

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

Aberdeenshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) Update

1 Reason for Report/Summary

1.1 To update Committee on the progress being made by the Housing Service on the actions identified in the Aberdeenshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-2024.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Discuss and acknowledge the activities being undertaken jointly by Aberdeenshire Council Housing Service and partners to deliver the actions identified within the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-24

1.2.2 Agree to a further update on progress in twelve months

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 On 21 February 2019 Communities Committee agreed the submission of the Aberdeenshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-2024 to the Scottish Government.

Previously, on the 6 September 2018, Communities Committee had been briefed on the work of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG), and the requirement to prepare a five year costed Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan. On the 20 December 2019, they considered an update on the work of the RRTP Member Officer Working Group.

On 5 September 2019, members were advised of the progress that had been made during the first six months of the RRTP and requested that a further update be provided in six months. The report to have been provided in March 2020 was delayed due to the impact of Covid 19 but provided on 3 September 2020.

On 3 June 2021, members were provided with an update on the implementation of the Aberdeenshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-2024 and agreed to receive a further update in twelve months

This report provides an update on the implementation of Year 3 of the Aberdeenshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-2024, in terms of developing a rapid rehousing approach to meeting the needs of homeless households and those at risk of homelessness.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 The requirement to produce an RRTP arose from the work of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG), set up by the Scottish Government in October 2017 to produce both short and long term solutions to end homelessness and rough sleeping. The recommendations of the group provided a vision of a whole system approach with prevention of homelessness paramount and responsibility lying with all parts of the public sector. Their recommendations together with the outcomes of an enquiry into homelessness undertaken by the Local Government and Communities Committee of the Scottish Parliament resulted in the development of the [Ending Homelessness Together high level action plan](#) published in November 2018 and updated in October 2020, following HARSAG having been reconvened to provide further recommendations on action needed during the global pandemic and in the future to end homelessness.
- 3.2 Rapid Rehousing requires that where homelessness cannot be prevented it should be brief, with households accessing settled accommodation quickly and stays in temporary accommodation minimised. Move on accommodation should be sustainable to ensure that homelessness does not recur and that the cycle of homelessness is ended.
- 3.3 In the Aberdeenshire RRTP and Action Plan agreed by Communities Committee in February 2019 and submitted to the Scottish Government, a wide range of actions were identified across four main areas including homeless prevention, supply and access to permanent accommodation, temporary accommodation and support.
- 3.4 In July 2019, as part of the distribution of the £24M Ending Homelessness Together Fund we received £261,000 to enable delivery of Year 1 actions. £259,000 was awarded in 2020/21 to resource Year 2 actions, with a further £150,000 received in March 2021 as part of our allocation of £5M additional RRTP funding. £252,000 was provided to fund the delivery of Year 3 actions during 2021/22 and takes the total received to date to £922,000. Funding for the remaining two years will be £250,000 per year.
- 3.5 In July 2022 we submitted a third monitoring report to the Scottish Government outlining spend of the RRTP funding and an update on progress made in Year 3 of the RRTP.

The monitoring report, attached as **Appendix 1**, provides detail on the range of activities carried out during 2021/22 and illustrates spend of the funding provided.

To meet submission deadlines the draft monitoring report was circulated to members of the RRTP member officer group and discussed with the group on 29 August 2022.

3.6 The Coronavirus pandemic and periods of restriction impacted on delivery of services, but good progress has been made towards key rapid rehousing monitoring indicators during Year 3 of the plan

These include:

- Homeless journey time reduced by a further 39 days
- The average homeless backlog (open homeless cases not under offer) was 146 per month, down by 103 on previous year.
- Average number of days spent in all temporary accommodation reduced by 24 days to less than 100 days
- 67 fewer households were in temporary accommodation in March 2022 compared with March 2021
- 61 temporary properties flipped – giving a permanent tenancy and aiding resettlement by maintaining support networks and avoiding additional costs of moving.
- No breach of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order was recorded
- Approaches for housing advice returned to pre-pandemic levels – 88% resulted in positive housing outcomes being identified including homelessness being prevented
- Homeless presentations maintained at the same level as 2020/21 - the lowest at any point in the previous 20yrs
- 37 Housing First tenancies were created

Throughout 2021/22 we monitored homeless demand carefully, responded to the changing legislation and public health guidance and built on existing partnerships to prevent homelessness where we could and identify appropriate sustainable housing options where that was not possible.

3.7 The Unsuitable Accommodation Order (UAO) was extended to all households in September 2021. Any placement of a homeless household in accommodation that is considered unsuitable, mainly Bed & Breakfast or hotel, for more than 7 days is considered a breach of the order. Temporary accommodation use has been reviewed and is closely monitored to prevent breach of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order.

3.8 On 22 March 2021 a ministerial statement set out the circumstances and criteria relating to the exercise of the power to modify the operation of local connection referrals. Legislation is anticipated but has not yet been introduced.

- 3.9 The Prevention Review Group, set up to progress work on preventing homelessness identified by HARSAG and in the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan outlined recommendations for legal duties to prevent homelessness in its report of February 2021. Aimed at reforming the homeless system and bringing together a wide range of public bodies with a focus on homeless prevention, it included a duty to “ask” and “act” where there is a risk of homelessness. The Scottish Government and COSLA consulted on the full raft of recommendations during December 2021 and April 2022 and a report is expected in the autumn of 2022.
- 3.10 Housing First – A detailed briefing note has been shared with councillors detailing the successful outcomes of the scheme. The service are keen to continue to increase capacity and are continuing to look at funding streams to make this possible.
- 3.11 The service continues to move forward and investigate new opportunities to maintain its strong performance. One of these projects is focusing on youth homelessness. We are currently working with Aberdeen Foyer to introduce a community hosting service called Nightstop. Hosts will provide a safe place for young people to stay who are at risk of homelessness and enable the service to come up with a sustainable solution to avoid homelessness where possible. Aberdeen Foyer have been commissioned to provide the service and they currently have an advertising campaign ongoing to recruit hosts.
- 3.12 Due to the current cost of living situation there are risks to the future performance of the service. We could see a number of people unable to pay bills across all tenures which could put pressure on homeless services. It will therefore be important for the service to come up with innovative ways of sustaining tenancies and we will report this back to the member officer working group looking at cost of living.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This Report helps to deliver the Council Priority of Health & Wellbeing within the pillar “Our People” and the principle of “right people, right places, right time” and the Council Priorities of Infrastructure and Resilient Communities within the pillar “Our Environment” and the principle tackling poverty and inequalities.

