

Welfare Reform Forum

North Event (Inverness)

28th February 2019

Tony Donohoe, SHN

Topics for Today

1. SHN Updates (SHN)
 2. Universal Credit Implementation (DWP)
 3. SFHA Updates (SFHA)
 4. Welfare Reform Indicators: Project Update (SHN)
 5. Welfare Reform & Homelessness
 6. Open Forum
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several interlocking gears of various sizes and colors (shades of grey and blue) is positioned in the background on the right side of the slide.

Universal Credit Aims

- Encourage more people into work by introducing better financial incentives, simpler processes and increasing requirements on claimants to search for jobs;
- Reduce fraud and error; and
- Reduce the costs of administering benefits
- Current timeline 2010 – 2023 = 13yrs...!

NAO Report on UC: June 2018

1 in 5 claimants
don't receive full
payment on time

Additional costs for
local organisations

Some elements
working well i.e.
digital

Claimants struggle
to adjust – 4 in 10
experiencing
financial difficulties

DWP can't measure
whether UC will
lead to +200k
employment

Universal Credit Reminder from the National Audit Office!

“Both we, and the Department, doubt it will ever be possible for the Department to measure whether the economic goal of increasing employment has been achieved. This, the extended timescales and the cost of running Universal Credit compared to the benefits it replaces cause us to conclude that the project is not value for money now, and that its future value for money is unproven.”

Rolling Out Universal Credit: DWP, National Audit Office Report, June 2018

NAO Recommendations on UC: June 2018

1. Improve tracking and transparency of UC progress towards its intended benefits
2. Ensure operational performance & costs improve sustainably before increasing caseloads through managed migration
3. Work with delivery partners to establish shared evidence base for how UC working in practice
4. Make it easier for third parties to support claimants i.e. portal, consent, journal access

Welfare Reform

Indicators: Project Update

- Piloted new indicators
- Quarter ending Sept 2018
- 3 Returns (2 LAs & 1 HA)
- Final set of 14 indicators (changes – support indicators & data breakdown)
- Roll-out to all landlords 2019/20
- 1st data collection quarter ending June 2019

Welfare Reform Impact: Final Pilot Indicators

SHN Pilot Indicator Group	Indicators
Welfare reform & housing costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total landlord stock • Tenants in receipt of UC Housing Costs • Tenants in receipt of HB • Tenants in receipt of DHPs by reason
Universal Credit & Rental Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants in receipt of UC Housing Costs (arrears) • Tenants in receipt of HB (arrears) • Tenants not in receipt of housing cost support (arrears) • Cash value of arrears • Average arrear value • %age of tenants in arrears • Total number of MPTLs • MPTLs as %age of all 'UC tenants'

Discussion

What would our aims be from a housing or landlord perspective in terms of Welfare Reform(UC) for next 1-2yrs?

- Supporting tenants through change
- Housing cost administration (direct or not?)
- Rent collection
- Landlord portal development
- Scottish WR powers and implementation
- Measuring the impacts of WR
- What do we need to change further i.e. resources, ways of working and can we plan for this?

Homelessness Discussion Points

- Is there an impact from WR?
- How can this be evidenced?
- What are WR risks to 'rapid rehousing' aims of Scottish Government?

Next Forum Dates

Location	February 2019	Oct/Nov 2019	February 2020
East (Edinburgh)	Wed 05/06/19	Tues 29/10/19	Tues 18/02/20
West (Glasgow)	Thurs 06/06/19	Thurs 31/10/19	Thurs 20/02/20
North (Inverness)	Thurs 20/06/19	Thurs 07/11/19	Thurs 27/02/20