

Scottish Housing Associations Survey April 2008 SUMMARY

198 Housing associations in Scotland, all members of SFHA, were surveyed between February and April 2008.

A telephone and email survey was carried out to determine:

- The number of housing associations in Scotland that have young tenants aged between 16 and 24.
- The types of support available to help young people in their tenancies.

Some respondents did not have ready access to information about statistics or how their housing association worked with young tenants. Therefore this survey provides an overview of activity in this area rather than a definitive guide.

Key findings

Of the housing associations surveyed:

- 20% do not have tenants between the ages of 16-24.
- 33% have young tenants between the ages of 16-24.
- 47% made no reply (as yet).

With regards to housing associations that have young tenants:

- 10% work directly with young tenants to provide tenancy support services.
- 13% link up with other support services and/or refer young tenants on to other projects that help them sustain their tenancy.
- 10% do not provide tenancy support or link up to other services or projects.

Most of the housing associations did not have access to statistics to show the percentage of tenancies let to young people aged 16-24 in 2007/2008.

Of those that did provide statistics, an average of 30% of their total lets were made to young tenants aged 16-24 in 2007/2008, with most young tenants in the 18-24 age bracket.

Tenancy support

10% of housing associations do not provide support for young tenants or link up to other services. The staff who responded to the survey were unable to confirm the reasons for this policy.

Of the 10% that work directly with young tenants, all projects provide some sort of one to one individual support to help young people manage their tenancies. 2% of all housing associations surveyed have specific projects that cater for the needs of young tenants where they can meet others in a similar situation.

10% of all housing associations surveyed linked in with local voluntary sector support agencies to provide tenancy support for young people. 13% linked in with local authority support provided by social work and/or homeless teams.