

## REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE 28 March 2019

### HOUSING FIRST ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE CONSORTIUM

#### 1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 **Discuss and approve the proposal to enter into a Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire 'Social Bite' Housing First Programme/Consortium funded by way of Social Bite (Sleep in the Park events) and the Scottish Government (Ending Homelessness Together Fund)**

#### 2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 On the 21 February 2019 Communities Committee agreed submission of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) to the Scottish Government.
- 2.2 Funding has been provided through the Corra Foundation to several consortia across Scotland to develop Housing First models as part of their response to deal with homelessness and rough sleeping and repeat homelessness. This is aligned to the RRTP and is seen by the Scottish Government as one strand of preventing homelessness. The Corra Foundation seek to contribute to improving the lives of individuals and communities experiencing disadvantage across Scotland.
- 2.3 Aberdeenshire Council has a pilot Housing First model as reported to Communities Committee on 7 September 2017. The Aberdeenshire model consists of 18 clients with support co-ordinated by a Housing First (Support) Officer. The model has been evidenced to provide a more holistic service to tenants while providing savings to those services involved (including but not limited to the Health & Social Care Partnership, Scottish Prison Service, those services involved (including but not limited to the Health & Social Care Partnership and the Scottish Prison Service).
- 2.4 The Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire "consortium" is effectively a collaboration led by Aberdeen Cyrenians with partners Aberdeen Foyer, Turning Point Scotland, Aberdeen City Council and potentially Aberdeenshire Council should this paper be agreed today.
- 2.5 The proposed collaboration is with a view to a wider Housing First model becoming part of Aberdeenshire's RRTP. Following approval of the RRTP, including provision for entering into the collaboration, we seek agreement to

enter into the collaboration. The agreement will be recorded in a formal Memorandum of Agreement which will be agreed and signed by the Head of Housing.

- 2.6 The aim is to provide 60 Housing First tenancies within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire by March 2020 and a further 60 tenancies by March 2021 with funding of £400K over the two year period.
- 2.7 The Memorandum of Agreement seeks to establish a collaboration focused on Housing First within Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Aberdeen Cyrenians will manage the programme on a day to day basis, reporting regularly to all other parties on progress. The programme team will be made up of individuals employed by Aberdeen Cyrenians, Turning Point Scotland and Aberdeen Foyer. The funding for the programme will be in line with the funding secured and Aberdeenshire Council will be indemnified against any additional expenses or costs. Aberdeenshire Council retains the right to withdraw from the partnership on provision of three months notice to the other parties.
- 2.8 The partnership will come together by way of meetings attended by a senior representative of the Housing Service. These meetings shall be held monthly for the first six months of the agreement and thereafter every two months.
- 2.9 The proposed outcomes from the collaboration align with Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023.
- 2.10 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

### **3 Scheme of Governance**

- 3.1 The committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section D 1.1 (d) of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as this relates to a decision on policy and resource matters.

### **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment has not been carried out as the recommendations do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no specific staffing and financial implications arising from this policy as it reflects the current situation on which the Housing budget was set.
- 4.3 The following risk has been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- ACORP005 – working with other organisations. Collaborative arrangements are in place to plan and deliver the proposed model.
- 4.4 The recommendations in this report do not have an impact on the Town Centre First Principle.

**Stephen Archer, Director Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 by:  
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