4.2 Implications

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	IIA attached as Appendix 2		

Children and Young People`s Rights and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Town Centre First		X	

- 4.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is included as Appendix 2. The following impact has been identified which can be mitigated as described :-

The experience of homelessness can have negative effects on the life chances of young people experiencing it directly or within households. Preventing homelessness or a speedy resolution minimises the negative effects.

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section D 7.1 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.

Alan Wood
Director Environment & Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Allan Jones Housing Manager (Options and Homelessness) and Lorraine Stewart Team Leader (Change and Voids)

DATE : 06 Aug 2022

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 – RRTP Monitoring Report
Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment

RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN

2021/22 Monitoring Report - activity and funding
(RRTP funding - part of the Ending
Homelessness Together Fund)



Scottish Government Ending Homelessness Together Fund Monitoring Implementation of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans

As part of the Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Fund, funding of £8m was agreed with COSLA for 2021/22.

As with previous years, we are asking all local authorities to provide a written report on progress to date and how they have spent their allocation of funding. We would ask local authorities to remember to include all funding carried over from previous financial years.

We would ask that all local authorities complete this report and include it with their amended RRTP for 2022/23 or the latest version available which should be submitted to the Scottish Government by **30 June 2022**. We realise this may be subject to final accounts being cleared by Audit.

Included is a template to provide detail on specific activities which should be replicated for each activity you have taken forward in implementing your Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan. For example we are looking for information on specific activities such as prevention; recruitment of staff; temporary accommodation; shared tenancies; or mediation. Following feedback from the RRTP Sub-Group, this year's template has been amended to capture information on the impact/outcomes of activities. This will enable the Scottish Government to develop the RRTP Report showing impact which is developed for the Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group.

We have now included a separate section of the template specifically for Housing First. This will enable us to capture information on Housing First across Scotland, how local authorities are delivering Housing First and to understand partnership arrangements.

We have also included a template for reporting on RRTP funding which has not been spent during 2021/22 and previous financial years. We are looking for detail of how local authorities plan to spend any previously carried over funding during 2022/23.

Please submit this report, your RRTP, an updated EQIA and any accompanying documents to: RapidRehousingTransitionPlansMailbox@gov.scot

If there are any questions then please send them to the mailbox and a member of the team will contact you to discuss.

Local Engagement and Rapid Rehousing Team

Details of funding recipient

Local Authority	ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL		
Reporting Period	01/04/2021 <small>DD/MM/YYYY</small>	to	31/03/2022 <small>DD/MM/YYYY</small>
Reporting Officer	Allan Jones		
Position	Housing Manager (Options & Homelessness)		
Date Completed	14.7.22		
Total RRTP Funding carried over from 2020/21	nil		
RRTP Funding received for 2021/22	£252,000		

2021/22 Activity				
Activity Name:	INCREASE ACCESS TO SETTLED ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS			
Activity Description: Provide a short overview of the aims and the transformative nature of this activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and reduce homeless backlog – including flipping • Reduction in average days to relet • Monitor and review impact of specialist officers – Community Care Grants (CCG) and Private Rented Sector (PRS) • Increase access to properties in the Private Rented Sector including discharge of homeless duty • Ensure access by homeless households to properties in social rented sector including where Choice Based Letting (CBL) is in place • Use of information to identify potential fraud through access to Insight 			
Allocation Spent on activity:		SG RRTP funding	Local Authority funding	Other
	£	£92,949 – RRTP Staffing (Housing Officers CCG & PRS and RRTP Project Manager) £10,000 Insight		
Overview of progress made to date: Provide a short summary of the work undertaken in the past year, progress made and challenges.	<p>The homeless backlog has been reduced throughout 2021/22 from 162 to 151 despite 908 homeless presentations having been recorded during the year.</p> <p>At 31.3.22 only 7 cases had been open for more than 9 months compared with 19 at 31.3.21. These cases were being actively case managed and were open for an extended period due to circumstances that affected the type/location of property that could be offered or that was required to meet the needs of the household</p>			

67% of the cases that made up the homeless backlog were single adults with no children

61 temporary tenancies were flipped bringing the overall total during the RRTP to date to 290. Whilst this activity has slowed it has continued to be significant in discharge of duty and reduction of the homeless backlog.

The average number of days to relet mainstream properties is showing some improvement at 75 days compared with 78 days at the end of 2020/21 however the improvement throughout the year is more marked with a 25% reduction between the first and last quarters.

The total average days is negatively impacted by low demand sheltered housing properties and the effects of restriction on allocations during periods of lockdown.

In Autumn 2021 a new staff structure was introduced within the Options & Homelessness team. Housing Officers managing their homeless caseload are now also responsible for temporary accommodation placements and discharge of duty into settled accommodation. Most of the staff previously responsible for managing temporary accommodation have become Housing Officers (Options & Homelessness) while a much smaller number now focus on turning temporary accommodation around and setting up any additions to the stock. The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) project manager role is embedded within the overall structure.

These changes to ways of working and in service delivery build on the actions that we identified within our original RRTP 2019-2024 and the lessons learned to date. They will need time to bed-in but indications are that they are positive and put us in a good position to respond to forthcoming challenges.

The specialist Housing Officer post developed in partnership with the Aberdeenshire Support & Assistance Team (ASAT) to prioritise the processing of Community Care Grant (CCG) applications and to facilitate prompt take up of settled accommodation by homeless applicants has been very successful.

The Housing Officer (CCG) has identified issues with the delivery of items and completion of CCG orders by The Furnishing Service (TFS), the contracted supplier. These are having a negative impact

on the overall timescale from application to delivery of goods and also on customer satisfaction. Concerns have been highlighted and escalated with the aim of improving performance and satisfaction and facilitating rapid rehousing.

The specialist Housing Officer (PRS) role is achieving positive results. The administration of the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme (RDGS) through a central point supports Housing Officers (Options & Homelessness) managing their case load to identify and achieve settled outcomes in the PRS where appropriate. This is important in relation to homeless prevention/housing options and in securing settled outcomes for those where homelessness cannot be prevented.

