

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

How does this link with the criteria of Best Value?

This project demonstrates how Aberdeenshire Council and its partners have responded to the Scottish Government requirement to produce a 5-year plan for moving to a rapid-rehousing model of homeless provision. It provides examples of evidence-based decision making and partnership working between different services within the council, with elected members and external organisations to transform existing services.

How does this link to our priorities?

This project primarily links to **Priority 6 - Have the right mix of housing across all of Aberdeenshire** and **Priority 8 - Work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities**. The Rapid Rehousing approach outlined in the plan will ensure that those who are experiencing homelessness gain a settled housing outcome as quickly as possible and that appropriate support is available to enable this to be sustained. Where we provide temporary accommodation then it will be of good quality with time spent in it and movements within it minimised.

This will significantly increase the ability of people in the greatest need to access the housing they need as quickly as possible. It will also help to mitigate the many disadvantages linked to being homeless by providing a secure tenancy with appropriate levels of support, particularly for people with significant and multiple disadvantages.

What research was undertaken to ensure best practice?

We participated in research commissioned on behalf of the Scottish Government's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) that informed the development of the planning and implementation framework for the transition to a rapid rehousing approach.

We used the information provided within the report "Scotland's Transition to Rapid Rehousing: Market area analysis, legislative and culture review 2018)" in terms of its review of current provision nationally, within the Housing Options Hubs and at a local authority level.

We used the practical guidance produced (Scotland's Transition to Rapid Rehousing: Guidance for Local Authorities and Partners 2018) and the transition tool that was produced, to gather evidence in terms of both our current homeless position and projected future demand. This included analysis of data in relation to temporary accommodation provision and use, Aberdeenshire waiting list and allocations and support provision and made use of the Housing Need and Demand Assessment – Aberdeen City and Shire 2017, Aberdeenshire local Housing Strategy 2018-2023, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-2019 and the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2019-2024

What was the background to the case story?

Aberdeenshire Council was required to develop a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) and submit it to the Scottish Government outlining how we intended to move to a Rapid Rehousing Approach over a planned and costed phase of 5 years (2019 -2023). The timescales for this were challenging with the 1st iteration being required to be submitted by 31 December 2018

What activity was undertaken?

- A Member Officer RRTP Working Group was set up in October 2018 with terms of reference that included identifying options for the development of the RRTP, to review legislation and best practice, to monitor and review the implementation of the RRTP and ensure partners and stakeholders buy in to change required.
- Using the funding allocated by Scottish Government a Project Manager (RRTP) was appointed on a secondment basis to ensure the delivery of the plan within the required timescale and to ensure that we were able to bid for funding to enable us to deliver the actions within our plan.
- A series of workshops were undertaken to inform the development of the plan and the actions identified – these involved representation from a wide range of services, tenant representatives, 3rd sector organisations, registered social landlords and elected members.
- The draft plan was submitted to the Scottish Government within the timescale given, together with an action plan and a resource plan outlining the funding that would be required to enable the actions to be implemented.
- The plan was agreed by Communities Committee in February 2019

How did this contribute to improved outcomes?

- Working in partnership to ensure the collation of appropriate data to inform the plan and to identify indicators to monitor the progress that is being made
- Discussion around what works well and what doesn't and what was required to deliver the transformational change required to move to a rapid rehousing approach.
- Opportunity to identify innovative approaches
- Discussion during the development of the plan enabled challenge of perception/stereotypical ideas and promoted buy-in to the principle that resolving homelessness is not the responsibility of the homeless service and that the best way to end homelessness is to prevent it.