

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

<b>Policy Title</b> Rapid Rehousng Transition Plans	<b>Assessment Date</b> 04-DEC-18
<b>Status</b> SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL	<b>Assessment Number</b> 752
<b>Lead Officer Name</b> Cameron Mitchell	<b>Lead Officer Job Title</b> Strategy & Support Manager
<b>Resource Name</b> Housing and Technical	<b>Service Name</b> Area Services
<b>Completed By</b> Eileen Dobbie	<b>Recommendation</b> Introduce
<b>Actions Required</b> 1	
<b>Group Members</b> Cameron Mitchell, Strategy & Support Manager Jackie Fernie, Homelessness and Housing Support Manager Maureen Flynn, Strategy & Policy Advisor Matthew McNulty, Strategy & Support Co-ordinator Eileen Dobbie, Strategy & Policy Officer	
<b>Aims, objective, purpose and intended outcomes</b> The Scottish Government has set a requirement for local authorities to work with community planning partners to develop Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTPs) to reduce homelessness.  Rapid rehousing looks to improve service provision and outcomes for all households at risk of, or who are homeless. The proposals in the plan aim to meet the particular needs of all households including those with known vulnerabilities or risks in terms of homelessness including -  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- families with children and young people</li> <li>- care experienced young people and young people leaving care</li> <li>- people being discharged from prison or secure hospitals</li> <li>- women and children fleeing domestic abuse</li> </ul> The national RRTP vision and approach closely aligns to key aspects of South Lanarkshire's Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 and the wider community planning framework. The RRTP seeks to build upon this strategic framework and our solid foundations of partnership working to achieve a step change in preventing and reducing homelessness in South Lanarkshire over the next five years and beyond. Our RRTP vision is:  "Homelessness in South Lanarkshire is significantly reduced, with homeless households moving to a settled home as quickly as possible."  To support delivery of these objectives, we have set out headline targets for key measures which include:-  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce the average time spent in temporary accommodation</li> <li>- Reconfigure temporary accommodation supply</li> <li>- Increase percentage of social housing allocated to homeless households</li> </ul>	

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- Reduce the overall number of existing homeless households

Progress in delivering the RRTP will be regularly monitored, reviewed and reported to the key management and partnership structures within South Lanarkshire.

A Fairer Scotland Duty assessment is also being carried out to address socio-economic disadvantage and improve outcomes.

### **Who was involved in the development of the policy**

South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership  
 South Lanarkshire Registered Social Landlord Partners  
 Voluntary & Third Sector  
 South Lanarkshire Health & Social Care Partnership  
 NHS Public Health  
 NHS Alcohol & Drug Partnership  
 NHS Community Mental Health & Learning Disability Services  
 Women's Aid South Lanarkshire  
 Department of Work & Pensions  
 Scottish Fire & Rescue  
 Skills Development Scotland  
 All Council Resources

### **Q1. Who will be affected by the policy?**

Current and future homeless service users  
 South Lanarkshire Registered Social Landlords  
 Voluntary & Third Sector Housing Organisations  
 Private Sector Landlords  
 Housing & Homelessness Staff  
 Elected Members  
 Health & Social Care Services

### **Q2. Who will be/has been involved in the consultation process?**

The date set by Scottish Government for local authorities to submit Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans is 31/12/18.

Owing to the relatively short timeframe for development of RRTPs, our approach involved an intensive engagement programme with a range of key stakeholders and partners who helped shape the development of the draft plan prior to submission to Scottish Government.

To ensure our shared commitments are embedded within the plan, all partners have prepared Partner Contribution Statements (PCSs) which set out the specific contributions they will make, individually and collectively, towards prevention, support, supply and rehousing, as well as focusing on priority and vulnerable groups.

Development of the RRTP links closely with work already undertaken around 'Addressing Homelessness' within the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2017-2022, as part of which there was a full public consultation process.

We will continue to engage with homeless service users throughout the period of the RRTP, in order to further refine and develop action plan priorities.