The Housing Officer (PRS) supports staff, landlords and potential tenants in the PRS by providing detailed information and advice, identifying available properties and facilitating access and promoting tenancy sustainment. There is close working and communication between the Housing Officer (PRS) and the Private Sector Team. Progress to advertise available private rental properties on the Aberdeenshire Council website has been slow but is being taken forward.

During 2021/22 84% of those assessed as statutory homeless in Aberdeenshire secured a settled outcome in the social rented sector compared with 1.7% in the private sector. This continues a trend of increased settled outcomes in the social sector while the use of the private sector fluctuates. The outcomes over the last two years are likely to have been affected by the effects of the Covid pandemic on movement within, and access to, properties within the social and private sectors and issues around affordability and security of tenure.

The success in reducing the homeless backlog to current low levels and the impact of homeless prevention activity has had an effect on the proportion of mainstream lets being made to homeless applicants which fell to 41.9% compared with 49.9% in the previous year. Due to the demographic of the homeless caseload we need a higher number of one bed properties than are available to let. Where there are suitable vacancies, given the large geographical spread of Aberdeenshire, they are often in areas where there is little or no current homeless demand. This mismatch in supply and demand is experienced by all social sector landlords in Aberdeenshire.

	<p>In September 2021 we introduced a Choice Based Letting (CBL) scheme and at the end of March 2022 we were advertising most available properties. The majority of Registered Social Landlords (RSL) operating within Aberdeenshire also allocate through CBL. Regular discussion is ongoing and we are working with RSL partners to identify homeless applicants who could be matched to/offered available property before it is advertised. A similar approach is taken with our own vacancies and direct offers to applicants with homeless priority may be made prior to a property being advertised. Homeless applicants are also encouraged and supported to bid for appropriate properties either directly or through autobid.</p> <p>Trial of Insight as a tool to identify whether there is fraud within homeless applications has been progressed and a one year contract is underway to test its effectiveness.</p>
<p>Impact of Activity: Evidence of the impact of this activity, including any financial saving and how many households have benefited from this activity.</p>	<p>86 Rent Deposit Guarantee applications were received and 40 tenancies in PRS facilitated in 2021/22 through access to deposit guarantee. £16,014 was guaranteed with £5270 claimed against guarantees over the same period.</p> <p>536 homeless CCG applications were dealt with during 2021/22 and processed in 3 days on average. Previously no applications were prioritised. They were dealt with by ASAT colleagues in date order with a target of 15 working days to process.</p> <p>Improved contact with the customer and/or their support worker if appropriate, is resulting in a higher rate of completion of orders than would have been the case. Communication is facilitated and deliveries are being achieved. There is follow up of complaints and feedback to improve service delivery.</p> <p>676 cases were checked through Insight – no evidence of fraud was detected to date.</p>
<p>Partnership Working: Provide detail of all partners involved in this activity and how they have supported delivery.</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Finance – ASAT RSL partners – Langstane, Sanctuary, Grampian, Castlehill, Osprey Aberdeenshire Council Private Sector, Asset Management and Tenancy Services Teams The Furnishing Service</p>

<p>Future spend planned on this activity in 2022/23:</p>		<p>SG RRTP Funding</p>	<p>Local Authority funding</p>	<p>Other</p>
<p>Implementation in 2022/23: Provide a short summary of the aims and targets for this activity during 2022/23.</p>	<p>£</p>	<p>£5000 (Insight Contract)</p>		
<p>Plans for mainstreaming this activity: Provide detail of the timescale and plans to mainstream / when this activity will end:</p>	<p>We will continue to monitor the number and duration of cases making up our homeless backlog. Through our rapid rehousing approach we will reduce the number of cases open for 9 months or longer and aim to have an average of no more than 140 open homeless cases at the end of each month.</p> <p>Continuing work with colleagues throughout the Housing Service to improve turn around of void property will reduce the average number of days to relet mainstream properties. The majority of homeless applicants need a mainstream property and the quicker turn around allows us to reduce the overall homeless journey time and time spent in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>We retain the target of allocating 50% of our mainstream properties to those with homeless priority and to working with homeless households to achieve settled outcomes in the Private Rented Sector where this is a suitable and sustainable option.</p> <p>The Housing Officer (CCG) and Housing Officer (PRS) posts were made permanent at the end of 2021/22. This recognised the benefit of the roles and a desire to retain the knowledge and expertise developed by the post holders on seconded/fixed term contracts.</p> <p>The responsibilities of the RRTP Project Manager seconded post have been included within the role of Team Leader (Change & Voids) within the Options & Homelessness Team structure with effect from October 2021.</p>			

<h2>2021/22 Activity</h2>	
<p>Activity Name:</p>	<p>REVIEW TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION STOCK AND ITS USE</p>

<p>Activity Description: Provide a short overview of the aims and the transformative nature of this activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review temporary stock, including shared tenancies, in line with reduced homeless presentations and demographic of homeless backlog • Monitor number of placements and time spent in temporary accommodation – continue to reduce • Implement Options & Homelessness staff structure to include focus on case management approach and change to Accommodation Officer role • Review community hosting study outcomes and potential for joint implementation with Aberdeen City Council 			
<p>Allocation Spent on activity:</p>	<p>£</p>	<p>SG RRTP funding</p>	<p>Local Authority funding</p>	<p>Other</p>
<p>Overview of progress made to date: Provide a short summary of the work undertaken in the past year, progress made and challenges.</p>		<p>Costs of flipping 61 properties £54,900</p>		
	<p>The overall homeless journey time has significantly reduced with average days to complete homeless cases at 95 days compared with 137 previous year.</p> <p>The average days in temp was also reduced to 73 days from 92 in 2020/ 21 due to placements being actively monitored and move on managed.</p> <p>2 Residential Accommodation Units (Hostel) currently being used following the closure of King Street, Peterhead. Katteburn Court, Peterhead and Stonefield House, Inverurie comply with the Unsuitable Accommodation Order (UAO) but are used for assessment and short-term placements. The majority of placements are for 7 days or less.</p> <p>The temporary accommodation stock was increased during 2020/21 in response to the COVID pandemic and a managed reduction has taken place during 2021/22 as properties were flipped and temporary units allocated on a permanent basis. At the end of March 2022 the temporary accommodation stock included 162 self- contained furnished properties and 19 shared 2 bed properties compared with 225 self-contained properties at the same time in 2021.</p>			

