

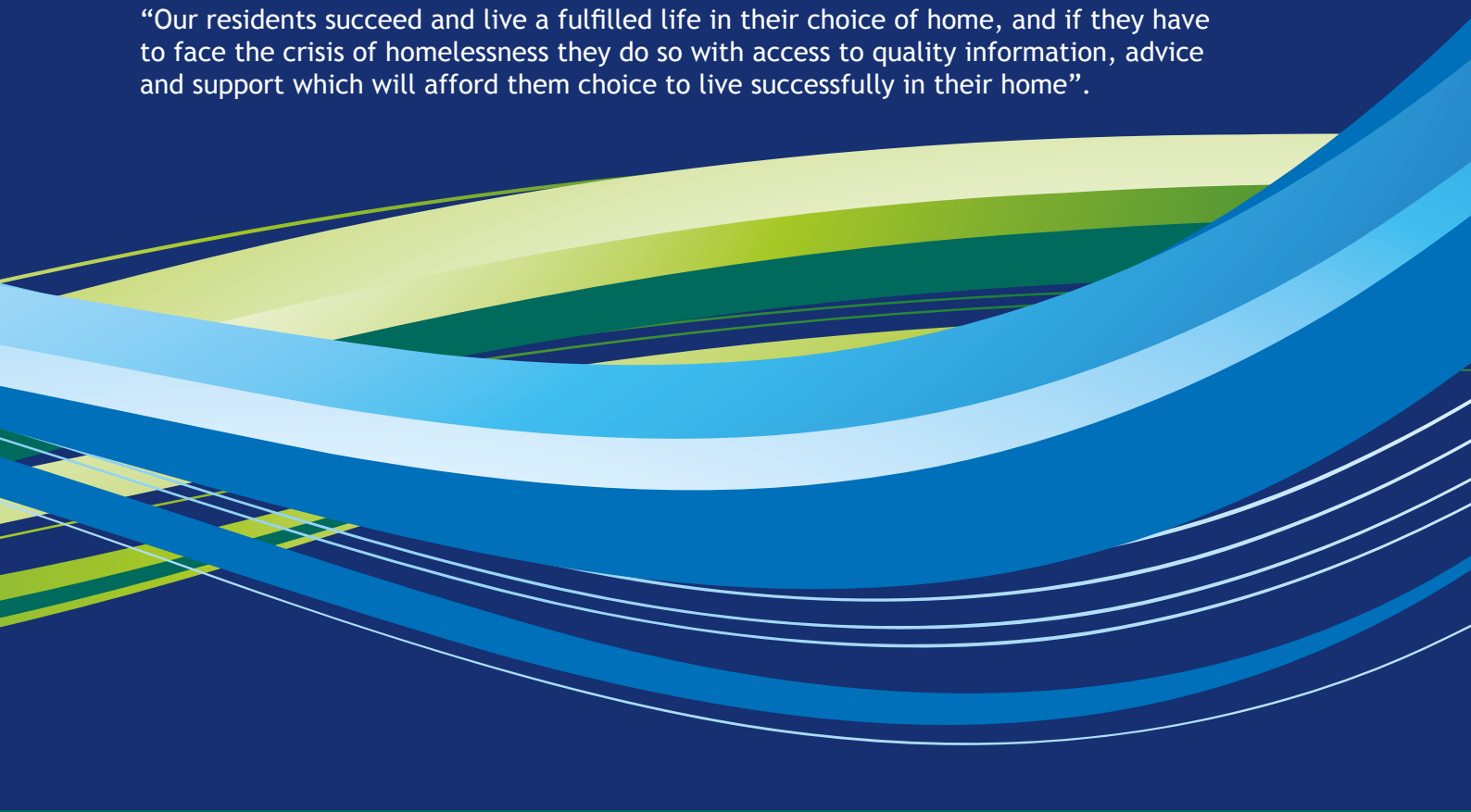
MORE THAN A ROOF

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE HOMELESSNESS, PREVENTION AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY 2017 - 2020

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

THE VISION:

“Our residents succeed and live a fulfilled life in their choice of home, and if they have to face the crisis of homelessness they do so with access to quality information, advice and support which will afford them choice to live successfully in their home”.



