves corporate parents.

We had very useful discussions with the Scottish Government's corporate parenting team and the Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children (CELCIS) at Strathclyde University to help us explore and understand how we would be able to fulfil our corporate parenting role.

Our approach to corporate parenting is shaped by our primary statutory functions. We target our resources at addressing the issues that present the greatest risk to tenants' interests, in line with our risk-based regulatory approach.

One core element of our work is to monitor all social landlords' service quality against the [Scottish Social Housing Charter](#). We do this through our regulatory assessments, published analysis and thematic work. Each year we publish reports about each social landlord's performance against the Charter. Find out more about [our role in the Charter](#).

Our contribution

Care-experienced young people can be vulnerable and at risk of homelessness. We know that access to social housing and homelessness services are important issues for many care-experienced young people

Our statutory powers are relatively narrow and relate exclusively to our regulatory functions. That said, we are able to take some tangible actions. These are a combination of **regulatory activities** and **awareness raising / information sharing**.

Through our regulatory work we focus on homelessness to give us assurance that local authorities are meeting demand and providing help, advice and accommodation to vulnerable people who are or who may become homeless. Where we find that landlords are

not delivering the services they should, we engage with them about the action they need to take to improve their services.

Although we do not target our regulatory activities specifically at care-leavers, our work to monitor service quality, alongside our targeted, thematic work in areas such as homelessness shines a light on homeless and tenancy services that are important to care-experienced young people.

Examples of our work:

- In 2017/18 we are engaging with 18 local authorities on homelessness issues.
- In December 2016 we published research into the experiences of people who have used homelessness services. This research examined access to local authorities' services, support from staff and users' views on temporary accommodation. [Read more here.](#)
- In May 2014 we published a major report on housing options in Scotland, examining how local authorities have implemented this approach and its impact on the prevention of homelessness. The report included recommendations for the Scottish Government and local authorities. [Read more here.](#)
- We are raising our staff's awareness of issues faced by care-experienced young people, including by sharing information provided to us by Who Cares? Scotland, which will help equip us to identify any issues that are particularly relevant to care-experienced young people in our ongoing regulatory activities.
- We are in dialogue with advocacy organisations and other corporate parents. This will be an ongoing activity for us. We have worked with other corporate parents to build relationships and help understand how we can make practical contributions. For example, we gave detailed advice to another corporate parent about the information we hold on homelessness and the data the Scottish Government collects, to help it consider its own approach.
- At our regular liaison meetings with bodies we work closely with in our regulatory role, such as the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, Care Inspectorate and Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, we will raise corporate parenting and discuss whether there are opportunities to contribute to the corporate parenting agenda through our work.
- Where we find particular issues or practices at an individual landlord relating to services to care-experienced young people, we will either take action (where the issue is within our statutory remit) or share information with the relevant organisation such as the Care Inspectorate.
- We respond to enquiries from corporate parents to explain our role and how we intend to approach our responsibilities.
- We met with Staf (formerly the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum) to understand how it can support corporate parents.
- Who Cares? Scotland delivered a hugely informative and practical corporate training session to our management team to raise awareness across our organisation at a senior level and to help us consider what practical actions we may be able to take.

We will continue to explore practical opportunities to contribute as a corporate parent in a way that fits with our primary regulatory role.

