

# RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN

2022/23 Monitoring Report



## Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans Monitoring Report

In previous years, we have asked all local authorities to provide a written report detailing how they have spent their allocation of funding including funding carried over from previous financial years. For this return we are refocusing on the outcomes of rapid rehousing transition plan spend and have included four questions which ask local authorities to provide qualitative information to capture an overview of rapid rehousing transition plan (RRTP) progress and challenges between 2019-2023.

These questions are designed to identify where RRTP funding has improved outcomes for people experiencing homelessness, to identify best practice and highlight where more support is needed. It is a free text return designed to allow local authorities to capture successes and challenges. We are also seeking anonymised case studies of people who have directly benefitted from the implementation of RRTPs in local authority areas. This qualitative information will be used in the consideration of future funding.

Please complete this report and include it with the latest version of your RRTP for 2022-23 and updated EQIA by **25 August 2023** to:

[RapidRehousingTransitionPlansMailbox@gov.scot](mailto:RapidRehousingTransitionPlansMailbox@gov.scot).

Please provide an overview of progress/outcomes since the implementation of your RRTP including anonymised case studies where helpful to demonstrate outcomes.

Word guide: approximately 500 words per question.

**Can you describe how implementation of your RRTP has helped prevent homelessness within your local authority area?**

Our focus on the prevention of homelessness and effective partnership working has been key to helping prevent homelessness in Angus. We have made significant progress in redesigning the delivery of our homelessness service, working with the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership to align our homelessness function with the homelessness support service. This will make better use of resources to respond more effectively to homelessness and the planned additional homeless prevention requirements, ensuring people can access the right type of support at the right time. Sitting alongside other Angus HSCP services will also encourage better collaboration with other services, increase access to support for homeless households and help to deliver a multi-disciplinary approach to addressing homelessness in Angus.

The implementation of RRTP has allowed us to focus on alternative prevention pathways to homelessness, giving the opportunity to take a planned approach rather than responding to crisis:

- **Prison Protocol**

The focus is on partnership working to prevent homelessness on entry to prison, and to prevent homelessness on release. We have an information-sharing agreement in place with the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and receive weekly reports on prison admissions and upcoming liberations. A central team of housing staff identify and cross-check housing and related issues, liaise with landlords, benefit agencies and any relevant support providers to prevent housing loss across all tenures. Our Common Allocations Policy awards a Platinum priority to applicants in institutions, including prisons, to whom the Council has rehousing duty, this is the highest priority banding. Housing staff aim to assess prisoners' housing needs early, avoiding a homelessness application and temporary accommodation, by securing a home in time for release. There has been a 30% reduction in homelessness applications from people previously in prison since introducing protocol.

- **Care Leavers Protocol**

The Housing Options for Care Leavers protocol includes young people aged 16-25 involved with or on the periphery of offending who are working with the Horizon (through care aftercare) service. Multi-agency panel meetings continue to be held on a bi-monthly basis where young peoples' housing and support needs are discussed, and actions agreed. The meetings also provide an opportunity to highlight other issues that will impact on practice. Since the protocol was implemented, the number of young people applying as homeless who had been looked after as a child by the local authority less than 5 years ago has reduced by 46%. Since 2019 there have also been significant reductions (62%) in the number of young people applying as homeless who had been looked after as a child by the local authority more than 5 years ago over the last 3 years.

- **Domestic Abuse Policy**

The policy supports the aims set out in the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan by focusing on preventing homelessness wherever possible and maximising other opportunities for women experiencing domestic abuse to access settled accommodation. It sets out how the Housing Division will provide a proactive housing response to preventing and addressing domestic abuse. Since the policy and guidance was implemented, homeless applications resulting from people experiencing violence or abuse within the household have reduced by 45%. We have recently commenced a review of the policy and hope to involve women who have been supported by housing and other stakeholders.

The introduction of our Prevention Fund in 2022 allowed us to support more households who are in financial difficulty. This is a fund of £50,000 allocated from the RRTP to extend the Tenant Hardship Fund in Angus to help us support people to sustain their tenancies and prevent homelessness. A total of £144,133 has been approved for 93 households between both funds which has prevented eviction action in all cases (31 council tenancies, 6 PRS tenancies and 56 RSL tenancies).

There have been a number of challenges in progressing the delivery of the RRTP over the last couple of years. Recruitment challenges and limited staff resources at both a strategic and operational level along with a homelessness service review has disrupted delivery of projects and the ongoing development of the RRTP. We are experiencing major strategic challenges which are being faced by all local authorities, specifically dealing with the significant number of people in temporary accommodation, maintaining supply and meeting demand and improving access to permanent homes.

**Can you describe how implementation of your RRTP has helped speed up the process of rehousing homeless households?**

Despite facing a significant increase in homelessness applications in the past two years, we have still been successful in reducing our case duration by 8%.

