

Present:

John Kerr	WDC
Stefan Kristmanns	WDC
Suzanne Marshall	WDC
Ann Drennan	HSCP
Kathryn Kelly	WDC
Martin Harvey	Knowes HA
Karen Grainger	Knowes HA
Edward Thomas	WDC
Stephen Brooks	WDC
Janine Jardine	Dumbarton Women's Aid
Geraldine McKenzie	Cordale HA
Douglas McIntyre	Throughcare
Alan White	Throughcare
Maxine Robb	Working4U
Gayle McGowan	Job Centre Plus
Joe McCormack	Citizens Advice Bureau
Vicky Rowlands	Wheatley Group

Apologies:

Diane Docherty	Housing Convener
Tricia McShane	Dunbritton HA
Fiona Campbell	Clydebank HA
Margo MacPherson	Dalmuir Park HA
Joanne Sutherland	WDC
Laura-Anne Hamilton	Bellsmyre HA
Leigh Pentland	WDC
Paul Ainsworth	WDC
Kathryn Smith	WDC
Samantha Dunion	Bellsmyre HA

1. Welcome and Introductions

John Kerr welcomed everyone.

2. West Dunbartonshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan - Update

John Kerr advised the group that a revised version of West Dunbartonshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan had been submitted to the Scottish Government at the end of May 2019. The revised version included a reduced funding request based on a reduction of the furniture costs associated with Housing First and conversions to SST's. The updated version also contained a detailed copy of the action plan to achieve Rapid Rehousing within West Dunbartonshire and a list of items to be included in the furniture packages.

John also advised that the Scottish Government had advised they have now received 25 out of 32 revised transition plans with the deadline for the remaining 7 being extended to the beginning of July and are hopeful that funding awards will be calculated by the end of July.

John advised that the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan affect as of 1st April 2019 as some actions were a continuation of "More than a roof" and did not require additional funding to progress. The new Housing First project has also commenced with the initial service users being identified.

3. Contribution Statements - Update

Suzanne Marshall advised the contribution statements were circulated to all group members for comment by 10th May 2019. Very few comments were received and the statement was now finalised for group members to complete.

It was agreed that the contribution statements would be reissued to all group members for completion, a discussion regarding timescales for completion then followed and it was agreed that members should advise the group if they require to seek approval from their boards or management committees in order to complete the contribution statements and the timescales for this.

Ann Drennan raised the suggestion that group members could suggest contributions from partners and it was agreed to accept informal suggestions that could be discussed with partners in the future.

Martin Harvey asked if contribution statements will be circulated between the group members it was agreed this will happen once they are all returned.

4. Future Direction of Meetings and Guest Speakers

John Kerr advised that it would be useful for taking the group forward for group members to make suggestions of items they would like to see on the agenda or guest speakers they think would be useful.

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Suggestions included:

- Updates and possible attendance from the Scottish Government
- Agenda item to discuss things that are not going well and would benefit from input/insight from others on the group
- Housing First tracker in West Dunbartonshire
- Updates on Universal Credit from Working4U
- Themed meetings
- Case studies for discussion

There was also a discussion around housing support and Martin Harvey asked if there would be scope for RSL's to access the service in order to provide support to tenants who are struggling. John advised that the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan had asked for funding in order to provide a service as part of homeless prevention and this has been well received by the Scottish Government however funding award is yet to be announced.

Martin also advised that he felt that current Section 11 referral process was not working and had recently received a response to a Section 11 referral for the first time in over a year. John advised that there is an action in the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan to review and strengthen this protocol.

5. Homelessness and Housing Options service redesign

John Kerr advised the Homelessness and Housing Options service redesign was now complete albeit still waiting on some new staff to start. John also advised that Joanne Sutherland and Gary Whyte are now carrying out Housing First 'Road Shows' to inform key partners of the work involved with Housing First. John also asked for volunteers to join the operational and key strategic group that will oversee Housing First and that Joanne Sutherland will share the group remit and terms of reference once completed.

6. AOCB

Each member of the group advised on the key areas their organisation is currently working on.

Knowes – Waiting on agreement from WDC re bowling club. Universal Credit (UC) arrears are growing, a third of all arrears are UC related. Turnover of tenancies is slower than last year.

Cordale – Increase in UC related arrears, partly related to payment schedule.

WDC Housing Operations – Marked reduction in turnover of tenancies. Increase in welfare dependent tenants to 86% of all tenants. Working on UC related processes and opportunity for joint working and training with DWP.

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Throughcare – Client group less impacted by UC. Advised of good relations with DWP.

Working4U – Child poverty report due at the end of the month, looking for partner contributions to help eradicate child poverty and will contact all members of Housing Solutions Partnership regarding taking this forward. Part of 'Road Show' and learning and development team are looking to talk to Housing Officers and would like to roll this out to housing associations too.

Wheatley Group – Looking at impact of UC on homelessness and have a UC Welfare Team. Have also commenced an apprenticeship scheme and have been delivering food packages.

HSCP – All health boards have nominated a lead for health and homelessness, Jackie Erdman is the new lead covering Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

CAB – Have additional resources aimed at UC, have also wrote to chief executives of all local housing associations to advise of resources available.

Job Centre Plus – Have a complex needs plan to support the homeless agenda. Also in the process of visiting tenancy services that deal with complex needs.

Actions

Provide briefing note and revised Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan to group members.

Resend the Contribution Statements to all group members. Group members to advise if they require to seek approval from boards/ management committee prior to returning their contribution statements and if so, the timescales associated with this.

Informal request for group members to advise of contributions they would like to see from partners.