**Q3. Please outline any particular needs/barriers which equality groups may have in relation to this policy, what evidence are you using to support this and whether there is any negative impact on particular groups.**

**Age - What Effect/Difference will the Policy have on people**

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Rapid rehousing will take a housing-led approach to people who experience homelessness. This will focus on making sure people reach a settled home as quickly as possible, and limit the amount of time that is spent in temporary accommodation.

It is anticipated that rapid rehousing plans will have a positive impact, as they seek to provide settled homes for all homeless people, regardless of age.

Our approach is to be person-centred to maximise tenancy sustainment for everyone, which may include wraparound support, if required.

The RRTP incorporates a number of actions / mechanisms that directly support homeless young people. This includes how we will support looked after and care experienced young people to access and sustain accommodation that meets their needs.

We have undertaken to deliver housing options and homelessness training to young people in high schools in areas with high homelessness rates. This aims to raise awareness of homelessness and related issues, thus helping to minimise the risk of young people becoming homeless.

We will continue to promote the use of Housing Options advice services to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in order to achieve best outcomes for them.

Our commitment within the plan to increase supply and improve accessibility of housing, combined with our ongoing programme of adaptations to homes across all tenures, will help to ensure that older people can access and remain in a suitable and sustainable home within their community.

With older homeless applicants, we may consider amenity or sheltered housing as an alternative to mainstream housing, where this is appropriate.

We will continue to promote the use of Housing Options advice services to people of all ages who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in order to achieve the best outcomes.

### **Age - How Do You Know That**

The RRTP was developed in conjunction with key partners and five high level RRTP priority objectives have been set. Aligned to these, is a detailed action plan. Partners have prepared partner contribution statements which set out the specific contributions they will make towards prevention, support, supply and rehousing, with a focus on priority and vulnerable groups.

The assessment carried out to support the RRTP confirmed that homelessness impacts people of all ages, but particularly people in the age range 16-35. Many are households with children.

Equalities Monitoring information is gathered in respect of all homeless presentations via the housing application form. This provides confirmation of the largely younger age profile of homeless applicants.

Our experience of working with young people presenting as homeless, has shown that in many cases, it may be their first experience of living by themselves and we have identified challenges in preparing young people for their own tenancy.

The actions within the RRTP relating to how we support children and young people who are homeless, align with many of the actions contained within Scottish Government's Child Poverty Delivery Plan for 2018-22.

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan will be a major catalyst for realising RRTP ambitions, with the new build

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housing programme increasing the supply of housing to meet particular needs. These include amenity flats designed to meet the needs of older people.

### **Disability - What Effect/Difference will the Policy have on people**

Rapid rehousing will take a housing-led approach to people who experience homelessness. This will focus on making sure people reach a settled home as quickly as possible, and limit the amount of time that is spent in temporary accommodation.

It is anticipated that rapid rehousing plans will have a positive impact, as they seek to provide settled homes for all homeless people, regardless of whether they have a disability or not.

The RRTP includes an action to set new build housing supply targets. This aligns with other actions within both the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) around meeting particular needs and the Strategic Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) around increasing housing supply.

All new affordable homes delivered through the SHIP will meet the Housing for Varying Needs space and accessibility standards.

Conversely, however, targets for rehousing through increased allocations to homeless households might impact upon meeting the particular needs of disabled people.

We will consider and be sensitive to the individual needs of homeless service users with physical or mental disabilities or life-limiting conditions, to ensure that a suitable and appropriate offer of accommodation is made.

We will continue to promote the use of Housing Options advice services to disabled people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in order to achieve best outcomes for them.

### **Disability - How Do You Know That**

A number of flexible house types have been designed to meet the needs of families with a disabled family member.

We have a range of amenity and wheelchair accessible properties which we aim to match as closely as possible, to meet the particular needs of individual service users.

The impact of increased lets to homeless households on disabled people is mitigated through the allocations policy and local letting plan framework.

