

Report

Report to:	Housing and Technical Resource Committee
Date of Meeting:	10 August 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	Annual Review of the South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2021/2022
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Committee on the completion of the third annual review of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) 2019 to 2024

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the progress made in delivering the RRTP objectives, as set out in the RRTP Annual Review 2021/2022, attached as Appendix 1, be noted;
- (2) that the proposed revisions to the RRTP, detailed in section 5, be approved; and
- (3) that the key priorities to be progressed in 2022/2023, detailed in section 7, be noted

3. Background

- 3.1. In October 2017, the Scottish Government established the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) to develop solutions to ending homelessness and rough sleeping across Scotland. Included in the recommendations was the requirement for local authorities to develop a five-year RRTP.
- 3.2. HARSAG was reconvened in June 2020 to make further recommendations on actions required to end homelessness during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, recognising the increased demand on homelessness services and maintaining a focus on the prevention of homelessness.
- 3.3. South Lanarkshire's RRTP was developed in collaboration with a wide range of partners and stakeholders in 2019 and is subject to an established annual review process. The plan built upon a long-standing commitment and a well-established framework within South Lanarkshire, to meet the needs of homeless people.
- 3.4. The second annual review covering the period 2020/2021 was approved by Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 30 June 2021 and reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board on 15 September 2021.

- 3.5. In accordance with requirements, the third annual review, covering 2021/2022 was submitted to the Scottish Government on 30 June 2022. When forwarding the review, it was noted that it was being submitted, subject to approval at the first meeting of the Housing and Technical Resources Committee of the new Council.
- 3.6. To support implementation of the RRTP, the Scottish Government has confirmed funding of £451,000 for 2022/2023 and a further £451,000 for 2023/2024. This funding will continue to be used to progress delivery of the 5 key priority objectives of the plan.

4. Annual Review 2021/2022

- 4.1. The RRTP is structured around 5 high level priority objectives. There are 53 indicators against which the Council and its partners monitor progress, comprising 33 actions and 20 measures. In accordance with wider reporting arrangements across the Council, these indicators are categorised into 'blue', 'green', 'amber' and 'red' depending on the progress made against them.
- 4.2. During 2021/2022, positive progress was made, with over 96% of the indicators on or only slightly behind target, to achieve the projected outcomes within the identified timescales. Table 1 below, details the categorisation of the 53 indicators.

Table 1: Categorisation of RRTP indicators 2021/22

Status	Measures	Actions	Total	%
Blue	0	1	1	1.9%
Green	13	31	44	81.1%
Amber	7	0	7	15.1%
Red	0	0	0	0%
Report later/Contextual	0	1	1	1.9%
Totals	20	33	53	100%

- 4.3. Table 1 illustrates that good progress continues to be made within the RRTP, with 1 indicator completed, 44 progressing well and on target and 7 showing minor slippage.
- 4.4. Full details and progress against all indicators are provided in the RRTP Annual Review 2021/2022, attached as Appendix 1 and a summary of progress within each of the 5 priority objectives has been provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Summary of RRTP Year 3 Achievements

RRTP Priority Objective	Achievement
1. Prevent homelessness occurring and significantly reduce homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 657 additional homes for social rent were delivered across South Lanarkshire. This included 604 new build properties and an additional 53 homes secured through the council's Open Market Purchase Scheme. 72% of Housing Options cases were closed with support being provided by the Integrated Housing Options Team to prevent homelessness from occurring. This is despite an increase of 28% in approaches to the service on the previous year. An allocation of £254,221 from the Covid-19 Tenant Grant Fund assisted in homelessness prevention and tenancy sustainment by providing financial assistance and support to social rented tenants and tenants in the private rented sector with covid related rent arrears.

RRTP Priority Objective		Achievement
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A further 25% reduction in long term homelessness from 56 households living in temporary accommodation for more than 1 year in 2020/21 to 42 in 2021/22. This is an overall 65% reduction since the RRTP was implemented in 2019.
2.	Significantly reduce time spent by households in temporary accommodation and minimise moves before moving to a settled home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 homeless households had their temporary tenancies converted (or flipped) to a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST), providing the household with a permanent home and avoiding the need for further moves. This exceeded the target of 20 per year. Since the introduction of the RRTP a total of 75 properties have been "flipped" to SSTs. Permanent lets to homeless households across social housing in South Lanarkshire represented 53% of all council and 32% of RSL lets during 2021/22 and will continue to be an area of focus during 2022/23. A 22% reduction in time spent in temporary accommodation by households with children.
3.	Improve and increase the provision of housing support for households to live independently within communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HomeStart team continued to provide support and assistance to all new tenants, including those who may be at most risk of not sustaining their tenancy and future homelessness. In 2021/22, 217 starter packs were provided to new tenants. Since full roll of the service in 2019, a total of 681 starter packs have been provided to new tenants to help with sustainment and prevent repeat homelessness. Commissioned services, provided by The Salvation Army, Blue Triangle Housing Association and Right There continue to deliver tailored packages of intensive support to service users with multiple and complex needs.
4.	Expand the scope of Housing First and capacity of our Housing First approach to be the first response for households with multiple complex needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A further 11 individuals engaged with the Housing First programme which offers intensive support and access to settled housing. Since 2019, 33 individuals have engaged in the Housing First Programme. The overall sustainment rate for Housing First cases is 83%.
5.	Enhance integration of partnership working to embed RRTP through a whole systems approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner Contribution Statements (PCS) support the RRTP by setting out the specific contributions which each partner intends to make towards delivering the five priority objectives. Two Directions relating to health and homelessness are included within the Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Commissioning Plan and continue to be progressed.