	<p>We anticipate demand for homeless assistance from Afghan and Ukrainian nationals entering the UK through established visa routes who may be placed with hosts or joining family settled within Aberdeenshire. We are working with colleagues in Children and Families SW to support a small number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. We have developed a small number of additional properties in response but will continue to monitor overall stock and any change in demand.</p> <p>We were not required to report any breach of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order.</p> <p>By reducing the temporary accommodation stock and the introduction of the new staffing structure within the Options and Homelessness Team we have been able to change how temporary accommodation is used and managed. Integrating former Temporary Accommodation Officers into the role of Housing Officer (Options & Homelessness) reflects the shifting of priorities away from maintaining high levels of temporary accommodation, and moves within it, towards an effective case management approach that moves people to settled solutions quickly.</p> <p>We recognised within the RRTP that our levels of youth homelessness were higher than the national average and that a different response might be required. Working jointly with colleagues in Aberdeen City we commissioned Aberdeen Foyer to carry out a feasibility study to explore Community Hosting in Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>Following evaluation of the study and completion of procurement a contract was awarded to Aberdeen Foyer for the delivery of a community hosting service using the `Nightstop` model. The contract began on 1 April 2022 and is jointly funded by Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. and involves a two year award with the option of extension based on outcomes. Recruitment of hosts may be affected by the Ukrainian Sponsorship scheme.</p>
<p>Impact of Activity: Evidence of the impact of this activity, including any financial saving and how many households have benefited from this activity.</p>	<p>Savings through closure of King Street are still to be ascertained.</p> <p>122 households were in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2022, including 28 households with children and 54</p>

	<p>children. This was reduced from 189 in March 2021 which included 36 households with 72 children.</p> <p>Jointly commissioning Aberdeen Foyer to deliver the Community Hosting `Nightstop` service allows us to test the concept and how it will work in a rural setting whilst achieving value for money To deliver a service that works across the Local Authority areas we will rely on good partnership working to allow young people to access accommodation that meets their needs, giving the best chance of successful engagement and positive outcomes.</p> <p>We anticipate that in year one 10 hosts will be recruited from within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire providing potentially 100 bed nights per year. Development of the project is underway for launch in August/September 2022.</p>																		
<p>Partnership Working: Provide detail of all partners involved in this activity and how they have supported delivery.</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Housing Service Aberdeen Foyer Aberdeen City/Shire Procurement Team Children & Families Team Resettlement Team</p>																		
<p>Future spend planned on this activity in 2022/23:</p>		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="665 1055 935 1104">SG RRTP Funding</th> <th data-bbox="935 1055 1209 1104">Local Authority funding</th> <th data-bbox="1209 1055 1482 1104">Other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="665 1104 935 1153">£29,861.20</td> <td data-bbox="935 1104 1209 1153"></td> <td data-bbox="1209 1104 1482 1153"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="665 1153 935 1256">Community Hosting</td> <td data-bbox="935 1153 1209 1256"></td> <td data-bbox="1209 1153 1482 1256"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="665 1256 935 1305">£27,000 flipping</td> <td data-bbox="935 1256 1209 1305"></td> <td data-bbox="1209 1256 1482 1305"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="665 1305 935 1431">£ 30 properties</td> <td data-bbox="935 1305 1209 1431"></td> <td data-bbox="1209 1305 1482 1431"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SG RRTP Funding	Local Authority funding	Other	£29,861.20			Community Hosting			£27,000 flipping			£ 30 properties				
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<p>Implementation in 2022/23: Provide a short summary of the aims and targets for this activity during 2022/23.</p>	<p>We anticipate in year one that 10 hosts will be recruited for the Community Hosting service from within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire and providing potentially 100 bed nights per year. Development of the Community Hosting service is underway for launch in August/September 2022.</p> <p>At the end of 2022/23 the average length of the homeless journey will have been further reduced to 75 days and the average time spent in temporary accommodation to 60 days.</p> <p>We will seek to avoid any breach of the Unsuitable Temporary Accommodation Order.</p>																		

	<p>We will continue to flip temporary accommodation where it is appropriate to do so up to a maximum of 30 properties. This may be affected by ongoing responsibility to accommodate households entering the UK through established visa routes.</p>
<p>Plans for mainstreaming this activity: Provide detail of the timescale and plans to mainstream / when this activity will end:</p>	<p>The outcomes delivered by the Community Hosting service will be monitored and determine whether future funding is required beyond the current two year contract.</p>

2021/22 Activity													
<p>Activity Name:</p>	<p>HOMELESS PREVENTION ACTIVITY</p>												
<p>Activity Description: Provide a short overview of the aims and the transformative nature of this activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Housing Officer (Mediation) role and monitor outcomes and effectiveness • Develop Housing Domestic Abuse Policy • Review hospital discharge arrangements – identify housing needs at early stage • Participate in review of SHORE standards and potential development of a national prison based housing options service • Administration of Tenant Grant Fund and allocation of funding award. • Homeless Prevention budget 												
<p>Allocation Spent on activity:</p>	<p>£</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="663 1603 936 1653">SG RRTP funding</th> <th data-bbox="940 1603 1208 1653">Local Authority funding</th> <th data-bbox="1211 1603 1482 1653">Other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="663 1657 936 1877"> <p>£14,475 (Housing Officer-mediation)</p> </td> <td data-bbox="940 1657 1208 1877"></td> <td data-bbox="1211 1657 1482 1877"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="663 1881 936 2045"> <p>£28,298 Prevention budget spend</p> </td> <td data-bbox="940 1881 1208 2045"></td> <td data-bbox="1211 1881 1482 2045"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SG RRTP funding	Local Authority funding	Other	<p>£14,475 (Housing Officer-mediation)</p>			<p>£28,298 Prevention budget spend</p>				
SG RRTP funding	Local Authority funding	Other											
<p>£14,475 (Housing Officer-mediation)</p>													
<p>£28,298 Prevention budget spend</p>													

Overview of progress made to date:

Provide a short summary of the work undertaken in the past year, progress made and challenges.

532 prevention/housing advice approaches were recorded during 2021/22 compared with 289 previous year.

25% had outcome recorded as having made a homeless application and 58% had secured alternative accommodation or remained in current accommodation.

