**Housing Solutions Partnership meeting**

Thursday 17th October 2019, 14.00 – 16.00, Brock Training Room, 16 Church Street

**Present**: Marion Gibbs (Scottish Government), John Kerr (WDC), Stefan Kristmanns (WDC), Claire Mckay (WDC), Fiona Campbell (Clydebank HA), Jennifer McKechnie (WDC), Pauline McEwan (BTHA Bonhill), Laura Haining (Action for Children), Garry Burns (Homeless Action Scotland), Martin Harvey (Knowes HA), Liz Gillespie (DDWA), Kathryn Smith (WDC), Andy Cochrane (Alternatives), Donnie McGilveray (Alternatives), Leigh Pentland (WDC), Paul Ainsworth (WDC), Tricia McShane (Dunbritton HA), Carol Ann Vallely (CWA).

**Apologies**: Diane Docherty (Convenor, Housing and Communities Committee), Nicole McQuiston (Wheatley Group), Nora Sheridan (DWP)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda items** | | **Notes and agreed actions** |
| 1. | Welcome and Introductions  John Kerr, Housing Development and Homelessness Manager |  |
| 2. | Note of previous meeting  John Kerr | Note was agreed as accurate reflection of meeting.  On-going actions from previous meeting;   * Contributions Statements – not all organisations have provided approved Contributions Statements * Review of Section 11 protocol – timescales extended due to on-going consultation |
| 3. | Scottish Government update  Marion Gibb | 4 teams within the Scottish Government – see attached document explaining each of the 4 teams.  Second round of feedback given to local authorities on their RRTP in September 2019.  Focus on costings – used previous formula to distribute this years finding but Minister wants more options . Working with COSLA, a paper will be issued to leaders group on 31/10/19 for an announcement in December for the spending review which will account for Year 2 + 3 spends.  Housing First Pathfinders – not every local authority have these, the sub group is looking at monitoring framework – progress Vs spend. Meeting next week will look at journey so far and softer indicators.  2 Government funds – Homeless Prevent Fund - £1.5 million (RSL Involvement) and Housing & Voluntary Grant £4.5 million. Want to open the latter up to other groups. An arms length organisation would administer this fund.  Hard edges – mental health justice = complex – what can we do?  7/11/19 Legislative changes:   * Intentionality – local authorities to officially have the discretion to apply intentionality or not when making a homeless assessment * New temporary accommodation standards will be issued * Longer term – looking at local connection, consultation ongoing with view to make a statement for November 2020 * Unsuitable accommodation order – apply to all households – working to May 2021 – working with those who have the most breaches currently * Code of Guidance – rewrite – intensive work on where this needs to go |
| 4. | West Dunbartonshire’s Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan update  John Kerr | Good feedback 2nd time round.  Looking at different pathways:   * Young – upscaling and want more consistency, every young person to have the opportunity for a housing options, initially to those on WDC waiting list but will establish referral system with RSL’s early in 2020 * Care leavers and Prison leavers – both pathways operating well * To be developed – hospital discharge, domestic abuse, LGBT and armed forces discharge   £265K funding to be used on housing first and conversions initially.  New service to be developed from funding – prevention worker (sec 11’s) resettlement (tenancy sustainment) worker.  Be mindful of our letting targets – required to keep RRTP on track. |
| 5. | “More than a roof” statistical update  Stefan Kristmanns | Discussion around Q2 performance and data included. Group to feedback thoughts in terms of other data that would be beneficial to include for future meetings. |
| 6. | Housing First update  Jennifer McKechnie | Started phasing in but expect to be at capacity by April 2020.  2 referrals have got homes, 1 has secured an offer and 3 waiting on an offer.  Challenges – Need to work on terminology being used and thoughts of “deserve” in relation to addiction, managing the clients expectations – expecting instant offers when this isn’t the case, need to also develop with RSLs which would then help with the wait for offers.  Positives – Making the allocation effective and personalised budgeting makes it easier to get things done and making a difference.  Agreed to provide update to HSP on a quarterly basis using the Housing First tracked used in pathfinders. |
| 7. | Welfare Reform update  DWP | Nora Sheridan from DWP provided apologies as could not attend meeting. Advised that there was nothing specific in terms of an update but wanted to highlight again she is happy to engage with any RSL’s, private landlords etc. where they feel that will help. |
| 8. | West Housing Options Hub update  John Kerr | A PREVENT1 guidance is being developed by the West Hub, so far feedback on this has been positive (also discussed at the last SG Homeless Statistics User Group). The intention is that there is guidance which can be used by all LA’s, which is consistent with the toolkit and which is supported by the SG and Regulator.  Housing Options the toolkit – module one is nearly there, currently being refined by North Lanarkshire, workshop has been held for module 2.  Noted that in terms of timescale this is being reviewed with provider (Aurion) and a plan in place for a 6 month secondment to support delivery.  There is some discussion regards the slightly changing role of the HUB (RRTP and SHORE) –and action plan is therefore being reviewed and updated. |
| 9 | What’s new? Service initiatives, best practice examples, partnerships  All | Papers to be circulated.  Topics came up during other conversations. |
| 10. | AOCB | SHR Engagement under Homelessness – meeting held last week, don’t see any issues and potentially just looking at quarterly updates. To note 20 out of the 32 local authorities the SHR is engaging under homelessness.  Code of Guidance – advisory standards for temporary accommodation – seen a rough draft and given feedback, there will be another meeting after 07/11/19 publication.  New domestic abuse legislation – barring orders – to discuss at future meeting as more detail emerges.  Homeless Action Scotland working with SAMH, looking for an advisory panel of people who are homeless and affected by suicide – if we know anyone to contact Garry. |
| 11. | Date of Next Meeting: | 19th December 2019 |