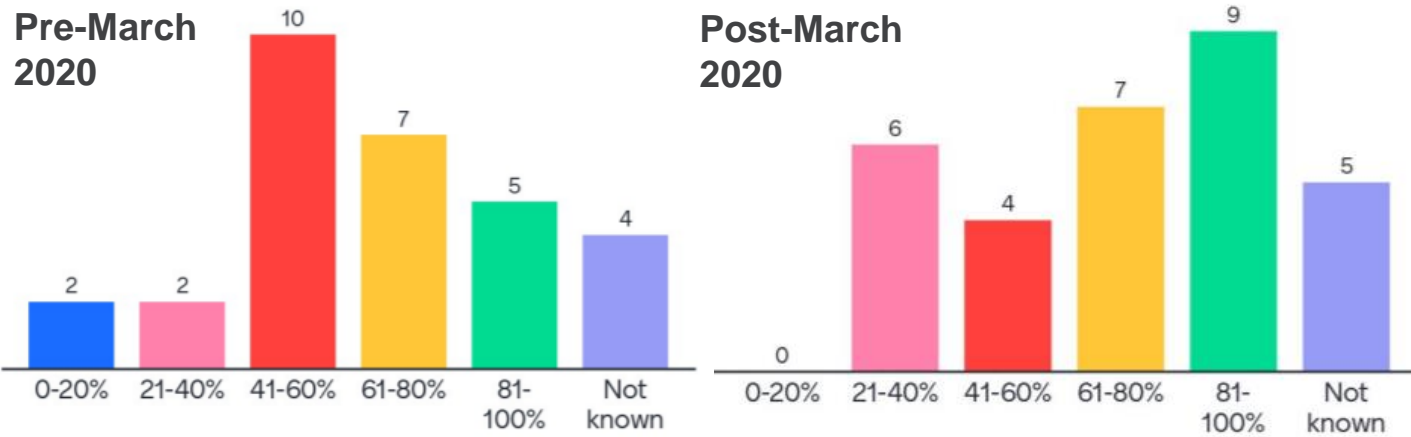




A network of services that support adult and child victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Scotland. Sharing practice, voicing questions and drawing on the expertise of colleagues in the sector, as we look to COVID-19 recovery planning

Monthly call theme:  
Housing

## We asked attendees what percentage of their service users had housing needs...



This showed quite a lot of change and also variation between services with some seeing housing needs increase and others seeing a decrease.

## We asked what challenges there have been meeting housing need during COVID-19...



### System standstill

The biggest theme was a standstill in the housing system as a result of various lockdown-related issues:

- Fewer move-ons
- No void inspections
- Inability to view properties
- Temporary accommodation at capacity
- Difficulty contacting housing staff (remote working/absence)
- Housing Associations suspending allocations



### Safety

Extra challenges ensuring safety, e.g. assessing home security options remotely, refuge communal spaces. Victims returning to perpetrators due to lack of housing options.



### Appropriate & available options

Limited availability of suitable options e.g. for larger families, men, victims with No Recourse to Public Funds, victims in employment.

# Professionals told us about good practice in their areas to meet the housing needs of survivors during COVID-19

Some funds (e.g. Victim Fund, Scottish Welfare Fund) providing money for home security measures or furnishings for moves

Extra temporary accommodation made available, including refuge spaces in some areas. Some temporary accommodation made permanent.

Some Local Authorities paying housing costs for victims with No Recourse to Public Funds

Comments indicated a lot of variation in practice across different areas

Victims of domestic abuse prioritised for emergency accommodation

Good partnerships – Maracs, Housing Officers

## What services told us they need to effectively support victims and survivors with housing needs

### Immediate capacity



- More **housing stock**
- Faster **turnaround** on existing stock
- Increased **refuge** capacity
- Options for **BME & migrant women** (dedicated refuge, supported housing for young people)
- Stable **funding** for domestic abuse services & refuge/move-on accommodation
- Better **partnerships** with housing teams

### Systems change



- Adopt **Housing First** principles
- **Coordinated multi-agency responses involving Housing teams**: to ensure needs-based allocations and prevent domestic abuse-related homelessness
- **Victim-focussed approaches**, e.g. better capacity to remove perpetrator, traumatising moves for families

“**Consistency in housing practices**”

### What next?

- The next network meeting will focus on **children and contact arrangements**