Housing Officer (Mediation) post was recruited on a fixed term basis of 12 months in May 2021. The original post holder left due to internal promotion. The post was re-advertised and recruited with replacement being appointed in October 2021. The initial weeks in post were spent training and shadowing with the post holder completing 5 days of specialist mediation training. It was agreed to continue the fixed term post until October 2022 to fully assess ongoing requirement.

The Housing Officer (mediation) offers tailored housing options advice to the young people referred but take up of mediation has been low to date. In the initial 6 months there were 23 case contacts but increased to 90 in the following six months. 42.3% of contacts were resolved without a homeless application being made.

The postholder provides a single point of contact for Education colleagues to access housing advice and assistance. Despite awareness raising with guidance contacts within schools however take up has been low and this is an area that we will concentrate on.

Joint commissioning of a domestic abuse outreach support service with Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership (H&SC) was undertaken, following Communities Committee approval to tender. Domestic Abuse Housing Guidance was developed and has been rolled out across the Housing Service.

Between October 2021 and 31 March 2022 a Tenant Grant Fund Project Board was set up to administer and allocate £293,000 of additional Scottish Government funding. The Coronavirus (Covid-19) Tenant Grant Fund grant was to help prevent homelessness and sustain tenancies by reducing or paying off rent arrears accrued between 23.12.20 and 9.8.21 and where this was due to coronavirus. Applications to assist tenants in the social rented sector made up the majority of those received although landlords in private sector were encouraged and assisted to apply.

	<p>The anticipated involvement in a review of SHORE standards did not take place but we responded to all requests for information. We continue to work very well with Social Work, Scottish Prison Service and Tenancy Services colleagues around the pathway for those entering and leaving prison. Homelessness is prevented where possible and those leaving prison with housing need are offered suitable accommodation and support prior to release. This is based on excellent information sharing and partnership working.</p> <p>Homeless Prevention funding was made available to enable Housing Officers to identify and assist where access to appropriate funding would prevent homelessness.</p> <p>Discussion with Aberdeenshire H&SC partnership and NHS colleagues to review hospital discharge arrangements began but were then delayed/put on hold due to activity around the Omicrom variant of COVID 19.</p>
<p>Impact of Activity: Evidence of the impact of this activity, including any financial saving and how many households have benefited from this activity.</p>	<p>The Housing Officer (mediation) offers tailored housing options advice to the young people referred but take up of mediation has been low to date. In the initial 6 months there were 23 case contacts but increased to 90 in the following six months. 42.3% of contacts were resolved without a homeless application being made.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Tenant Grant Fund Project Board (TGF) allocated the full amount received from Scottish Government. 256 awards were made to assist tenants in both the private and social rented sectors. Applications from within the PRS were fewer in number but the level of arrears in each case was higher. Average awards per case in the PRS was £2111 compared with £1783 in RSL tenancies and £997 in Local Authority tenancies. To date no homeless applications have been received from any of the households who received assistance through the fund.</p> <p>35 payments were made from the Homeless Prevention Budget and 23 facilitated tenancy sustainment and prevented homelessness through full/partial payment of rent arrears – amounting to £18,235. The remainder were for the purchase of household items/equipment to promote tenancy sustainment</p>

<p>Partnership Working: Provide detail of all partners involved in this activity and how they have supported delivery.</p>	<p>Housing colleagues – Private Sector, Tenancy Services and Options & Homelessness, RSL landlords and PRS landlords who took part in the TGF fund board, submitted applications and administered allocation of funding. Scottish Prison Service. Social Work colleagues. Health & Social care and NHS colleagues</p>								
<p>Future spend planned on this activity in 2022/23:</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="663 640 935 689">SG RRTP Funding</th> <th data-bbox="938 640 1209 689">Local Authority funding</th> <th data-bbox="1212 640 1482 689">Other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="663 694 935 1294"> <p>£32,116 (Housing Officer – Mediation) Extended to March 2023 Prevention of Homelessness Budget £15,200</p> </td> <td data-bbox="938 694 1209 1294"></td> <td data-bbox="1212 694 1482 1294"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SG RRTP Funding	Local Authority funding	Other	<p>£32,116 (Housing Officer – Mediation) Extended to March 2023 Prevention of Homelessness Budget £15,200</p>				
SG RRTP Funding	Local Authority funding	Other							
<p>£32,116 (Housing Officer – Mediation) Extended to March 2023 Prevention of Homelessness Budget £15,200</p>									
<p>Implementation in 2022/23: Provide a short summary of the aims and targets for this activity during 2022/23.</p>	<p>All Housing Options staff have been provided with access to the Housing Options Training Toolkit and are required to complete the 3 current modules by September 2022. This provides a refresher for staff who have previously completed training Shelter Housing Law Advice training (Homepoint) and provides foundation training for all newer members of staff.</p>								
<p>Plans for mainstreaming this activity: Provide detail of the timescale and plans to mainstream / when this activity will end:</p>	<p>The impact of the Housing Officer (Mediation) is being monitored and will determine whether there is a need to mainstream it. We anticipate that there will be a need for this, or a similar post, should there be a homeless prevention duty placed on public bodies.</p>								

2021/22 Activity			
Activity Name:	HOUSING SUPPORT/TENANCY SUSTAINMENT		
Activity Description: Provide a short overview of the aims and the transformative nature of this activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor commissioned housing support services with Aberdeen Foyer and Salvation Army • Recruitment of Housing Officer (support) specialising in mental health • Additional duties for Housing First Support Worker to link with substance misuse services and provide naloxone training and distribution for all housing staff. 		
Allocation Spent on activity:		SG RRTP funding	Local Authority funding
	£	£27,887 (Housing Officer – Mental Health)	£708,663
Overview of progress made to date: Provide a short summary of the work undertaken in the past year, progress made and challenges.	<p>In October 2021 we commenced a new contract with Aberdeen Foyer to provide housing support for up to 125 clients per month aged 16-20yrs or 26 if they had been in local authority care and the Salvation Army to provide housing support for up to 350 adults per month.</p> <p>Both contracts are performing really well with good tenancy sustainment outcomes being shown.</p> <p>In addition we appointed 1 fte Housing Officer (Support) to link with mental health services and attend team meetings, liaise with GPs, Consultant Psychiatrists and CPNs. This allows us to link directly with these services on the frontline and get clients into treatment when previously barriers may have prevented this happening. The postholder has worked with 57 clients since 31 May 2021.</p>		
Impact of Activity: Evidence of the impact of this activity, including any financial saving and how many households have benefited from this activity.	<p>It is difficult to quantify the actual impact of this activity but it has been significant for the clients and those supporting them.</p> <p>Housing support as a whole contributes towards tenancy sustainment and prevention of homelessness. Both the Salvation</p>		