The housing market in Angus faces similar challenges to other local authorities in that there are substantial pressures on social housing, with demand exceeding the current supply. This is extremely challenging to navigate in terms of the aims of rapid rehousing and rehousing homeless households. There remains a need to achieve a higher percentage of lets to homeless in Angus and work is ongoing to understand the barriers to this, which will also inform our allocations policy review.

High void rates have also contributed towards the speed in which we are rehousing our homeless households. One of our service priorities is voids and repairs and the key focus will be to improve relet times and in turn contribute to the speed at which we rehouse our homeless households.

**How has implementation of your RRTP affected the numbers of households in temporary accommodation and the time spent there?**

The number of households in temporary accommodation has remained steady this year, having peaked in 2020/21 following the first lockdown because of a temporary suspension of allocations during this period. The number of households with children in temporary accommodation remained relatively low and there have been no households with children placed into B&B in 2021/22 or 2022/23. The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter has reduced by 28% since the implementation of RRTP and our temporary accommodation stock has reduced by 32%. This further reflects the success of our prevention pathways and Housing First approach. However, this past year has seen an increase in the time spent in temporary

accommodation which is in line with the increase in demand and supply issues. We also identified an issue with Scottish Government regarding the requests for Unsuitable Accommodation Order data being sent to a misspelled email address which resulted in these returns not being submitted. This has now been resolved and backdated data has been provided. We are still using bed and breakfast for emergency placements in order to meet the demand for temporary accommodation however we are moving on as soon as possible. It is expected that the move to the new homelessness service will further reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation with the renewed focus on case management.

The aim of the RRTP is to minimise the use of and time spent in any form of temporary accommodation, we will continue to aim to avoid the use of temporary accommodation and support people experiencing homelessness to secure suitable settled accommodation as quickly as possible. If a household is appropriately housed in temporary accommodation, content living there and there are no tenancy issues, consideration will be given to 'flipping' the accommodation to a Scottish Secure tenancy (SST). Where 'flipping' is agreed, a formal offer will be made to the tenant and the tenant will be able to keep the furniture if they wish. In 2021/22, 23 temporary accommodation tenancies were 'flipped' to a Scottish Secure Tenancy and 10 were 'flipped' in 2022/23.

**Is your local authority on track for making the planned transition to rapid rehousing? If not, what major factors are hindering progress?**

Since the implementation of RRTP the climate we are working in has changed significantly. As with many other Local Authorities, we had to delay and scale back RRTP work due to the pandemic and had to expand use of temporary accommodation which reversed any previous progress. The long term impacts of Covid-19 are still being felt and the impacts include lower turnover of housing stock, longer stays in temporary accommodation and challenges with staffing and recruitment.

One of the main reasons for moving the Homelessness Service back to a dedicated service, was because it was evident that the data integrity was being comprised as a result of this being part of the generic housing officers' role and case management was losing focus. Now with a smaller dedicated team, we are confident that data integrity and case management will greatly improve which will help us get back on track with achieving our RRTP actions. We shall also be undertaking a monthly audit of the homelessness case files, where 10-15 cases will be pulled at random per month to ensure data is accurately being recorded.

We are all juggling a number of priorities and facing pressures with restricted budgets and funding. We are dealing with the impacts of the pandemic, resettlement activities, cost of living crisis and policy and legislative changes all alongside an increase in homelessness applications and lack of housing supply.

We are starting to see the additional impacts of the suspension of local connection referrals, particularly in applicants leaving prison and this appears to be a growing issue which is impacting on already stretched services. This is causing difficulty in terms of implementing our planned approach as part of the prison protocol and a need to use temporary accommodation where this would normally be avoided.

RRTP work is key to ending homelessness and the progress that has been made and the upscaling of Housing First is at risk if support for RRTPs comes to an end. We require to develop further innovative approaches to tackling the stress on housing supply and this

requires additional funding and renewed focus on ending homelessness and rapid rehousing.

## Details of funding recipient

<b>Local authority</b>	Angus Council		
<b>Reporting period</b>	<b>01/04/2022</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>31/03/2023</b>
<b>Reporting officer</b>	Lynne Warburton		
<b>Position</b>	Team Leader (Sustainable Communities)		
<b>Date completed</b>	08/08/2023		
<b>Total RRTP funding carried over from 2021-22</b>	£241,000		
<b>RRTP funding received for 2022-23</b>	£122,000		
<b>RRTP spend 2022-23</b>	£96,750.22		
<b>Total RRTP funding carried over to 2023-24</b>	£266,249.78 (£241,000 from prior year reserves)		

## Housing First

### **Housing First tenancies**

Provide a short brief overview of your progress and any obstacles to progression of Housing First in your area.

The Housing First Service has two full time Social Care Officers covering the whole of Angus with the intended worker to service user ration of 1:7. These posts were originally temporary for 2 years and in October 2022 they were made permanent. However future funding of the service is still unknown and with Rapid Rehousing Transition funding coming to an end the service may not operate as it currently does. Should funding not be found the team may be redeployed in other areas of the Health & Social Care Partnership.

