

# RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN

2023/24 Monitoring Report



# Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans Monitoring Report

Last year we asked all local authorities to provide a written report detailing the outcomes of their rapid rehousing transition plan. An additional question which aims to capture how RRTP funding is improving efficiency and achieving value for money has been added to the template for the 2023/24 reporting period.

This year's return will report on the final year of the original five-year RRTP period. We have asked five questions which ask local authorities to provide qualitative information to capture an overview of rapid rehousing transition plan (RRTP) progress and challenges between 2019-2024.

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 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 2023-2024 and updated EQIA by 11 October 2024 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 250 words per question.

**Can you describe how implementation of your RRTP has helped prevent homelessness?**

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.

Our focus on the prevention of homelessness and effective partnership working has been key to helping prevent homelessness in Angus. We have ensured that we have a housing rep sitting in all the protecting people partnerships, which also have responsibility for adult protection, child protection and violence against women and young girls. This ensures we are involved and represented across all areas with this feeding into our own policies and procedures, ensuring we meet the needs of all.

Our 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 and this applies to the following:

- Prison Protocol
- Care Leavers Protocol
- Housing Domestic Abuse Policy
- Hospital Discharge Prevention Fund
- Homelessness Prevention Fund

There have been a number of challenges in progressing the delivery of the RRTP over the last couple of years. Particularly 2023/24 with the impact of Storm Babet in Angus in October 2023. Limited staff resources and funding at both a strategic and operational level along with 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?**

As part of a new Prevention and Homelessness Delivery Group we plan to carry out a review of temporary accommodation and look at options for alternative provision, including revisiting shared tenancies as an option for temporary accommodation.

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 have informed 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.

Our average case duration has increased this year and we attribute this to a number of factors including the impact of Storm Babet, new homelessness team becoming embedded and a reduction in alternative housing options being available.

**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 reduced by 50% based on the same quarter in 2022/23 and there have been no households with children placed into B&B in recent years.

We are continuing to monitor the use of unsuitable accommodation and breaches of the order monthly alongside reporting on the impact of the recent changes to local connection. As a result of the suspension of allocations in October 2023, we have reported higher than usual levels of breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order in 2023/24 (12) and this remains at amber level. Work is ongoing to review households who are in temporary accommodation and reduce the use of bed and breakfasts.

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.

**How has the implementation of your RRTP improved efficiency in the provision of homelessness services? Do you have any examples of demonstrated cost-savings or improved value for money achieved through RRTP implementation?**

Work on the RRTP has identified a need to review our temporary accommodation stock and use of bed and breakfast accommodation due to increasing costs. Our costs for B&B this past financial year have been significantly higher than previous years, whilst recognising this is not an efficient or suitable way of providing accommodation we have had no other option due to the increase in demand. We aim to reduce time spent in B&B as much as possible and all requests now have to go via a Team Leader or Manager.

Efficiency is improving on an ongoing basis as we work towards our improvement plan and reducing homelessness.

No examples of any cost savings to date.

**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. These impacts are still being felt now with the effects of Storm Babet and 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 are to 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 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.

RRTP work is key to ending homelessness. We are committed to developing 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>01/04/2023</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>31/03/2024</b>
<b>Reporting officer</b>	Lynne Warburton		
<b>Position</b>	Team Leader (Sustainable Communities)		
<b>Date completed</b>	03/09/24		
<b>Total RRTP funding carried over from 2022-23</b>	£233,000		
<b>RRTP funding received for 2023-24</b>	£122,000		
<b>RRTP spend 2023-24</b>	£144,000		
<b>Total RRTP funding carried over to 2024-25</b>	£355,000		

## 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. We currently have 18 Housing First cases

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 until March 2025 however it is unknown how this will be funded thereafter. A bid is being considered to the Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership for future funding.

### **Housing First partners**

Provide detail of all Housing First partners who are supporting the delivery of Housing First.

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.			
<b>Allocation spent on Housing First 2023/24:</b>		SG RRTP funding	Local authority funding	Other
	£	87,372		
<b>Impact of Housing First:</b> Any evidence of the impact of Housing First including anonymised case studies where appropriate	<p>Of the 18 live cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 individuals have been in their tenancies for over 3 years.</li> <li>• 1 individual has had their longest period living in the community, over 4 years (never had a permanent home and longest spent in the community was 3 months), avoiding repeated homelessness and prison stays.</li> <li>• 1 individual currently in temporary accommodation and in the process of moving to a permanent home.</li> <li>• 1 staying with family and is in the process of viewing an offer of permanent accommodation.</li> <li>• 1 remanded in prison and will be liberated back to their own tenancy.</li> </ul> <p>2 cases have been stood back as intervention is no longer required</p>			
<b>Future spend planned on this activity in 2024/25:</b>		SG RRTP Funding	Local Authority funding	Other
	£	107,360		



**Future plans for Housing First :**

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.

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 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. This is being led by Angus Health and Social Care Partnership. We also plan to make a bid to the ADP for funding for Housing First past 2025.