	<p>Army and Aberdeen Foyer have produced outcome reports for their 6 monthly contract reporting requirements and outcomes are excellent.</p> <p>Salvation Army data highlights – outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 152 clients improved in meaningful use of time • 148 clients improved self care and living skills • 187 clients improved managing money • 87 clients improved in drug and alcohol misuse • 120 clients had improved physical health • 173 clients were managing tenancy and accommodation better • 49 had reduced offending <p>Aberdeen Foyer data highlights – outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 110 positive outcomes in relation to accommodation • 71 improved outcomes around work and learning • 86 had positive health outcomes and similar numbers reported improvements around choices and behaviours, money and rent and practical life skills 			
<p>Partnership Working: Provide detail of all partners involved in this activity and how they have supported delivery.</p>	<p>When both new contracts commenced we made sure that both contract providers met up on a regular basis and recently held a joint training day for all staff to meet up face to face. This was very well received. All communications in relation to new projects or where we can work in partnership are shared with both organisations at the same time. We also have an existing contract with Grampian Womens Aid for the delivery of housing support for women affected by domestic abuse and encourage the three providers to work together, share resources and attend joint training events.</p>			
<p>Future spend planned on this activity in 2022/23:</p>	£	SG RRTP Funding	Local Authority funding	Other
<p>Implementation in 2022/23: Provide a short summary of the aims and targets for this activity during 2022/23.</p>			£897,440	
	<p>We have applied for 50% funding from Aberdeenshire Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group to increase the mental health link provision and recruit a further part time officer.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor contracts with support providers and carry out regular audits of service provided and outcomes achieved.</p>			

	<p>A new contract, in partnership with Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, for Domestic Abuse support provision has been awarded to Grampian Womens Aid and will start in October 2022.</p>
<p>Plans for mainstreaming this activity: Provide detail of the timescale and plans to mainstream / when this activity will end:</p>	<p>Housing Support/Tenancy Sustainment activity is mainstreamed.</p>

Housing First Progress

<p>Housing First Progress: Provide a short overview of progress to date in developing and implementing Housing First in your local authority area.</p>	<p>During 2021 we increased Housing First staffing from 2 fte Housing Officers to 7. This allowed the transition of 29 Pathfinder clients and ensure that nobody dropped off receiving support. We carried out a restructure of the Housing Support team and now have a Team Leader overseeing both mainstream housing support and Housing First support, and a Senior Housing Officer in the Housing First Team to support officers with day to day queries.</p> <p>At the end of March 2022 we were supporting 66 live cases and 31 archived (step down) cases.</p>								
<p>Housing First Tenancies Provide an overview of how many Housing First tenancies have started area and the plans for scaling up Housing First in future years. Also provide the average support cost of each Housing First tenancy.</p>	<p>37 Housing First tenancies were created in the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. We have capacity to work with up to 80 live clients and will continue to offer Housing First support to those we identify could benefit from being part of the programme. This has only been possible by funding being identified to take on an additional officer during 2021/22.</p> <p>It is difficult to identify the actual cost per tenancy because we work with a mix of live and step down clients. The service costs are mainly staffing costs and a budget of £30,000 to obtain items for Housing First clients. An approximate cost of a Housing First tenancy would be approx. £4000 per annum.</p>								
<p>Housing First Furniture Packages Provide an overview of any furniture packages you provide to each Housing First tenancy, including an average cost of furniture packages and how they are funded.</p>	<p>For all Housing First clients we apply for funding for the essentials through the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). This usually includes carpets and white goods, window coverings etc. In addition we assist the client to have a level of personalisation and will provide funding to buy items such as sofas, soft furnishings etc to make the client`s home their own. All staff have a purchase card coded to HF budget to allow them to do this. The average cost of a Housing First furniture package including all SWF items would be approx. £3000</p>								
<p>Housing First Partners Provide detail of all Housing First partners who are supporting the delivery of Housing First.</p>	<p>Police, SPS, Criminal Justice Social Work, Substance Misuse Social Work, DWP, Turning Point Scotland, Health Services, Mental Health Services, RSL partners in Aberdeenshire, Tenancy Services in Local Authority, Community Safety</p>								
<p>Allocation Spent on Housing First:</p>	£	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">SG RRTP funding</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Local Authority funding</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">£344,000</td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">£31,000 pa (ADP)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SG RRTP funding	Local Authority funding	Other		£344,000	£31,000 pa (ADP)	
SG RRTP funding	Local Authority funding	Other							
	£344,000	£31,000 pa (ADP)							
<p>Impact of Housing First: Evidence of the impact of Housing First, including any financial saving and</p>	<p>We are working on the outcomes report for 2021 to be published in June 2022 but a summary of the findings are as follows:</p>								

<p>savings identified by other public bodies if it has been measured.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenancy sustainment rates remain at 87% and only 3 clients have lost their tenancies for negative reasons. This was due to one receiving a lengthy prison sentence and the service losing contact with two clients. • Reduction in police charges – 87% of clients having charges prior to HF and reduced to 56% since being supported. • An increase in clients open to substance misuse services has been reported. Prior to being supported via Housing First 63% were open to these services but the report data identified an increase to 72%, with 13% newly opened and improved engagement since support started. 123clients were initially open to the MARS process but this had reduced to 7 by November 2021. Risk behaviours for those open to substance misuse services had reduced for 21% of clients and for 57% had stayed the same and not increased. 			
<p>Future spend planned on this activity in 2022/23:</p>	<p>£</p>	<p>SG RRTP Funding</p>	<p>Local Authority funding</p>	<p>Other</p>
<p>Implementation in 2022/23: Provide a short summary of the aims and targets for Housing First during 2022/23.</p>			<p>£380,000</p>	<p>£31,000 (ADP)</p>
<p>Plans for mainstreaming this activity: Provide detail of the timescale and plans to mainstream.</p>	<p>Activity is mainstreamed with the majority of funding coming from the local authority.</p>			

Unspent RRTP Funding

Please provide the total RRTP funding provided by the Scottish Government for the implementation of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan in your area that has **not** been spent to date.

