

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan - Update on Year 4 activity

Assessment ID	IIA-001471
Lead Author	Lorraine Stewart
Additional Authors	Gail Predell
Service Reviewers	Allan Jones, Gail Predell
Subject Matter Experts	Susan Forbes, Kakuen Mo, Caroline Hastings, Annette Johnston, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Courtney Duncan
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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 annual 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 4 2022/23

During screening 4 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 16 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 3 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by courtney.duncan@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 impact on inequality of outcome?	No
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 and affect them reaching full potential. 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	Impact 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 highlighted an increased prevalence of young people presenting as homeless within the North East of Scotland and recognised 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
External Consultation	Youth Housing Prevention Pathway	Adverse childhood experiences can negatively impact on health and social outcomes as has been shown in ACE related studies. The Scottish Government recognises homelessness as one such type of adverse childhood experience. This is also born out within the Hard Edges Scotland report which indicated that the experience of childhood adversity was a risk factor for homelessness around the age of 16.	Overcoming adversity can be eased by having the right home and this includes stable housing as opposed to temporary or insecure housing

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 continually develop our service.

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. We have not directly sought the views of children but they are included in planning to meet the needs of the household. We have met with young people within an LGBTQI group at Mearns Academy to discuss accessing services and potential barriers. We work closely with Aberdeen Foyer and Grampian Womens Aid and in commissioning specialist support services we are able to benefit from direct feedback on the delivery of the homelessness service. We have hosted several foundation apprenticeship placements and have had information and feedback as a result.

4.7. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

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. 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		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)	We focussed on ways to address youth homeless presentations and as a result have created a post - Housing Officer (Mediation) to provide housing options advice to young people and to provide a point of contact for education colleagues should they identify that a young person has a housing issue.
Age (Younger)	We have jointly funded (with Aberdeen City) Aberdeen Foyer to develop a Nightstop model of Community Hosting to meet the needs of young people who may benefit from an opportunity to consider their options and to provide a supportive setting to meet temporary accommodation needs.

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Younger)	Recognising that a different approach is needed to address youth homeless presentations led to the development of specialist services including the creation of a Housing Officer (Mediation) who provides housing options advice for young people and is a point of contact for education colleagues where they identify a housing issue for a young person. We are piloting Community Hosting to meet the needs of young people who might benefit from breathing space to consider their options and to provide a supportive setting to meet temporary accommodation needs. We have a specific support contract that provides access to low level housing support from Aberdeen Foyer.
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 the impact that access to employability services can play and links are being developed with colleagues within Aberdeenshire to sign posting and increased engagement.
Low income	A housing options approach and emphasis on homeless prevention involves a holistic and person centred approach being taken - this includes consideration of income and income maximisation, affordability and sign posting to money advice and assistance with debts. It also recognises the impact that access to employability services can play and links are being strengthened within Aberdeenshire to sign posting and increased engagement.
Material deprivation	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 access to basic household goods promotes a basic level of furnishing and promotes tenancy sustainment.
Material deprivation	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 access to basic household goods is provided promotes a basic level of furnishing and promotes tenancy sustainment.

Impact Area	Impact
Material deprivation	The employment of a specialist Housing Officer to prioritise processing of Community Care Grants from those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness has reduced timescales and resolved issues in fulfilment of orders by the preferred supplier. Ensuring that there is access to basic household goods promotes tenancy sustainment. Flipping temporary accommodation enables households to remain within temporary accommodation on a permanent basis and removes the cost of moving and setting up a home. Where this happens it meets the principle of rapid rehousing but can be in the best interests of the occupant. Shared temporary accommodation is an affordable way for homeless households who may be in employment to access temporary accommodation. The charge includes services and council tax.

5.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Older)	<p>66% 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 Investment Plan as a means of increasing overall supply to meet demand</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>
Age (Older)	<p>68% of those who currently make up our homeless backlog require one bed property. We have a limited stock and supply does not meet demand. Homeless households are prioritised within the rapid rehousing approach. Older people without homeless priority and who are not seeking sheltered accommodation may have to wait for longer periods of time.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation We 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>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Younger)	<p>A rapid response to the accommodation needs of young people - particularly those who have no experience of living on their own or managing a tenancy - may be detrimental in that they have had limited opportunity to benefit from support and develop skills to enable the move to settled accommodation to be successful. For some young people a longer stay in temporary accommodation may be more beneficial than rapid response.</p> <p>Can be mitigated Yes</p> <p>Mitigation We are working with Aberdeen Foyer, the support provider for young people, to better understand the homeless journey and to develop a pathway that takes account of this. We have raised with SG so that they have awareness of this and recognise the potential impact on our excellent RRTP performance to date.</p> <p>Timescale Ongoing</p>

5.5. Evidence

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

Workshops were held to initially inform the development of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan. These were attended by tenant representatives, Registered Social Landlords, elected members and 3rd Sector organisations that work with those who have experienced/or are experiencing homelessness. Further workshops have taken place to advise re legislative changes and to update on RRTP performance and influence future direction

5.7. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Engagement has been around specific actions within the overall plan. We have engaged directly

with 3rd sector organisations who work directly with young people and with tenants groups representing the views of older people. 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 develop community hosting was based directly on work with young people to understand their journey and inform service development.

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 overarching 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			
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 may not be 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 two Housing Officers 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
Update Aberdeenshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan to focus on enhanced homeless prevention activity	<p>Lead Officer Allan Jones</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Monday July 24, 2023</p> <p>Planned Finish Friday January 26, 2024</p> <p>Expected Outcome We will evidence delivery of rapid rehousing and identify further activity to support the demands from the introduction of a homeless prevention duty.</p> <p>Resource Implications RRTP funding has been confirmed for 2023/24 but the implications of responding to enhanced homeless prevention duties will require additional resources, the detail of which is to be determined</p>