Foreword



*Thank you for reading a summary of **More than a Roof - West Dunbartonshire's Homelessness, Prevention and Temporary Accommodation Strategy 2017-2020**. This strategy replaces the **Homelessness Strategy** that was approved in 2013 and the **Temporary Accommodation***

Strategy that was approved in 2012.

I am pleased to say that there has been an 18% reduction in homelessness presentations over the last three years. This is excellent news and reflects the move to a more preventative model of service provision and intervention.

This new strategy sets out how the Council and its partners aim to tackle homelessness in West Dunbartonshire over the next 3 years. The strategy focuses on the prevention of homelessness and housing options, tenancy sustainment and housing support which are the areas our communities told us are important to them.

The strategy also aims to ensure we have enough of the right temporary and supported accommodation to meet the needs of those who require it.

An action plan has been developed as a result of extensive consultations with partners, service users and residents of West Dunbartonshire. This action plan will be getting delivered under a tough economic landscape with welfare reform and reduced budgets.

The Council is committed to ensuring that despite these constraints we still meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities by delivering effective services.

As Convener of the Housing and Communities Committee I am committed to reducing homelessness in West Dunbartonshire and ensuring sustainable solutions centred around the person in need.

Councillor David McBride

Convener - Housing and Communities Committee

West Dunbartonshire Council's Homelessness, Prevention and Temporary Accommodation Strategy 2017-20 "More than a Roof"

"More than a Roof" is West Dunbartonshire Council's fourth strategy relating to homelessness and covers the period 2017-20. It is designed to deliver one of the main Outcomes of the new Local Housing Strategy 2017-22 that, Homelessness is minimised through prevention and early intervention measures and builds on the progress delivered by previous homelessness strategies. The strategy reflects the latest statutory framework and recent developments in the housing sector such as the introduction of the Scottish Social Housing Charter and the development of regional Housing Options Hubs.

The strategy has been developed in close consultation with homeless people and with key partners who deliver services and work with homeless people. It recognises that tackling homelessness often requires more than just providing "a place to stay" but also the support required to address a variety of sometimes complex needs. The strategy also outlines the challenges that aspects of welfare reform such as the benefit cap and universal credit pose to the funding of homeless services.

The 5 key objectives of "More than a Roof" are that:

1. People at risk of losing their homes get advice on preventing homelessness;
2. People looking for housing get information that helps them make informed choices and about the range of housing options available to them;
3. Homeless people get prompt and easy access to help and advice;
4. Homeless people are provided with suitable, good-quality temporary or emergency accommodation when this is needed; and
5. Homeless people are offered continuing support to help them get and keep the home they are entitled to

Some of the key actions that will need to be taken in order to deliver these objectives are outlined below:

- Increase affordable housing supply in West Dunbartonshire to meet housing need;
- Produce a report outlining future funding options for Homelessness Services;
- Introduce a housing options approach and framework for delivery;
- Invest in our staff and ensure they receive necessary training to best deliver service requirements;;
- Review Service delivery to ensure we meet service objectives
- Increase the range of housing accommodation options available across West Dunbartonshire, including Housing First and sanctuary model housing ;
- Develop an annual Charter Improvement Plan based on annual assessment of performance;
- Carry out annual review of supported and temporary accommodation provision and ensure provision of appropriate supported accommodation;
- Carry out a review of the Housing Support Service and make recommendations to best deliver service requirements;
- Mitigate the effects of aspects of welfare reform where this is appropriate;
- Tackle and reduce the levels of youth homelessness in West Dunbartonshire;
- Through effective service delivery minimise incidences of repeat homelessness;
- Ensure that homelessness is avoided from households in Scottish Secure Tenancies; and
- Work with Community Justice partners to deliver the new Criminal Justice National Outcomes



For further information, contact

Jennifer MacMahon, Strategic Housing Officer

Jennifer.macmahon@wdc.gcsx.gov.uk

In Writing:

West Dunbartonshire Council
Housing and Employability
Housing Development and Homelessness
Garshake Road
Dumbarton, G82 3PU

By Phone:

Jennifer MacMahon - 01389 737721

