

# Housing Strategy and Development Briefing Note 16/01

Scottish Government Housing Advice Note on the  
Involvement of Housing Services in the Health and  
Social Care Integration Process

January 2016



# Introduction

Welcome to a series of regular briefings prepared by the Housing Strategy and Development team on the big issues concerning housing. These briefings will be shared with staff, tenants and elected members and keep everyone up to date with regards the ever changing policy context that we are operating within.

The Housing Strategy and Development section is responsible for:-

- Providing the statutory strategic housing authority role within the local authority area;
- Strategic Housing Asset Management delivery;
- The delivery of the Council House New Build Programme and the delivery of the affordable Housing supply programme;
- Supporting the development of a culture of continuous improvement in Housing services and to facilitate opportunities to excel;
- Developing and implementing effective strategies for Housing and Community Safety Services within West Dunbartonshire;
- Developing the Council's housing strategy to ensure that it supports the delivery of our strategic priorities;
- Service development within Housing and Community Safety services; and promoting effective management and the involvement of tenants across all aspects of Housing Services.

For further information on Housing Strategy and Development please telephone 01389 737889 or e-mail: [housing.strategy@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:housing.strategy@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

## Briefing Note

### 1. Background:

The Scottish Government issued a Housing Advice Note in September 2015 providing Statutory Guidance to Integration Authorities, Health Boards and Local Authorities on their responsibilities to involve housing services in the Integration of Health and Social Care<sup>1</sup>.

The guidance applies especially to the preparation of Integration Authorities' Strategic Commissioning Plans (SCP), which must include a Housing Contribution Statement (HCS).

### 2. Main Issues:

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 established the legal framework for integrating health and social care in Scotland. Secondary Legislation and Guidance, such as this advice note supports the integration process.

The Housing Advice Note (HAN) notes the role of Housing in the Integration of Health and Social Care and cites the contribution it makes to meeting the Scottish Government's National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes, for example, Outcome 2:

*People, including those with disabilities, long term conditions, or those who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community.*

The housing functions which may or must be delegated under the Act are detailed in this HAN. The need for coordination between health & social care and housing services applies also to housing functions which have not been delegated. The paper stresses the need to engage with the local housing sector and jointly drive forward the housing contribution to better health and wellbeing.

Key housing functions of particular relevance are listed as follows:

- Adaptations, aids and equipment
- Housing support and
- Homelessness services.

On these key functions, the report concludes that the new strategic planning process provides an opportunity to bring together a joint focus on priorities and shared outcomes, and highlight more clearly the housing contribution.

---

<sup>1</sup> SG Housing Advice Note September 2015  
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/09/5619/2>

The paper notes the importance of the Strategic Commissioning Plan and the need to ensure that it correlates with other local policy directions, including Housing Strategies. It points to the LHS Guidance which emphasises the need for local authority housing and planning functions to engage with health and social care planners over “specialist needs”, and on the importance of involving stakeholders including housing.

Three requirements are listed to support this coordination:

- The involvement of housing representatives in the Strategic Planning Group and localities
- Shared work on the needs assessments underpinning the strategies
- The production of a Housing Contribution Statement explaining the alignment of services.

The Strategic Commissioning Plan must be accompanied by Housing Contribution Statement (HCS). The Guidance includes a suggested format template for the submission. The HCS must cover the five themes of:

- Governance
- Evidence
- Outcomes/Priorities
- Housing related challenges
- Resources and Investment requirements.

The Guidance is clear that the housing responsibilities outlined apply not just to local authority housing, but across the whole sector.

### **3. What it means for WDC:**

In West Dunbartonshire the integration process is well advanced and has already in place:

- An integrated strategic planning process, which has produced integrated Strategic Plans across the duration of the previous Community Health & Care Partnership.
- Locality arrangements, one for the Clydebank area and one for the Dumbarton and Alexandria area.
  - Constructive and routine collaboration with stakeholders as part of the local Community Planning Partnership to develop services that meet the needs of local people and support local Single Outcome Agreement priorities .
  - Agreement that the Chief Housing Officer be appointed a non-voting member of the Integrated Joint Board.

The first Strategic Plan 2015/16, agreed by the HSCP Board on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015, outlines the key areas where housing will work with the HSCP:

- Establish a housing support service enabling long term clients to be supported within West Dunbartonshire
- Continue to develop plans for new and refurbished Housing.
- Develop Services at Points of Transition.
- Provide preventative interventions and supports.
- Ensure rapid access to assessment, and provision of aids and adaptations.
- Seek to develop supported housing solutions for younger adults with complex needs.

Housing Strategy / HSCP will be preparing a draft Housing Contribution Statement by the end of January 2016 for submission to the Scottish Government in Spring 2016 as a discrete part of the Strategic Commissioning Plan. Thus the HCS will act as a bridge between the Local Housing Strategy and SCP.

**For further information contact:**

Jamie Dockery, Policy Officer on 01389 737 366

[jamie.dockery@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.dockery@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)