£ **23,491.00**

Provide detail of how this funding will be spent on implementing the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan in 2022/23 detailing the area that it will be used in. Please make clear the individual amounts

ACTIVITY	FUNDING TO BE CARRIED FORWARD	
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan - Update on Year 3 activity

Assessment ID	IIA-000750
Lead Author	Lorraine Stewart
Additional Authors	Gail Predell
Service Reviewers	Allan Jones
Subject Matter Experts	Susan Forbes, Kakuen Mo, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Rob Simpson
Approved On	Friday July 22, 2022
Publication Date	Friday July 22, 2022

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Aberdeenshire Council was required to develop a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) and submit it to the Scottish Government in 2019. The five year plan (2019/20 - 2023/24) outlined how we would move to a Rapid Rehousing approach for homeless households. We provide yearly updates to Communities Committee and the Scottish Government outlining spend of RRTP funding and progress with RRTP activity. This assessment updates with activity during Year 3 2021/22

During screening 5 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 3 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities

In total there are 11 positive impacts as part of this activity. There is 1 negative impact, the impact has been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by rob.simpson2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	No Negative Impacts Identified
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe	Yes			
Healthy	Yes			
Achieving	Yes			
Nurtured	Yes			
Active		Yes		
Respected		Yes		
Responsible		Yes		
Included		Yes		

4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 3 - Best interests of the child Article 27 - Adequate standard of living
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4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Achieving	Children living within a household where there is extreme housing need including the threat of homelessness may experience emotional or psychological effects that could have a detrimental effect on their life including low self esteem and anxiety. Providing appropriate advice and assistance to prevent homelessness or to ensure that the experience of it is brief and non recurrent can help to address this. This includes access to appropriate settled accommodation, ensuring that any stays in temporary accommodation are for as short a period as possible and minimising the number of moves within it, and access to housing support to promote tenancy sustainment.
Healthy	Supporting households experiencing homelessness to receive appropriate advice, assistance and access to resources including suitable and sustainable accommodation promotes wellbeing both physically and emotionally
Nurtured	Providing access to appropriate advice, support and settled accommodation for families allows the needs of children to be met. When parents feel supported, safe and settled then children can feel nurtured.

Impact Area	Impact
Safe	The actions within the Rapid Rehousing transition plan focus on providing access to good quality advice and assistance to prevent homelessness. Where homelessness cannot be prevented then it promotes speedy resolution and sustainable housing outcomes that meet the needs of the entire household. Safety concerns may arise at different stages during a homeless journey and assistance offered includes providing appropriate temporary accommodation and referral to support including access to specialist support for children.

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Aberdeen Foyer	It confirms the increased prevalence of young people presenting as homeless within the North East of Scotland and recognises that whilst they have similar issues to adults they also experience different issues relating to their physical, mental, social and emotional development. Youth homelessness is more than a housing issue and engagement across education, social work, youth justice and health is critical to developing positive pathways.	We need to adopt a proactive approach where we intervene earlier, faster and more effectively when a young person is at risk of homelessness and support them to transition quickly out of homelessness. Any approach must respond to the challenges young people experience and centre them as experts capable of leading the shift to prevention

4.5. Information Gaps

We need to continue to develop methods of engaging with homeless households and homeless young people to understand the experience of the homeless journey, identify issues and continue to develop the service that we provide.

4.6. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Housing is an adult service and engagement with children is limited as a result. The views of children are not directly sought but are included in planning to meet the needs of the household. We have met with particular groups of young people including an LGBTQI group at Mearns Academy and members of YPOC to discuss access to services including potential barriers and how this could be addressed. Commissioning Aberdeen Foyer to carry out a feasibility study into Community Hosting enabled access to information obtained from user journey studies, interview and focus groups with young people directly. Commissioning specialist support services for young people delivered by Aberdeen Foyer enables direct feedback to be given on delivery of homelessness services and other aspects of the housing service.

4.7. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

The development of a rapid rehousing approach within Aberdeenshire seeks to prevent homelessness or where it cannot be prevented to ensure that it is brief and non recurrent. This is important for all households but especially where those households contain children or young people. The experience of homelessness or threat of it is hugely significant in the development of children and the future of young people. The development of appropriate accessible services that meet the needs of young people and are informed by their experience and views is critical. The experience of homelessness is damaging and isolating and can have long term negative effects on the life chances of young people experiencing it directly or on children within households. The prevention of homelessness or speedy resolution minimises the negative effects.

4.8. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

Ensuring that homeless households and homeless young people have access to appropriate advice and support and signposting to independent advice as required ensures that they have awareness of their rights and are able to advocate on their own behalf or to seek assistance to do so.

4.9. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

The experience of homelessness may have a range of negative impacts for the individual or members of the household depending on their circumstances, experiences etc. Homelessness cannot be prevented in every instance although we seek to achieve this where we can.

Homelessness, where it cannot be prevented, should be rare, brief and non recurrent and actions to deliver rapid rehousing support this overall aim.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)	Yes			
Age (Older)			Yes	
Disability		Yes		
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income	Yes			
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation	Yes			
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Younger)	Understanding that a proactive approach is needed to address the higher than the national average of youth homeless presentations has led to the development of specialist services including the employment of a Housing Officer (Mediation) who focusses on housing options advice for young people and is a point of contact for education colleagues who may be identifying that there is a housing issue for a young person. It has also led to the development of Community Hosting to meet the needs of young people who may benefit from breathing space to consider their options and the provision of a more supportive setting to meet temporary accommodation needs.