Housing First in Angus is overseen by a panel made up from various services. The services represented are Angus Council's Housing Services, Housing Strategy and Justice Service, along with Angus Health & Social Care Partnerships Homelessness Support Service, Angus Integrated Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service and Community Mental Health Service and finally partners from our local Registered Social Landlords.

The panel meet monthly to review current Housing First cases and to discuss new referrals. New referrals are presented to the panel by the referrer or those already working with the individual to make the case as to why this person requires Housing First. The panel then have the final say as to whether the individual should be accepted on Housing First. If the case is rejected support, advice and assistance is given as to how services already supporting the individual can continue to support them in the community. There have been 16 referrals accepted for Housing First and males (11) make up the largest proportion of referrals, most service users fall into the over 35 age bracket. All cases were open to other services within Angus and 6 of these had input from two or more services as well as Housing First.



	<p>One of the obstacles, which is not specific to Angus alone, is the lack of housing stock. Whilst the service can provide wrap around intensive support, without the availability of adequate, safe housing at an early stage this can have a negative impact on service users moving forward and making changes to their lives that they want to make. Future funding is also a concern, in Angus there is commitment to support via RRTP funding however it is unknown how this will be funded thereafter.</p>									
<p><b>Housing First partners</b> Provide detail of all Housing First partners who are supporting the delivery of Housing First.</p>	<p>The following partners support the delivery of Housing First in Angus: Community Housing Teams, RSL partners, Homelessness Support Service, Homelessness Prevention and Solutions Team, Community Investigations &amp; Resolutions team, Angus Integrated Drug and Alcohol Services, and the Community Mental Health team. We also have support from third sector support providers, including Hillcrest Futures.</p>									
<p><b>Allocation spent on Housing First 2022/23:</b></p>	<p>£</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="687 1093 925 1167">SG RRTP funding</th> <th data-bbox="925 1093 1163 1167">Local authority funding</th> <th data-bbox="1163 1093 1398 1167">Other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="687 1167 925 1267">77,475.02</td> <td data-bbox="925 1167 1163 1267"></td> <td data-bbox="1163 1167 1398 1267"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SG RRTP funding	Local authority funding	Other	77,475.02				
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<p><b>Impact of Housing First:</b> Any evidence of the impact of Housing First including anonymised case studies where appropriate</p>	<p>Case Study:</p> <p>NC has never had their own tenancy; their housing history has been one of multiple failed temporary accommodation placements that have broken down before a permanent housing solution has been found. Over an 18-year period NC was shifted between temporary accommodation, periods of incarceration, substance use and multiple incidences of domestic abuse and relationship breakdowns. NC has never been able to sustain a period of engagement with services to enable them to be in treatment and to be supported in the community.</p> <p>NC's was the first referral to the service and was accepted in November 2020 following liberation from prison. Initially there were some apprehensions as to</p>									

	<p>whether NC would engage with a range of services even those she previously had good relationships with. However, through coordinated and regular support from Housing First, AIDARS and the Glen Isla Project, services were able to meet the needs of NC and were able to rally round when in crisis. NC also engaged and attended counselling to support with their previous trauma, something that the group thought would not be possible.</p> <p>Presently NC has managed not only their longest period living in the community but also their longest period in a tenancy. The intensive support has reduced from Housing First and they continue to be in treatment and engaging fully with AIDARS. NC is also nearing the end of their order with the Glen Isla Project through not only engaging in the project but participating in therapeutic work supporting their mental health.</p> <p>This case has provided the evidence that a coordinated approach, with good communication, and proactive work between numerous services can improve the outcomes, health and wellbeing of an individual. It also highlights that Housing First does not work in silo and that it requires all services involved to provide that wrap around support.</p>									
<p><b>Future spend planned on this activity in 2023/24:</b></p>	<p>£</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="687 1444 925 1500">SG R RTP Funding</th> <th data-bbox="925 1444 1163 1500">Local Authority funding</th> <th data-bbox="1163 1444 1401 1500">Other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="687 1500 925 1630">97,500</td> <td data-bbox="925 1500 1163 1630"></td> <td data-bbox="1163 1500 1401 1630"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SG R RTP Funding	Local Authority funding	Other	97,500				
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<p><b>Future plans for Housing First :</b> Provide detail of the future of Housing First delivery in your local area, including timescales and progress towards Housing First being the default option for people with multiple and complex needs experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>We hope to continue to deliver Housing First in its current format, however this is reliant on funding being available and is one of the risks to our capacity to continue with Housing First. If we can continue in the current format, this will give the service capacity to support around 21 individuals. Capacity may be further increased if we can direct additional resources from temporary supported homeless accommodation to small scale settled supported accommodation and Housing</p>									

	<p>First. A working group has been established to consider the requirements for small scale supported accommodation and Housing First so we can plan what is needed in each locality in Angus and a project plan is under development.</p>
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