

ITEM No ...3.....

REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2018
REPORT ON: HOUSING OPTIONS AND HOMELESSNESS UPDATE
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
REPORT NO: 299-2018

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide an update on progress of implementation of the Housing Options and Homelessness Strategic Plan 2016-21 'Not Just a Roof' and update Committee on recent national and local developments in relation to Homelessness.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 Housing Options and Homelessness Strategic Plan 2016-21 'Not Just a Roof'

In Dundee a partnership approach to tackling homelessness is well embedded. The Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership worked in partnership with our third sector partners to develop our Housing Options and Homelessness Strategy 'Not Just a Roof' which was approved by Committee in August 2017 (Article II of the Minute of Meeting of this Committee of 21st August, 2017, Report No. 116-2017 refers). We are now working jointly to implement the strategy.

The Strategic outcomes are to:

- Prevent homelessness occurring.
- Ensure a positive experience of supports and services for people who are at risk of homelessness or homeless.
- Ensure individuals can live independent, fulfilled and health lives.

The strategy was developed through extensive stakeholder consultation including Housing, Integrated Health and Social Care, Children and Families, NHS Tayside, voluntary sector partners and lived experience of service users.

People told us that there should be more focus on early intervention and support, looking at reasons for homelessness and developing supports to address these issues, having a range of services which prevent homelessness, working in the community with those at risk of homelessness and ensuring a multi-agency co-ordinated response. The underpinning theory is psychologically informed environments.

Key priorities identified within the Strategy are:

- Responding to impact of welfare reforms and unemployment on individuals and families incomes and link of this to increased risk of homelessness.

- Building community capacity and on existing approaches such as GIRFEC, Housing Options and Lead Professionals model to make a strategic and decisive shift towards prevention of homelessness.
- Increasing social and digital inclusion so that people can maintain and develop social networks.
- Reducing impact of social and health inequalities on people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Developing approaches and models which enable and empower citizens, particularly those with a complexity of personal circumstances, of Dundee to be healthy, have a fulfilled life and achieve their personal outcomes.

In essence the Strategy emphasises that providing housing is only part of dealing effectively with homelessness, it is also essential that support is provided to help individuals deal with their particular circumstances and issues to assist them in achieving sustainable personal outcomes.

Progress

The review of temporary accommodation to ensure this is fit for purpose is underway in partnership with third sector providers.

The partner organisations are working with service users on the ground to implement the changes to front line services which will deliver improved outcomes for service users.

A balanced scorecard approach is being developed and implemented to chart progress on the key areas in line with National Health and Well Being indicators.

We are implementing the Lead Professional Model to ensure that there is an identified officer to co-ordinate services to meet the needs of the individual.

An overarching communication and engagement strategy is also being developed across the partnership to capture the views and experiences of both the workforce and people engaged with Homeless Services as part of an ongoing rolling programme.

4.2 Temporary Accommodation

The Council has a statutory duty under the relevant Homelessness legislation and associated guidance to provide temporary accommodation for those who are homeless and require it.

The need and demands for temporary accommodation continue to change. A key action within the Strategy is to review the current provision of temporary accommodation to ensure that this is fit for purpose to meet future needs. A sub group of the Housing Options and Homelessness Strategic Planning Group, including representatives from the third sector temporary accommodation providers, has commenced this work.

Information on the current temporary accommodation is contained at Appendix 1.

4.3 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG)

The Scottish Government established the HARSAG group in October 2017 to produce short and long term solutions to end homelessness and rough sleeping. The group which has been chaired by Jon Sparkes from Crisis has presented its findings to the Scottish Government. Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning wrote to local authorities in June 2018 stating that he has accepted the recommendations on ending homelessness and rough sleeping from HARSAG. These recommendations are entirely consistent with the recently adopted Housing Options and Homelessness Strategy and what we want to implement for citizens in Dundee.

The cornerstone of the recommendations is a transition to a Rapid Rehousing approach along with Housing First. Rapid Rehousing is about taking a housing led approach for rehousing people who have experienced homelessness ensuring that they reach a settled housing option as quickly as possible rather than staying too long in temporary accommodation.

Where Homelessness cannot be prevented, Rapid Rehousing means:

- A settled, mainstream housing outcome as quickly as possible;
- Time spent in any form of temporary accommodation reduced to a minimum, with the fewer transitions the better;
- When temporary accommodation is needed, the optimum type is mainstream, furnished within a community.

And for people with multiple needs beyond housing:

- Housing First as the first response for people with complex need and facing multiple disadvantages;
- Highly specialist provision within small, shared, supported and trauma informed environments i.e. specialist supported accommodation, if mainstream housing, including Housing First, is not possible or preferable.

The Scottish Government has issued guidance and requires local authorities to prepare Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTP) for submission to the Scottish Government in December 2018.

RRTPs will sit within the Strategic Planning Frameworks of the Local Outcome Improvement Framework and the Local Housing Strategy. They must be developed with Health & Social Care Partnerships, Registered Social Landlords and other partner agencies. The core purpose of these plans is how to redress the current balance of housing options for homeless households and redress these to the housing led approach.

RRTPs will set out the local homelessness context, provide a baseline position of temporary accommodation supply, set out a 5 year vision, identify support needs and how local authorities with partners will achieve their vision for temporary accommodation and settled housing options for homeless households as well as providing a resource plan required to deliver the plan.