The impact will be further mitigated by the net increase in housing supply through the affordable housing investment programme.

### **Gender Reassignment - What Effect/Difference will the Policy have on people**

Rapid rehousing will take a housing-led approach to people who experience homelessness. This will focus on making sure people reach a settled home as quickly as possible, and limit the amount of time that is spent in temporary accommodation.

It is anticipated that rapid rehousing plans will have a positive impact, as they seek to provide settled homes for all homeless people, regardless of gender reassignment.

We have not identified any specific needs or barriers in relation to gender reassignment.

### **Gender Reassignment - How Do You Know That**

We acknowledge that there may be issues in relation to general vulnerability which we would consider on an individual basis with any applicant. This may be more likely to apply at certain stages of transition.

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### **Marriage & Civil Partnership - What Effect/Difference will the Policy have on people**

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It is anticipated that rapid rehousing plans will have will have a positive impact, as they seek to provide settled homes for all homeless people, regardless of marital or civil partnership status.

We have not identified any specific needs or barriers in relation to marriage and civil partnership.

### **Marriage & Civil Partnership - How Do You Know That**

We recognise that homelessness may occur due to relationship breakdown, which may include people fleeing domestic abuse.

People in a civil partnership may experience prejudice that contributes towards homelessness, e.g. harassment.

In the circumstances identified, we take account of the specific needs of service users and make appropriate offers of housing.

### **Pregnancy & Maternity - What Effect/Difference will the Policy have on people**

Rapid rehousing will take a housing-led approach to people who experience homelessness. This will focus on making sure people reach a settled home as quickly as possible, and limit the amount of time that is spent in temporary accommodation.

It is anticipated that rapid rehousing plans will have will have a positive impact, as they seek to provide settled homes for all homeless people, regardless of pregnancy and maternity.

We have not identified any specific needs or barriers in relation to pregnancy or maternity.

### **Pregnancy & Maternity - How Do You Know That**

Our experience has shown that it may be difficult for lone parents of young children to live in flats or an upper floor where there is no lift access.

We take account of the specific needs of service users and make appropriate offers of housing.

### **Race - What Effect/Difference will the Policy have on people**

Rapid rehousing will take a housing-led approach to people who experience homelessness. This will focus on making sure people reach a settled home as quickly as possible, and limit the amount of time that is spent in temporary accommodation.

It is anticipated that rapid rehousing plans will have will have a positive impact, as they seek to provide settled homes for all homeless people, regardless of race or ethnicity.

We have not identified any specific needs or barriers in relation to race.

### **Race - How Do You Know That**

Equalities Monitoring information is gathered in respect of all homeless presentations via the housing application form. This includes the ethnicity of homeless applicants.

People from BME communities may experience prejudice and harassment and there may be more risk of this in some areas than others.

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We take account of the specific needs of service users and make appropriate offers of housing.

Service users who do not have English as a first language may also experience problems understanding their rights and responsibilities and we work with service users on a case-by-case basis, providing translation and interpretation services as required.

### **Religion & Belief - What Effect/Difference will the Policy have on people**

Rapid rehousing will take a housing-led approach to people who experience homelessness. This will focus on making sure people reach a settled home as quickly as possible, and limit the amount of time that is spent in temporary accommodation.

It is anticipated that rapid rehousing plans will have will have a positive impact, as they seek to provide settled homes for all homeless people, regardless of religion or belief.

We have not identified any specific needs or barriers in relation to religion and belief.

### **Religion & Belief - How Do You Know That**

We recognise there may be the potential for discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief.

In the event of harassment or discrimination, we provide support to the household and work with the Council's Anti-Social Investigation Team and / or Police Scotland to address the issue(s).

We consider the needs of service users to be located near a place of worship or other cultural activity and make appropriate offers of housing.

