

Housing Solutions Partnership
8th August 2019

Present:

Cllr Diane Docherty	Housing Convener (Chair)
John Kerr	WDC Housing
Stefan Kristmanns	WDC Housing
Suzanne Marshall	WDC Housing
Jennifer MacMahon	WDC Housing
Ann Drennan	HSCP
Karen Grainger	Knowes HA
Natasha Robinson	Knowes HA
Edward Thomas	WDC Housing
Maxine Robb	Working4U
Gayle McGowan	DWP
Nora Sherridon	DWP
Tricia McShane	Dunbritton HA
Laura-Anne Hamilton	Bellsmyre HA
Laura Haining	Action for Children
Nichola McQuistan	Wheatley Group
Lynne Ng	WDC Throughcare
Garry Burns	Homeless Action Scotland
Gavin elder	Alternatives
John Polding	Blue Triangle

Apologies:

Joanne Sutherland	WDC Housing
Leigh Pentland	WDC Housing
Paul Ainsworth	WDC Housing
Kathryn Smith	WDC Housing
Kathryn Kelly	WDC Housing
Gary Whyte	WDC Housing
Martin Harvey	Knowes HA
Stephen Brooks	WDC
Janine Jardine	Dumbarton Women's Aid
Geraldine McKenzie	Cordale HA
Douglas McIntyre	Throughcare
Alan White	Throughcare
Joe McCormack	Citizens Advice Bureau
Audrey Scott-Roberts	WDC Addictions
Catherine Wilkie	Wheatley Group
Gillian	Y Sort It
Helen Barclay	WDC Young People in Mind
Susie Byrne	WDC Education
Gillian Robertson	Bellsmyre HA
Donnie McGilveray	Alternatives
Mags Simpson	NHS
June Cairney	Blue Triangle

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Diane Docherty (chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

John Kerr welcomed Garry Burns from Homeless Action Scotland as a new member to the group giving a national perspective.

2. Note of previous meeting

John Kerr went through the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 5: if anyone wishes further information on housing first then feel free to contact Joanne Sutherland or Gary Whyte.

Amendment: Item 6; Jackie Erdman covers Great Glasgow and Clyde.

3. West Dunbartonshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan update

- Funding allocation from Scottish Government

The Scottish Government and COSLA announced on 17 July 2019 that funding available for Scotland's transition to Rapid Rehousing had been increased from £15 million to £24 million. The £24m will be distributed over a 3 year period, with £8m being distributed in 2019/20. The agreed formula for the distribution of the remaining £16 million for the RRTP implementation will be subject to further consideration of potential options between the Scottish Government and COSLA. This will be agreed through the Settlement and Distribution Group and COSLA Leaders. The funding will be for 2020/21 and 2021/22 so will enable local authorities to plan further in the future and ensure that rapid rehousing transition plans achieve their ambition.

West Dunbartonshire has been awarded £265,000 of funding has been awarded to cover the period of the implementation of 'Home at the Heart' West Dunbartonshire Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, which equates to a shortfall of approximately £37,500 to fully implement Year 1 of the RRTP. As a result West Dunbartonshire Council has had to scale back the conversion programme. This will remain at 60 for 2019/20.

There are 2 new services this funding will go towards. These are the resettlement support service and to scale up the prevention service to any tenure.

- Contribution Statements

Thank you to the organisations who have returned their contribution statements.

Action

- Jennifer MacMahon: send out copy of HACC Rapid Rehousing Transition report
- Everyone: return contribution statement or inform Jennifer MacMahon if it is due to be approved.

4. “More than a roof” and 2018/19 Homeless Statistics Update

Jennifer MacMahon gave a presentation showing the progress of More than a Roof and of the homeless statistics for 2018/19.

Action: Jennifer to send out a copy of the presentation.

5. Review of Section 11 Protocol

Stefan Kristmanns gave an overview of the draft section 11 protocol.

Action: Jennifer MacMahon/ Stefan Kristmanns to send out draft for comments, 4 week period for feedback, include some data on Section 11 referrals and outcomes

6. WDC response to Scottish Government consultation on Temporary Accommodation Standards

West Dunbartonshire Council; have a draft response to the temporary accommodation standards that will be approved by the HACCC before being submitted to the Scottish Government.

West Dunbartonshire Council support the Unsuitable Accommodation Order to be extended to all people who are homeless. Although West Dunbartonshire have never breached the unsuitable accommodation order, we do not support sanctions to local authorities who do breach the order.

Action: Copy of West Dunbartonshire’s response to be circulated once approved by the HACCC.

7. Welfare Reform Update

Nora Sheridan and Gayle McGowan from the DWP gave an update on universal credit. The DWP has had lots of engagement with local authorities and RSLs. They are due out to West Dunbartonshire Councils housing officers on the 9th September. There have been issues with who the correct contact in the contact centre is for this area.

Action: DWP to send out the correct contact for the service centre.

8. What's new? - service initiatives, best practise examples, partnership working

- Care Leavers Rental Payment Initiative – West Dunbartonshire Council have a budget of £40k to pay the rent of 10 young people who are care leavers and who are in education and have a WDC tenancy.
- Youth Homelessness – West Dunbartonshire Council ran a young person's housing options pilot in Clydebank for 16 months for young people aged 16 to 21. There was a young person's housing officer employed. The pilot was a success. This role has now been incorporated within the Homelessness and Housing Options Caseworker role and is across the council to ensure a consistent approach to young people.
- TPAS Gold Accreditation – West Dunbartonshire Council has received a number of awards for;
 - Tenant engagement
 - More Homes Initiative which includes the development of 1200 new homes over 3 years.

WDC Housing Operations – Going to consult on extending the Anti-social behaviour service to respond out of hours. Also looking to re-focus the mediation service to provide solutions and work closer with mental health services.

Dunbritton HA – nominations with West Dunbartonshire Council which include homeless allocations

Action for Children – in the early stages of setting up a youth housing options service in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council homeless team. As part of this starting Action for Children have set up an education pilot in Clydebank High School.

Knowes HA – Universal Credit cases on the rise

Bellsmyre HA – currently decanting tenants as part of the development program.

9. AOCB

None