5. Proposed Revisions to the RRTP

- 5.1. In addition to reviewing the progress made against the actions and measures set out within the RRTP action plan, the annual review also provides the opportunity to re-examine the plan to ensure that the priority objectives, actions and measures remain appropriate, relevant and measurable.
- 5.2. Table 3 below details the proposed amendment to the RRTP and sets out the existing action to be removed and the proposed replacement action. Subject to approval, this revision will be incorporated into the RRTP action plan for 2022/2023.

Table 3: Proposed new action for inclusion in RRTP action plan

RRTP Ref.	Current action/measure	Status	RRTP Ref.	Proposed replacement action/measure (where appropriate)
A1.5A	Monitor progress of the expansion of the Private Sector Access and Sustainment Service(PSASS) administered by YPeople	Complete	A1.5B	Continue to support people to overcome the financial barriers to accessing accommodation in the private rented sector through the PSASS

6. RRTP Priorities for 2022/2023

- 6.1. The review of progress in Year 3 of the RRTP noted that, under very challenging circumstances, significant positive indicators of success have been achieved. The review also confirmed the continuing commitment of partners to delivering RRTP priorities over the short-term as well as securing the longer-term objectives of the plan.
- 6.2. Year 4 priorities will build on key learning points from the first 3 years of the plan and also on the progress achieved by working in partnership to deliver services which are focussed on preventing homelessness and minimising the impact of homelessness where crisis cannot be avoided.
- 6.3. Detailed below is a summary of the key priorities to be progressed during Year 4 of the plan (2022/2023):-
- ◆ continue to deliver affordable homes for social rent
 - ◆ ongoing focus on prevention of homelessness, particularly in relation to households with children
 - ◆ continue to reduce long-term homelessness
 - ◆ sustain or increase the proportion of social housing lets directed to homeless households
 - ◆ further progress the homelessness Directions contained within the Strategic Commissioning Plan
 - ◆ continue to maintain and develop links to the Local Child Poverty Action Report
 - ◆ monitor implementation of specific pathways for victims of domestic abuse and young care leavers
 - ◆ continue to implement specific pathways for individuals released from prison
 - ◆ continue to focus on pathways and a Housing Options approach for young people
 - ◆ continue to expand the council's HomeStart service for new tenants
 - ◆ continue to expand the Housing First approach
 - ◆ continue to convert temporary units to permanent accommodation

7. Next Steps

- 7.1. The RRTP Annual Review 2021/2022, attached as Appendix 1, was submitted to the Scottish Government by the required timescale of 30 June 2022 subject to approval by Housing and Technical Resources Committee in August 2022. Officers await feedback from this submission and will consider any relevant actions within this.
- 7.2. The outcomes from the RRTP Annual Review 2021/2022 will be presented to the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Board for noting on 14 September 2022.

8. Employee Implications

8.1. There are no employee implications as a result of this report.

9. Financial Implications

9.1. The RRTP confirmed the significant level of resources required to be directed towards the prevention and alleviation of homelessness. The Scottish Government has provided £2,184,717 in funding to assist in the development and implementation of the RRTP. This includes £451,000 to support the continued implementation of the RRTP in 2022/2023.

9.2. As part of the ongoing RRTP monitoring and review process, consideration is given by all partners on how to further embed RRTP activities into mainstream services. At the same time partners will continue to identify opportunities to access additional funding, which is required to meet not only RRTP objectives but also to support achievement of national objectives detailed within the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy which impacts on the natural environment, climate change or sustainability.

11. Other Implications

11.1. The content of this report will contribute to the evidence to support the requirements of the Annual Assurance Statement.

11.2. There are no additional risks associated with this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

12.1. An equality impact assessment was carried out on the RRTP. The assessment confirmed that the plan will make a positive contribution to the promotion of equalities.

12.2. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) pre-screening determination was completed as part of the development of the RRTP 2019 to 2024. This confirmed there is no requirement for a separate SEA to be carried out for the RRTP.

12.3. The RRTP was developed and co-produced with a range of key partners and stakeholders. These groups have confirmed their commitment to work together to ensure the delivery of the priority outcomes. Through the Homelessness Strategy Group, these partners have been involved in monitoring and reviewing progress of the plan.

Annette Finnan
Head of Housing Services
(Housing and Technical Resources)

29 June 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible
- ◆ Our children and young people thrive

- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live

List of Background Papers

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019-24, Housing and Technical Resources Committee Report, 23 January 2019
- ◆ Annual Review of the South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Plan 2020/21. Housing and Technical Resources Committee Report, 30 June 2021

Contact for Further Information

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