Impact Area	Impact
Low income	A housing options approach and emphasis on homelessness prevention involves a holistic and person centred approach being taken - this includes consideration of income and income maximisation, affordability and signposting to advice and assistance to manage debts. It also recognises the impact that access to employability services can play and links are being developed with colleagues within Aberdeenshire to sign posting and increased engagement.
Material deprivation	<p>The employment of a specialist Housing Officer to prioritise Community Care Grants from those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness has improved the speed of processing and resolved issues in fulfilment of orders by preferred supplier. Ensuring that basic household goods are provided at no cost provides a basic level of furnishing and promotes tenancy sustainment. By flipping temporary accommodation, that is enabling households to remain within temporary accommodation on a permanent basis, the cost of organising a move is removed and occupants retain the furnishings that were provided. This meets the desire to achieve rapid rehousing but meets the interests of the occupant.</p> <p>The provision of shared temporary accommodation is an affordable way for homeless households who may be in employment to be provided with temporary accommodation as the charge includes services and council tax and is significantly cheaper than self contained temporary accommodation.</p>

5.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Older)	<p>60% of those who currently make up our homeless backlog require one bed property. Within Aberdeenshire we have a limited stock of one bed property and supply does not meet demand. Homeless households are prioritised within the rapid rehousing approach which seeks to get a settled solution as quickly as possible. Older people without homeless priority and who are not seeking sheltered accommodation are likely to have to wait for longer periods of time and may not be able to access one bed properties within the social rented sector.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation Continue to raise awareness of the need to develop one bed properties within the Strategic Housing Investment Plan as a means of increasing overall supply to meet demand</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>

5.5. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Housing Need and Demand Assessment - Aberdeen City and Shire 2017, Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023, Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2019 -2024, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-2019	Provides data in relation to Aberdeenshire demographics and housing demand and supply, homelessness applications, temporary accommodation provision and use, waiting list for social housing and allocation.	With an aging population we know that demand for one bed property will continue to outstrip supply. We need to explore all options with individual applicants to secure sustainable housing solutions that meet needs and expectations of our customers.

5.6. Engagement with affected groups

A series of workshops were held to inform the development of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and the actions identified. Workshops were attended by tenant representatives, elected members, Registered Social Landlords, and 3rd Sector organisations that work with those who have experienced/or are experiencing homelessness.

5.7. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Engagement has taken place around specific actions within the overall plan. We have engaged with 3rd sector organisations who work directly with young people and with tenants groups representing the views of older people through the ongoing review of sheltered housing. Working closely with clients in receipt of Housing Support or within the Housing First programme includes both young and older people. The commissioned work undertaken by Aberdeen Foyer to deliver Community Hosting was based on work directly with young people to understand their journey and to inform development of the service.

5.8. Evidence of engagement

Engagement has taken place around specific actions within the overall plan. We have engaged with 3rd sector organisations who work directly with young people and with tenants groups representing the views of older people through the ongoing review of sheltered housing. Working closely with clients in receipt of Housing Support or within the Housing First programme includes both young and older people. The commissioned work undertaken by Aberdeen Foyer to deliver Community Hosting was based on work directly with young people to understand their journey and to inform development of the service.

5.9. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Older people without homeless priority have been identified as potentially negatively impacted by the allocation of the majority of one bed properties that become available to single homeless applicants. This can be mitigated by increasing supply of one bed properties and ensuring that

the assessment of housing applications takes account of all relevant circumstances. Older people as part of the Housing Needs Assessment are more likely to have recommendations for particular types of accommodation eg ground floor, level access etc and to be successful in bidding for those vacancies.

5.10. Improving Relations

Ensuring that the actions arising from the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan are viewed in the context of the over arching aim which is to work together to end homelessness. We need to understand concerns and impacts on individuals and groups but promote understanding of shared responsibility and tackle any stigma or stereotyping.

5.11. Opportunities of Equality

Understanding that homelessness can happen to anyone and that a combined response is required that minimises the impacts and that takes account of the views of potential/current service users, staff, Elected members, partners and relevant agencies.

6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

6.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating	Yes			
Exercise and physical activity		Yes		
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol	Yes	Yes		
Substance use – drugs	Yes			
Mental health	Yes			

6.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Healthy eating	Having reviewed the temporary accommodation stock and eradicated the use of Bed and Breakfast as a form of temporary accommodation we are confident that all households within temporary accommodation have access to the physical means to prepare food - this includes access to a kitchen and appropriate equipment and appliances to enable food to be prepared. Housing Support is available to assist individuals who may lack the skills, confidence or means to prepare food. There continue to be issues around food and fuel poverty and direct support and signposting to appropriate resources takes place and this can impact on the availability of fresh foods. Food banks and food parcels are not able to provide a variety of foods or to cater for particular dietary requirements.
Mental health	Recognising that poor mental health can be a result of, and contribute to homelessness and its recurrence we have employed a Housing Officer to build links and to support staff dealing with homeless applicants with mental health issues. This has involved direct work with clients and support of housing options staff together with the delivery of awareness training. This has proved to be extremely effective in resolving issues, improving communication and developing links with GP surgeries and mental health professionals.
Substance use – alcohol	Housing support and particularly the support offered to individuals with multiple or complex issues including substance use (alcohol) has been very effective in encouraging take up of services. Homelessness and the reasons that might lead to someone becoming homeless can result in alcohol being used as a coping mechanism. Access to appropriate support and practical assistance can enable individuals to address issues and receive specialist support.

Impact Area	Impact
Substance use – drugs	Access to housing support and particularly Housing First for those with complex or multiple issues enables practical assistance and support to be provided and specialist services to engage to provide routes out of homelessness and promote tenancy sustainment.

6.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Homelessness and Health datasets	A significant % of the scottish population had experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. Over half of those had no evidence of health conditions relating to drugs, alcohol or mental health. Around 6% of those experiencing homelessness had evidence of a mental health condition, a drug related condition and an alcohol related condition and this was higher for those experiencing repeat homelessness. It was noted that there were increased interactions with health services correlating with homeless presentations and around the first homelessness assessment	Homelessness affects many people. Increased interactions with health services preceded people becoming homeless. Preventing homelessness could reduce health activity and improve health outcomes. High levels of health activity are linked to multiple homeless presentations and for those complex individuals with multiple needs there is evidence of the efficacy of Housing First approach to provide accommodation and wrap around support as a route out of homelessness.

6.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

A person centred and holistic approach to homeless prevention, and rapid rehousing where homelessness cannot be prevented, provides a route out of homelessness and improved health outcomes. The Housing First approach provides an appropriate model of accommodation and intensive support for those with multiple and complex issues.

7. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
<p>Update Aberdeenshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-2024 to focus on remaining actions.</p>	<p>Lead Officer Allan Jones</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Monday August 29, 2022</p> <p>Planned Finish Wednesday November 30, 2022</p> <p>Expected Outcome Aberdeenshire Council achievement and commitment to delivering a rapid rehousing approach to meeting the needs of homeless households will be evidenced. Priorities for the remaining period of the plan will be agreed.</p> <p>Resource Implications Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan funding for 2022/23 and 2023/24 has been confirmed by the Scottish Government and will be used to resource remaining actions identified</p>