



Discretionary Housing Payments

The Highland Experience

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Highland: Statistics and Challenges



- Challenges of:-
 - Accommodation size
 - Availability of effective transport
 - Sustainable local communities
 - Employment
- Significant engagement
- Good links with RSLs, Citizens Advice, NHS etc.

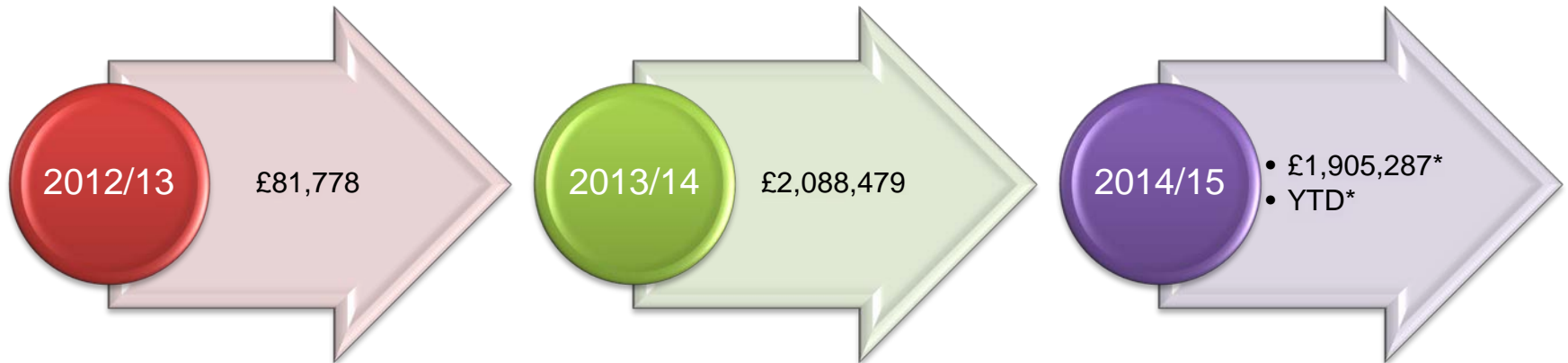
- 18% of Highland households live on income below the poverty threshold after housing costs
- Typically, the minimum cost of living in remote rural Scotland ranges between 10% and 40% more than the equivalent in urban Britain
- 33% of tenants affected by under occupancy are in rent arrears (Jul14)



Highland: Funding History

	Breakdown	Total
2012/13 – DWP Grant Allocation		£72,000
2013/14 – Initial DWP Grant Allocation	£252,120	
2013/14 – Additional DWP Grant Allocation	£734,995	
2013/14 – DWP Transitional Funding	£32,690	
2013/14 – DWP Reserve Fund Awards	£90,000	
2013/14 – Scottish Government Funding	<u>£1,465,777</u>	
		£2,575,582
2014/15 – DWP Grant Allocation	£1,178,903	
2014/15 – Scottish Government Funding	<u>£1,081,781</u>	
		£2,260,684

Highland: DHP Spend



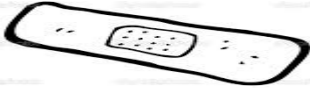
Highland: Policy and Administration

- Exchequer & Revenues
- Paper application form
- DWP DHP Framework
- Short form for those affected by Under Occupancy rules.
- Awards extended for 14/15 automatically upon receipt of written confirmation from HA's



- DHP Resource intensive
- Additional operational costs
- Senior Officer Level monitoring
- Monthly updates to Members

Highland: The future...

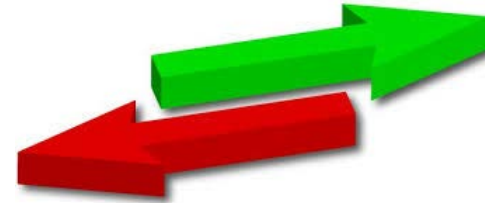


- One “DHP Fund” but
 - Two funding streams
 - Two different policy objectives
 - Two different bases of grant allocation



- Increased demand for advisory and peripheral services e.g. money advice/food banks etc

- DHP has lost its original focus Mitigation? “a sticking plaster approach”



- Political landscape

