HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS USER/ PROVIDER GROUP (HSUG)
Date:- Tuesday 5th Feb 2019
Time:- 10:30 – 13:00
Where:- 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

AGENDA Item:	Subject	Minutes and Actions
Item 1:	Minutes of the last meeting	The Minutes of the 20th February 2018 Meeting were agreed.
Item 2:	Matters arising	A number of action points from the last meeting were still outstanding. These were: • Statisticians to consider the different types of available TA across local authorities in future analysis/publication, i.e. in stock transfer LAs. • Statisticians to do a local authority analysis on the number of outcomes that are 'other 'known'' and communicate with LAs that have a large number in this category to see if a large proportion of these are 'death' and explore if such is required as a separate category. • Statisticians to make clear within current guidance documents that the new Private Residential Tenancy (which came into effect from 1 December 2017) should be recorded under the outcome 'Private rented – short assured tenancy', instead of being captured under a new outcome **A1 – SG to fulfil the outstanding actions**
Item 3:	Overview of latest Statistics	Lee gave a short presentation on some of the key points highlighted in the recent 'Homelessness in Scotland: Bi-annual Update' publication. No questions or comments.
Item 4:	HL3 data on temporary accommodation:	

| | | • data quality
• overview of published data

• Group Discussion on future data analysis | HL3 data was published in June for the first time, and was also included in the January 2019 publication.

Data quality:

In 2017/18 there was a 2% difference between HL2 and HL3 data. The reasons for this difference were largely known. However in 2018/19 the data quality has fallen so that there was a 9% difference between HL2 and HL3.

Scottish Government still hopes to drop the HL2 collection once satisfied that HL3 data is of sufficient quality. At this stage it is likely that HL2 will be collected for one more year.

Overview of published data:

List of HL3 given.

Most picked up issue has been number of breaches.

Group discussion:

Four questions were posed to the group in relation to

1. Overall, what did you think of the presentation of HL3 data in the annual Homelessness publication, published June 2018 (see handouts)
2. Are there any topics, graphs or tables that you think we should get rid of?
3. Do you think the presentation of both HL2 and HL3 data is confusing?
4. Bearing in mind that we can link to HL1 data, are there any other breakdowns of the data that you think would be useful to present?

Feedback from group:
• Good to see the detail of the total duration in temporary accommodation. |

		- A key differences in HL3 and HL2 relates to children. HL3 doesn't record number of children so we just use HL1, which is less detailed. Would be useful to record cases where children have access to TA but aren't residing there. - People generally don't like chart 11 as it shows no numbers, just a pattern. - The publication could be clearer for non-specialists. - People find the presentation of HL2 and HL3 together confusing. Greater explanation of difference between HL2 and HL3 would be good. - The way Edinburgh handles temporary accommodation inflates the number of placements and decreases the length of time. Concerned their figures aren't consistent – perhaps we need to add a footnote to explain why Edinburgh is different. - Edinburgh has issues regarding transgender male who is pregnant – Can change the spec. Other LA's had cases that don't want to be recorded as male or female. - Presentation more readable than in previous years. - A perceived inconsistency in legends on charts. Charts with secondary axis are confusing. - Interesting to look at offers per application. - Would be good to publish information on refusals from HL3. - Over counting instances of HL3 placements when people move frequently. This skews the number. - Would like to see HL2 go. - Publication contains nothing about prison leavers. - Shorter time series might be better. 10 years might be enough. - The publication doesn't contain information about prison leavers, the data also doesn't capture when someone was in prison but not as their last accommodation – this is leading to an undercount of prison leavers applying as homeless. Improved data/analysis on this topic would be useful to both SPS and LA's due to SHORE standards. - Would be useful to publish ad-hoc requests online so more data is out there.

		• Table 13b – not comparable between LA's as they don't take population into account. Could show per 1000 population for example. • Providers sometimes refuse to provide accommodation for people with particular needs, or because of the behaviour of the person. Difficult to record this. • It is common to put someone in TA before they submit a HL1 application. Sometimes HL1 might be backdated, sometimes not. **A2 – SG to look in more detail at differences between children in HL2 and HL3 (linked to HL1) and consider adding in new fields to HL3 data collection** **A3 – SG to consider suggested changes to publication and implement where possible in the June publication** **A4 – SG to liaise with Edinburgh re. the booking in and out of TA inflating numbers, consider if it would be useful to have a footnote explaining this.** **A5 – SG to consider including specific data on prison leavers in publication.** **A6 – SG to publish ad hocs online**
Item 5:	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG): Recommendations update	Ruth Whatling presented an update on homelessness activities within the Scottish Government following the recommendations of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group. Comments: • It was asked whether there were any plans to 'performance manage' RSL's in relation to rapid rehousing? Ruth stated there are currently no plans for this.
Item 6:	Homelessness Statistics - data collection and publication timetable for 2018/19 and future developments	Susan presented on future plans for Scottish Government Homelessness publications: Publications: Schedule for future publications was presented. • People generally happy with idea of dropping HL2 in 1 year.

