

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Operational Delivery Committee
DATE	13 January 2021
EXEMPT	Yes – Appendix 1 6. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). Information is not exempt if it is required to be registered under the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2(1) of the Companies Act 2006) or similar legislation. 8. The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services provided that disclosure to the public of the amount there referred to would be likely to give an advantage to a person or organisation entering, or seeking to enter, a contract with the Council.
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Update on Housing First Position
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/21/003
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Derek McGowan
REPORT AUTHOR	Graeme Gardner
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the Housing First programme in Aberdeen and to seek Committee approval on the recommended option/s for continuance.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the report at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Approves Option 4 at Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Housing First provides ordinary, settled housing as the first response for people with multiple and complex needs who are homeless. It operates under 7 principles which are:

- People have a right to a home
- Flexible support is provided for as long as it is needed

- The housing and support are separate
- Individuals have choice and control
- Active engagement.
- The service supports people to identify their strengths and goals
- A harm reduction approach is used

3.2 Since August 2018 a consortium of Aberdeen Cyrenians, Aberdeen Foyer, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Turning Point Scotland have been operating a Housing First service in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

3.3 This programme is funded via [The Housing First Scotland Fund](#) and the current funding arrangements are due to end on 31 March 2021.

3.4 The Scottish Government wrote to Aberdeen City Council and the Housing First board on the 22 December 2020 outlining their proposals to fund the 50% of the service for one year in 2021/22.

3.5 The Aberdeen / Aberdeenshire Housing First board are considering the future funding options available to continue funding beyond this, for example applying for grant funding available to third sector organisations.

3.6 As part of the board, Aberdeen City Council needs to consider its' preferred option in relation to Housing First and also plan should the programme end.

3.7 The report at Appendix 1 sets out an evaluation of the current Housing First programme and an options appraisal for members to consider.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Potential financial implications are outlined in Appendix 1

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Housing Support Duty is in Section 32B of the of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 inserted by Housing (Scotland) Act 2010) and states there is a duty on local authorities to conduct a housing support assessment for applicants who are unintentionally homeless or threatened with homelessness and that they have 'reason to believe' need the housing support services prescribed in the Housing Support Services (Homelessness) (Scotland) Regulations 2012/331. After an assessment, the Council must ensure that housing support services are provided to those who are assessed as needing them

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Risk Assessment for the options are contained within Appendix 1.

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
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Strategic Risk	There is a risk that outcomes in the LOIP, and Council Delivery Plan would not be met	M	There are existing housing support services and changes to homeless pathways within the city which will continue to meet LOIP and Council delivery plans. One outcome relates specifically to Housing First and this could not be met without a programme being in place.
Compliance	N/A		
Operational	There is a risk that if the Housing First programme ceases in the city there is an increase in customer demand on the Council and other statutory services	M	Pathways and services related to housing support in the system and significantly changed since Housing First started in the city and there are now more appropriate options should Housing First cease.
Financial	N/A		
Reputational	There is a reputational risk to the Council being associated with the pathfinder that ceases. Customer on programme have been offered support with no time limit and therefore will have an expectation that it will continue	M	A communication plan will have to be put in place alongside the Housing First pathfinder to communicate to customers of the programme what the future will be.
Environment / Climate	N/A		

7. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	<p>The proposals within the report the Council Delivery Plan related to Stretch Outcome 11</p> <p>Key Driver: 11.1 Supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families and groups</p> <p>Commissioning Intentions Ensure that all homeless people and people at risk of homelessness are offered support to find a home</p> <p>Key Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenancy sustainment rates • Number of tenants in temporary accommodation who remain in that locality upon accessing permanent accommodation • Number of evictions from Council housing due to tenancy arrears • Number of homeless presentations which repeat within a 12-month period • Number of previously homeless households who do not sustain their tenancy for at least one year, unless for positive reasons • Length of homeless and support assessment periods • Use of hostel accommodation and temporary properties • Average homeless journey (days) <p>Commissioning Intentions Increase number of homeless people receiving health and wellbeing support</p> <p>Key Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of homeless people receiving support • Number of referrals to Substance Misuse support agencies • Length of sustained engagement with support agencies
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 11 – Healthy life expectancy is five years longer by 2026.

	<p>The paper seeks to continue the Housing First programme within the city.</p> <p>Stretch Outcome 11 contains an improvement project to “Improve Health and Wellbeing Outcomes for at least 50% of homeless people participating in the Housing First programme by 2021”</p>
<p>UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes</p>	<p>The report sets out our intentions in relations to Housing First within the city, this reflect the aspirations set out in the Ending Homeless Together Action Plan produced by the Scottish Government and COSLA.</p>

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	A full impact assessment will be carried out as necessary, depending on the decision reached.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Ending Homeless Together Action Plan](#)
[A National Framework to Start up and Scale Up Housing First in Scotland \(Draft\)](#)

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Housing First Evaluation and Options Appraisal

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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