

PRESS RELEASE

To: News/Diary date

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Page: 1 of 1

Where do I go now? Sacro Annual Conference 2007 Heriot-Watt University Thursday 1 March.

Sacro, Scotland's leading community safety organisation, has chosen supported accommodation as the topic for its highly successful annual conference now in its 30th year.

Cathy Jamieson, MSP, Minister for Justice, will be the keynote speaker and give her view of this area of service so vital to reducing re-offending.

The conference will focus on how supported accommodation makes a valuable contribution to safeguarding communities by reducing re-offending. Research shows that settled accommodation can make a difference of over 20% in terms of reduction in reconviction. (Social Exclusion Unit figures), thereby helping ex-prisons move on to successful independent living. The Scottish Executive target is to reduce reconviction rates by 2% by March 2008.

Susan Matheson, Chief Executive of Sacro, said

"We are the leading provider of supported accommodation services for ex-offenders in Scotland, having provided over 28,000 bed nights in 2005-2006. Given the need highlighted by Parole Board members, Sacro is committed to ensuring these services are developed further. We are, therefore, delighted to host this national discussion to stimulate thought and action with the support of our partner organisations: Barony Housing Association; Cyrenians; Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and the Scottish Council for Single Homeless.

The annual conference will offer delegates the chance to attend high quality workshops run by these organisations.

To book a place at the conference please forward your details to events@national.sacro.org.uk or telephone 0131 624 7270. A booking form will be sent to you.

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