

Because we all need friends and family.

- Positive social networks:
- prevent homelessness
 - promote mental health and well-being
 - create inclusive communities - and make us feel good about ourselves

In this edition of the newsletter you will find **last minute** information on two **events**:

- GHN "Delivering on the Digital // Divide" briefing session
1st November, Glasgow **STILL PLACES**
- SCSH National Homelessness Conference 2007
8th and 9th November 2007, Edinburgh **LAST CHANCE**

two Scottish Social Networks **resources** featured at these events:

- Successful Project Development – A Toolkit launched at the SCSH conference
- Social Networks Training Pack at the GHN briefing session

As well as:

- Shelter's **online advice** website
- The Financial Case for Prevention - **The costs of tenancy failure.**

As usual if there is anything you would like included in the newsletter or a contribution you would like to make please email me to let me know

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Cheers **Lesley** (Lesley Stenhouse, Forum Coordinator)

STILL PLACES

10am on Monday 5th November



Glasgow Homelessness Network launch their report "**Delivering on the Digital // Divide**" at a briefing session in the lecture theatre, Teacher Building 14 St Enoch's Square, Glasgow.

This dynamic morning session will provide a concise briefing for local partnerships responsible for considering and enhancing the role of digital inclusion in assisting routes out of exclusion. The briefing is based on the outcomes of a multi-agency project in Glasgow. It presents the linkage across the digital, social and economic inclusion agendas, while offering a series of practical considerations. Local partnerships continuously assess innovative platforms and methods to progress local social inclusion priorities - the digital platform is a compelling one!

For more information on the briefing and the report contact Janice Higgins, Office Manager at GHN Granite House, First Floor 31 Stockwell Street Glasgow G1 4RZ Tel: 0141 276 4825 Email: janice@ghn.org.uk 0141 276 4821

**SCOTTISH COUNCIL FOR
SINGLE HOMELESS**

8th & 9th Nov'07 National Homelessness Conference

Last chance to book! The SCSH national homelessness conference is taking place on 8th and 9th November in the Apex International Hotel in Edinburgh. The conference which features a keynote speech by Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister, will also see the launch of two important pieces of research. SCSH commissioned research into homelessness services in stock transfer authorities will be launched on day one, and research relating to children in families experiencing domestic abuse by Scottish Women's Aid will feature on the second day. A broad range of workshops covering policy and practice cover both days, and there are speakers from outside Scotland, talking about homelessness prevention in Wales and developments in the private rented sector in Ireland. **Contact SCSH 0131 226 438 or go to:**

http://www.scsh.co.uk/events/2007/scsh_conference.htm



Shelter's online advice website in a future edition of the newsletter? The web address is www.shelter.org.uk/adviceonline

The site is really useful for advisers and for clients - it contains over 600 pages of information and advice on a wide range of housing related issues, including homelessness, finding and keeping a home, mortgages, benefits, relationship breakdown, caring for someone at home and lots more! It also has checklists and sample letters which can help people take action to solve their housing problems, and includes special sections:

for young people

www.shelter.org.uk/knowyourrights

and for disabled people

www.shelter.org.uk/disabledpeople



Scottish Social Networks will launch the [Successful Project Development Toolkit](#) at the SCSH conference on 8th Nov, 07. It seeks to answer the question; "what makes a successful social networks project happen?" Investigation of mentoring, befriending and mediation projects for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness

was undertaken during the research for the Toolkit, to identify the key triggers that enable these projects to be set up; the key features of successful projects and the risk factors. The Toolkit is designed to make it easier for local authorities, voluntary organisations and others to develop successful mentoring, befriending and mediation projects which will help prevent homelessness. Contact: www.scottishsocialnetworks.org info@scottishsocialnetworks.org.



Delegates at GHN's "Delivering on the Digital // Divide" briefing session will learn that in addition to the more easily recognised benefits of learning and skills development, digital contact can be important for people to make, sustain or repair personal their social networks. It is recognised that positive social networks can prevent and resolve exclusion and enable the development of sustainable communities.

Scottish Social Networks will be presenting this connection on the day, and explaining how the [new training pack](#) is proving a winner with training courses over subscribed. www.scottishsocialnetworks.org

Julie Hunter, North Lanarkshire Council and Sharon Dickens, Scottish Churches Housing Action presented their findings from research into "[The Financial Case for Prevention – The costs of tenancy failure](#)" at the Scottish Council Single Homeless Conference last year (2006). One case demonstrated a cost of over £25,000 for a year, 27% of which was support costs. They found that local authority staff felt that on average nearly half (46%) of homeless applicants could have had their homelessness prevented. View the presentation on: www.scottishsocialnetworks.org/research



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