		• SG will potentially not publish HL2 data in next January's publication depending on HL3 data quality. Data collection: Scottish Government are beginning to explore ways to make collection of data more efficient. One option is to move the HL1 data collection to procxed (the system used for PREVENT1). • It was asked whether procxed accepts only XML file types. If so then local authorities would need to change their systems to output XML rather than CSV. Scottish Government will investigate this. • The possibility of reducing email and removing the security risk of sharing personal data by email was welcomed. • Some local authorities do not like the data editing facilities on procxed. • It was commented that procxed can be slow. • It was asked whether procxed can produce warnings as well as errors. • It was asked whether a full list of validation rules for each collection could be made available to local authorities so they can be built into local systems. SG will do this. PREVENT1: The view of the Scottish Government is that statistically speaking PREVENT1 is not that great. This is because the lack of consistency between how local authorities record this data means that it is not possible to make valid comparisons. Because the collection is not widely used but requires a significant amount of work it was asked whether user considered there was value in continuing the collection Comments: • The information is useful internally for local authorities.

		- Some LA's have more data than is collected by SG. - Publication doesn't present all the work done by local authorities. - Publication only reports on the first action taken by LA, in reality most PREVENT1 cases have multiple actions and would be good for publication to reflect this. - PREVENT1 data specification isn't as good as HL1. Would like to see some central guidance. - Local authorities have seen confusion over how PREVENT1 data has been interpreted. Rough sleeper count: Susan updated on ongoing discussions taking place within SG to begin collecting data on rough sleeping. Homeless deaths: The Office for National Statistics recently published an estimate of homeless deaths for England and National Records of Scotland is currently investigating whether the same methodology can be replicated in Scotland. The methodology involves looking at death certificates for information that might indicate homelessness, one aspect of which involves checking if the address listed on the death certificate is known to be temporary accommodation. Susan asked if it would be possible for local authorities to provide addresses of temporary accommodation to assist with this work and if they would be willing to share it with the Scottish Government. Comments: - In principle local authorities could share this although temporary accommodation is frequently changing which may pose difficulties.

		• There were also some queries about how bed and breakfast accommodation would be handled in this case. • It was suggested that a way to record homeless deaths in HL1 as a way of closing a case should be considered. It was felt that this would provide the data required to answer the typical questions that LA's are typically asked around this topic. **A7 – SG to continue comparison of HL2 and HL3 and liaise with LAs to improve quality of HL3.** **A8 – SG to investigate moving HL1 and HL3 data collections on to ProcXed, including whether ProcXed can accept csv files or just xml. Also check whether it can produce warnings as well as errors.** **A9 – SG to provide LAs with all error checks we perform on each dataset** **A10 – SG to review publication and consider how to best reflect all of the work LAs do, not just first action.** **A11 – SG to review PREVENT1 documentation** **A12 – LAs to provide SG with list of temp accommodation. SG to speak to ONS to clarify what types of TA they have on their register and let LAs know.** **A13 – SG to consider adding death as an option in the HL1 outcome question.**
Item 7:	Any other business	Susan informed the group that Emily Tweedy wished to thank members of the group for assistance with regards to her research relating to health and homelessness in Scotland. Emily also passed on that her research will no longer be able to look at the whole of Scotland and instead will focus on data for Glasgow.
Item 8:	Date of next meeting	A meeting will take place in February 2020 as usual. It was asked whether it might be useful for the group to meet more regularly than annually. It was agreed that 6 monthly meetings might be beneficial, and so a meeting after the June publications will be considered.

		A14 – SG to organise a meeting in approx. 6 months. Likely to be late August/ early September after the school summer holidays.
		Actions A1 – SG to fulfil the outstanding actions A2 – SG to look in more detail at differences between children in HL2 and HL3 (linked to HL1) A3 – SG to consider suggested changes to publication and implement where possible in the June publication A4 – SG to liaise with Edinburgh re. the booking in and out of TA inflating numbers, consider if it would be useful to have a footnote explaining this. A5 – SG to consider including specific data on prison leavers in publication. A6 – SG to publish ad hocs online A7 – SG to continue comparison of HL2 and HL3 and liaise with LAs to improve quality of HL3. A8 – SG to investigate moving HL1 and HL3 data collections on to ProcXed, including whether ProcXed can accept csv files or just xml. Also check whether it can produce warnings as well as errors. A9 – SG to provide LAs with all error checks we perform on each dataset A10 – SG to review publication and consider how to best reflect all of the work LAs do, not just first action. A11 – SG to review PREVENT1 documentation A12 – LAs to provide SG with list of temp accommodation. SG to speak to ONS to clarify what types of TA they have on their register and let LAs know. A13 – SG to consider adding death as an option in the HL1 outcome question. A14 – SG to organise a meeting in approx. 6 months. Likely to be late August/ early September after the school summer holidays.

Homelessness Statistics, Scottish Government, Feb 2019