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# Who Will Pay the Price?

## The Impact of Housing Benefit and Welfare Reform in Scotland

16 February 2012  
Hampden Park, Glasgow

*We're Housing Scotland*<sup>®</sup>

Our events are key to the work of the SFHA and help deliver a valuable service to our members.

# Who Will Pay the Price?

## The Impact of Housing Benefit and Welfare Reform in Scotland

**The Welfare Reform Bill currently passing through Westminster represents the most significant overhaul of the welfare system since its creation in 1948.** It will see the introduction of Universal Credit (UC), a new integrated working age benefit that will replace a number of existing benefits including: Working Tax Credit; Child Tax Credit; Housing Benefit; Income Support; Income-based Job Seekers Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; while Disability Living Allowance will be replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Under Universal Credit, the way that support for housing costs will be calculated and paid will change radically. This means that landlords face serious challenges to how they currently operate. Likewise, tenants will find they face significant challenges as a result of the Bill.

This conference will examine and consider the impacts of the Welfare Reform Bill from a genuinely Scottish perspective, taking account of how the Bill will impact on social housing providers and their Third Sector partners, many of whom provide services to and represent the interest of various vulnerable groups across Scotland.

Jointly promoted by SFHA, SCVO, CIH Scotland, and ALACHO with the support of COSLA, this conference will take housing as its starting point for a thorough look at what the Bill will mean for Scotland. It will also consider the steps that Scottish Government, housing and the Third Sector need to take to mitigate those impacts.

**For further information please contact the SFHA Events Team at [events@sfha.co.uk](mailto:events@sfha.co.uk) or telephone 0141 332 8113.**

### Who should attend?

This event is a must for anyone working in Housing Benefit, housing management, housing policy & allocations, financial inclusion, welfare rights, homelessness, homelessness prevention, housing support, tenancy sustainment, housing options, social care, voluntary sector, community regeneration, anti-poverty and employability, etc. This includes:

- Housing Association CEOs, senior managers and Board Members
- Third Sector managers and voluntary board members
- Local authority Directors of Housing, Directors of Finance
- Local Authority Chief Executives and Councillors
- Advice and information providers
- Housing support providers
- Academics and researchers
- Voluntary organisations working across housing, housing support and homelessness
- Anyone with an interest in the future direction of housing policy and the development of housing practice in light of benefit changes

This important conference will be held on Thursday 16 February 2012 at Hampden Park in Glasgow. As this is such an important topic, we are delighted to be able to offer a REDUCTION on normal day rates for the conference - fees are £135 for members of SFHA/ALACHO/CIH Scotland/SCVO – all other delegates are £200. Our delegate rate includes VAT and attendance at the event, as well as refreshments and lunch. To book your place, please complete the attached form and return, together with payment, to the address shown. Completed booking forms can also be emailed to [events@sfha.co.uk](mailto:events@sfha.co.uk) or faxed to 0141 332 9684. Alternatively book online at [www.sfha.co.uk](http://www.sfha.co.uk).

# EVENT PROGRAMME

**9.00** Registration and Tea/Coffee

**9.45** Conference Welcome

Mary Taylor, SFHA will welcome the conference attendees and set out the key issues for the day.

**9.50** What the Welfare Reform Bill means for social landlords in Scotland

This session will outline the key provisions of the Bill and what it means for social landlords in Scotland

**10.10** The Impact on Local Authorities

What challenges does the Welfare Reform Bill set for Local Authorities? What solutions might we need to deliver?

**10.30** The Impact on Housing Associations and Co-operatives

What are the specific implications of the Bill for Scotland's housing associations and co-operatives?

**10.50** Tea and Coffee

**11.15** Is Scotland paying the highest price for welfare reform?

In November 2011, a new report from Sheffield Hallam University predicted that vast numbers of Scots will be impoverished, with 115,000 people losing incapacity benefits because of Westminster reforms. It also said that "countless" households were facing "untold distress" as the current headline total of 275,000 men and women on incapacity benefits will be cut by 115,000 by 2014. With one in five social housing tenants currently in receipt of disability benefits, Professor Steve Fothergill will discuss the key findings of that research. The session will also discuss how the Government propose to monitor the impact of housing benefit reform in Scotland.