The plan is under development and will be submitted for December 2018.

4.4 Social Bite – Housing First Dundee

Josh Littlejohn of Social Bite has been a key player in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group HARSAG and in championing Housing First. From arranging the sleep out event in Edinburgh Social Bite has raised over £3 million to support Housing First and there are to be further sleep out events, the next being in Slessor Gardens later this year.

Housing First provides ordinary, permanent housing as a first, rather than a last, response for those with complex needs and facing multiple disadvantage. It recognises a safe and secure home as the best base for recovery and offers intensive personalised, open ended, flexible support for people to end their experience of homelessness and address wider needs. This Support can be up around 35 hours per week and will also be available outwith office hours in the evenings and at weekends where required. The model separates the provision of housing and support, offers choice and control to tenants and works on the principles of harm reduction. Tenancies will be provided by the Council/RSLs and the private sector.

Initially Housing First Dundee will provide up to 40 supported tenancies over the next two years with support being provided from the funding outlined above, this may potentially be extended

to 100 tenancies. Social Bite is working with Glasgow Homelessness Network and the Corra Foundation (formerly Lloyds TSB Foundation) to establish Housing First.

The Council has been working with Social Bite and the third sector organisations presently involved in the provision of temporary accommodation and support services in Dundee to ensure that a consortium approach from local organisations can come together to tender to provide the Housing First support service in Dundee. We see this as being key to our transition planning in relation to the review of temporary accommodation within the City to meet the needs of service users going forward.

The Corra Foundation issued tenders in July for support providers to provide the intensive housing support to individuals in their own tenancies. A local consortium comprising Transform Community Development, Salvation Army, Dundee Survival Group and Addaction has been successful in obtaining the contract for provision of the support.

The consortium is now developing the necessary protocols and procedures and dealing with recruitment of staff, training and other associated Human Resources issues. The Council are working jointly with the consortium, our colleagues in the Health and Social Care Partnership and our housing association partners to develop our implementation plan.

The funding for Housing First Dundee is temporary for up to two years and funding for mainstreaming the project will require to be identified during this time. The Council and Health and Social Care Partnership's approach to this will be to redirect appropriate funding within the recommissioning process associated with the review of Temporary Accommodation.

4.5 Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) Standards

The SHORE standards have been developed by the Housing and Prison Leaders Network to; 'ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are handled at an early stage, in a consistent way across Scotland, regardless of where they come from, their housing status and how long they have been in prison or young offenders' institution'.

The aim of the standards is to reduce repeat offending and repeat homelessness among people in and leaving prison including those on remand, and to improve our ability to effectively and sustainably re-settle people who are leaving prison and returning to the community.

The process of implementing the SHORE Standards will mean that many of the discharging prisoners will go directly into a tenancy with appropriate support. Those who do use temporary accommodation will require to be rehoused through the rapid rehousing model outlined above.

We are working closely with colleagues in the Scottish Prison Service, the Health and Social care Partnership and in Criminal Justice to ensure that these standards are implemented and to ensure that that people leaving prison are successfully reintegrated into their communities in sustainable tenancies

5 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

6 **CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The Councils Management Team were consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with the content.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

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EZ/GB/EH

5 September 2018

APPENDIX 1 – CURRENT TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION LIST

Type of Accommodation/Accommodation/Notes			2018				
			Total	1apt	2apt	3apt	4&5 apt
Dispersed/Furnished	Furnished Family Network Flats Families	Supervised, Council owned Self-Catering	35			28	7
	Furnished Single Flats Single People	Supervised Council Owned Self Catering	25	1	24		
	Reid Square Families	Supervised, leased from RSL – Supported AFC Self-Catering	10			8	2
	Honey green Single & Couples	Supervised Self-Catering	11		11		
	Unfurnished/Part Furnished Single People and Families	Supervised Council Owned Self Catering	12		4	4	4
	Rosefield Street Single People and Families	Supported, owned and managed by RSL Single people supported by The Salvation Army Self-Catering	14		5		9
Direct Access Hostels	Lily Walker Centre Single & Couples	Council's reception and Assessment Centre Self-Catering	26	26			
	Jessie Devlin Close Single People	Managed by Transform Meals supplied	31	27	2	2	
	Strathmore Lodge	Owned & Managed Salvation Army Meals supplied	25	25			
	McDonald Street Single People	Managed by Action for Children Self-Catering	11		10	1	
	Dundee Survival Group Single People	Managed by Dundee Survival Group, single unit mixed direct access/resettlement Meals supplied Rooms only. Self-Catering	14	14			
Resettlement Hostels	Dundee Survival Group Single People	Managed by Dundee Survival Group, single unit mixed direct access/resettlement Meals supplied Rooms only. Self-Catering	20		20		
	Brewery Lane Single People	Managed by Transform Self-Catering	21	20		1	
	Burnside Mill Single People	Managed by Salvation Army Self Catering	20		20		
	Women's Aid Single People and Families	Managed by Women's Aid, multiple units Self-Catering	17		9	8	
	AFC – Hilltown Single People	Managed by Action for Children Self Catering	15	4	10	1	
	AFC – Dundee Families Project Families	Managed by Action for Children Self Catering	3			3	
TOTAL SUPPLY			310	117	115	56	22