### **Sex (Gender) - What Effect/Difference will the Policy have on people**

Rapid rehousing will take a housing-led approach to people who experience homelessness. This will focus on making sure people reach a settled home as quickly as possible, and limit the amount of time that is spent in temporary accommodation.

It is anticipated that rapid rehousing plans will have will have a positive impact, as they seek to provide settled homes for all homeless people, regardless of gender.

Conscious of the need for safe and secure accommodation for women fleeing domestic abuse, we work with Women's Aid and other partner agencies to achieve the best possible outcomes for women and families in these circumstances.

The plan will include a review of the provision of services for female victims of domestic abuse to help minimise homelessness and sustain suitable housing.

### **Sex (Gender) - How Do You Know That**

Our experience shows that a significant proportion of homeless presentations are women fleeing gender based violence.

### **Sexual Orientation - What Effect/Difference will the Policy have on people**

Rapid rehousing will take a housing-led approach to people who experience homelessness. This will focus on making sure people reach a settled home as quickly as possible, and limit the amount of time that is spent in temporary accommodation.

It is anticipated that rapid rehousing plans will have will have a positive impact, as they seek to provide settled homes for all homeless people, regardless of sexual orientation.

We have not identified any specific needs or barriers in relation to sexual orientation.

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### Sexual Orientation - How Do You Know That

We recognise that there may be the potential for LGBT service users to experience prejudice or harassment.

In these circumstances, we provide support to the household and work with the Council's Anti-Social Investigation Team and / or Police Scotland to address the issue(s).

We take account of the specific needs of service users and make appropriate offers of housing.

### Actions

Actioner Name	Action Date
Jackie Fernie	31-MAR-24
<b>Issue Description</b>	
Monitor to ensure that all actions and measures within the plan are met and have the intended positive impacts, with no unintended negative impacts for any protected characteristic group.	
<b>Action Description</b>	
The multi-agency Homelessness Strategy Group has a key role in taking forward and implementing the RRTP. Progress in delivering the RRTP action plan will be regularly monitored, reviewed and reported to the key management and partnership structures within South Lanarkshire to ensure delivery of the plan remains on track.	
<b>Action Progress</b>	
17/01/19	
<b>Action Completed</b>	
N	

### Q5. If policy has a negative impact on an equality group, but is still to be implemented, please provide justification for this.

Rapid rehousing does not in itself create a negative impact for service users. On the contrary, it seeks to reduce reliance on temporary accommodation as a means of addressing homelessness, in favour of a permanent settled home, with appropriate supports, as required.

The plan sets out a number of actions aimed at preventing and alleviating homelessness. Through regular monitoring and reporting of the plan, we will look to identify any potential negative impact and put in place measures to mitigate these, as appropriate.

### Q6. How will the impact of the policy be monitored and reported on an ongoing basis.

As part of the LHS 2017-2022 governance arrangements, the multi-agency Homelessness Strategy Group has a key role in taking forward and implementing the RRTP. Progress in delivering the RRTP action plan will be regularly monitored, reviewed and reported, as appropriate, to the key management and partnership structures within South Lanarkshire, including South Lanarkshire Council Housing and Technical Resources Committee, Executive Committee and the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board.

### Q7. What is your recommendation for the policy.

#### Reason for recommendation

Scottish Government has set a requirement for local authorities to work with community planning partners to develop Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTPs). Rapid rehousing looks to improve service provision and outcomes for all

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households at risk of, or who are homeless.

Following a period of intensive engagement with a range of key stakeholders and partners who helped shape development of the plan, South Lanarkshire submitted its draft RRTP to the Scottish Government by the required date of 31/12/18.

The plan has been agreed by partners / stakeholders as the primary means of preventing and alleviating homelessness in South Lanarkshire over the next 5 years and beyond. The multi-agency Homelessness Strategy Group will have a key role to play in taking forward and implementing the RRTP, with progress on delivery of the plan regularly monitored, reviewed and reported to the key management and partnership structures within South Lanarkshire.

Accordingly, our recommendation is to introduce.