**12.00** Sub-Plenary Sessions

**Sub Plenary A: The Impact on Housing Development and Finance**

The way that housing costs will be covered and how they will be paid to tenants in future will change radically under the proposals for Universal Credit. What challenges will this bring and what should be the main points of concern for Local Authorities, Housing Associations, funders, tenants and how should we respond?

**Sub Plenary B: How will the Welfare Reform Bill impact on the relationships between local authorities and housing associations and co-operatives?**

Changes to how Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit are administered will have significant implications for both local authorities and housing associations and co-operatives. What impact will the centralisation of administration to DWP have on tenants and landlords alike? What will happen with the administration of Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans? What impact will there be on local authorities and their strategic partners in terms of fulfilling statutory obligations, e.g. the 2012 Homelessness commitment?

**13.15** Lunch

**14.15** Workshops

Delegates will be able to choose from the following workshops:

**Workshop A:**

Impact on homelessness, supported housing and temporary accommodation

**Workshop B:**

Impact on Third Sector voluntary organisations and their service users

**Workshop C:**

Impact on vulnerable households or households with disabilities

**Workshop D:**

Impact on tenants' household incomes – building capability and ensuring they get the right advice

**15.00** Is DIY the answer: Could we do it ourselves?

With the constitutional debate an ever present consideration in Scottish public policy, what would happen if we did devolve Housing Benefit and other benefits to Scotland? Could we go it alone? Would it raise more issues than it could resolve? What would we want to see as the guiding principles of a welfare system?

**15.45** Tea and Coffee

**16.00** Political Panel Session

An opportunity to question politicians from across the political spectrum on their key concerns about the Welfare Reform Bill.

**16.45** Summing Up/Conclusions

**17.00** Conference Close

## Important Notice

This programme is correct at the time of going to press. We reserve the right to make alterations or substitutions to the programme if necessary. All timings may be subject to change. Views expressed by speakers either at the event or in notes or documentation provided may not necessarily be the views of the SFHA.

# Booking Form

The Impact of Housing Benefit and Welfare Reform  
in Scotland - 16 February 2012 Hampden Park, Glasgow



This Document is available in other formats such as Large Print or electronically, to obtain please contact Anita Harvey on 0141 332 8113 or by e-mail at [events@sfha.co.uk](mailto:events@sfha.co.uk).

## Details

Organisation: .....

Booking Contact Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Post Code\*: .....

Telephone: .....Email: .....

Delegate Name: .....Position/Job Title: .....

Please detail anything that you think might help us make your time at the event as trouble free as possible (dietary requirements; accessibility requirements etc)

.....

## Attendance Options

All prices are per person.

**Member**

**Non Member**

£135

£200

\*Confirmation sent to this address

## Cancellation Policy

Should you require to cancel your booking please notify Anita Harvey in writing. Please note that if cancellation occurs prior to the closing date of 10 February 2012, SFHA will charge an administration fee of £30. If cancellation occurs after the closing date the full fee is payable. A substitute delegate can be named at any time free of charge. SFHA's full terms and conditions of booking are available on our website [www.sfha.co.uk](http://www.sfha.co.uk)

## Method of Payment

**Cheque** I enclose a cheque for £.....made payable to: Scottish Federation of Housing Associations Ltd

**BACS** Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland  
Sort Code: 83-06-08 Account: 21692096  
Scottish Federation of Housing Associations Ltd

**I agree to SFHA's Terms and Conditions of Booking**

Signed:.....

Print Name:.....Date: .....

Post the completed booking form, together with payment, to Finance, SFHA, 375 West George Street, Glasgow G2 4LW **Closing Date: 10 February 2012**

Event Code: P157

Income Code: 5000