



# Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership

*A caring partnership*

## **Housing Contribution Statement**

### Background

The statutory guidance on Health and Social Care Strategic Plans states that Strategic Plans should ensure correlation with other local policy directions including the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). There is a specific requirement that the Strategic Plan should contain a Housing Contribution Statement (HCS).

The Local Housing Strategy is a Local Authority's strategic document for housing and housing services. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 sets out the strategic responsibilities of Local Authorities to assess housing needs, demand and condition, (including for specialist housing and housing related services) and to assess the level of homelessness and produce a homelessness strategy. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 also introduced a requirement for a Local Authority to include as part of their LHS a strategy detailing a Scheme of Assistance – for improving the condition of houses. This Scheme of Assistance outlines how a Local Authority will help people living in private sector housing (home ownership or private renting) to repair and maintain their homes as well as adapt them to meet their needs.

Housing Contribution Statements (HCS) were introduced in 2013 and provided an initial link between the strategic planning processes both in housing at a local level, and in health and social care, setting out the arrangements for carrying out the housing functions delegated to the Integration Authority and providing an overarching strategic statement of how the Integration Authority intends to work with housing services, whether delegated to it or not, to deliver its outcomes.. The Scottish Government published updated LHS Guidance in 2019 which, among other things, includes a specific focus on specialist housing and independent living, including the role of housing in health and social care integration. It emphasises the need for strategic planners in both the Local Authority housing and planning functions to engage with health and social care planners to share evidence, identify needs and plan solutions for those with 'specialist' needs.

## Local Context

Aberdeen City Council (ACC) holds the statutory role as the strategic housing and planning authority assessing housing needs, demand and condition, (including for specialist housing and housing related services) and to assessing the level of homelessness. They have published a [Housing Need and Demand Assessment](#) (HNDA) and a [Local Housing Strategy](#) which is due to be updated in August 2025. Registered Social Landlords and other housing providers in the city are vital partners in both the planning and delivery of housing care and support services.

Some housing functions have been delegated to IJBs and Aberdeen City IJB is responsible for the provision of aids and adaptations and for housing support in relation to sheltered and very sheltered housing tenancies which includes responding to emergencies, a daily welfare check and support with daily living including paying bills, health and safety and security, and accessing services. The delivery arm of Aberdeen City IJB is the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP).

## Aberdeen City's Housing Contribution Statement

It is essential that housing services are coordinated between ACC Housing, local housing providers and ACHSCP in order to achieve joined-up, person-centred approaches. Collectively we can make a contribution to the achievement of many of the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and specifically Outcome 2 'People, including those with disabilities, long term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community'. Independent living is key to improving health and wellbeing. In addition, the availability of housing that meets people's specific health needs can prevent hospital admission, achieve a timely discharge, and contribute to tackling health inequalities. Housing providers also play a crucial role in supporting residents in their properties to maintain or adapt their homes to enable people to continue to live in their own home despite changing needs.

Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen City IJB are committed to the strategic coordination of priorities in the Local Housing Strategy ([link](#)) and the Strategic Plan ([link](#)) working closely together to achieve improved outcomes for the population of Aberdeen. Our approach will include assessing the range of housing support needs across the population, including homeless households, and understanding the link with health and social care needs, identifying common priorities, and engaging with the local housing sector to jointly drive forward the housing contribution to improved population health and well-being that positively contribute to health and well-being and makes best use of the available resources within the city of Aberdeen.

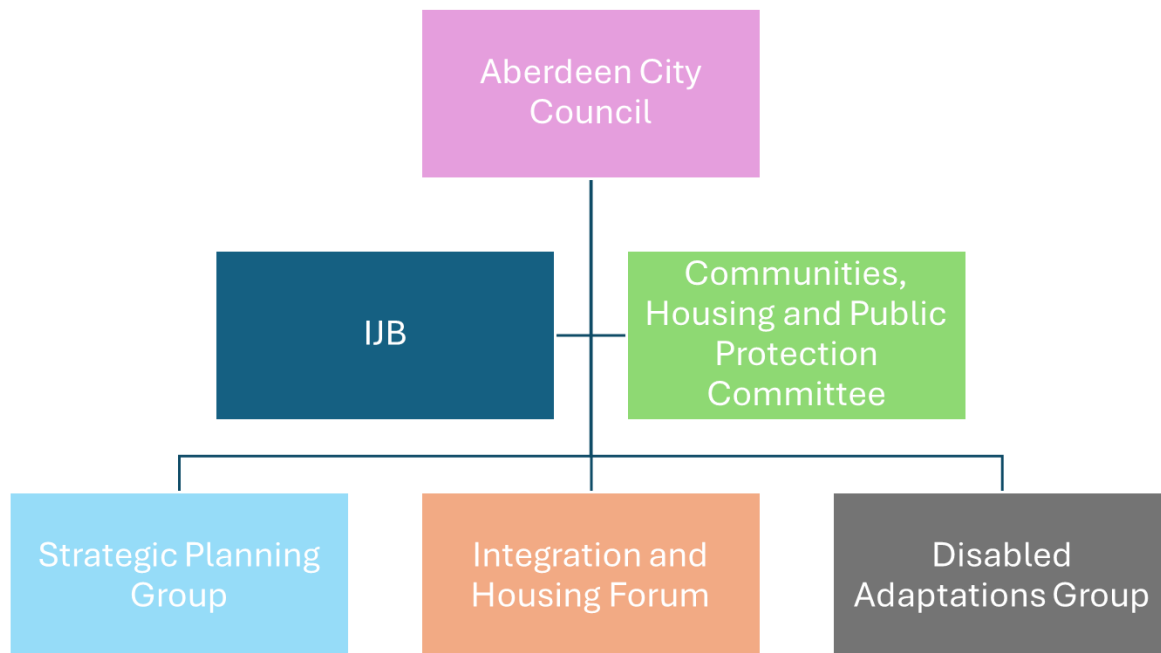
## Governance Arrangements

Beginning from the shadow year of the IJB in 2015, ACHSCP set up an Integration and Housing forum which facilitates discussion and the sharing of information on the common areas of interest between Housing and Health and Social Care. It is co-chaired by strategic leads from both Housing and ACHSCP and the membership is made up of relevant representatives from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership. The Integration and Housing

meeting acts as the key forum where the critical relationship and interdependency between Aberdeen City Council (ACC) Housing and ACHSCP is discussed and explored and from where greater collaboration and improvement activity can be directed.

There is also a Disabled Adaptations Group (DAG), chaired by the strategic lead from ACHSCP which focuses on the provision of equipment and adaptations across all housing tenures. The DAG consists of representatives from Bon Accord Care who provide our Occupational Therapist service, the ACC Housing team, the Private Sector Grants (PSG) team (who administer the grants scheme for adaptations to privately owned homes in the City), the locally commissioned Care and Repair provider, and each of the Registered Social Landlords who provide housing in the city. The aim of the DAG is to manage and monitor the various processes that enable the provision of disabled adaptations in properties across all tenures in Aberdeen City. The DAG also manages and monitors the adaptation activity and budget expenditure ensuring best value for money is obtained and that resources are targeted where they are needed most.

In addition, Housing colleagues are represented on the IJB's Strategic Planning Group where our Locality Empowerment Groups are also represented, facilitating the link not only into strategic planning but also into localities. ACHSCP colleagues participate in various groups that develop the Housing Need and Demand Assessment and the Local Housing Strategy and also those that review the provision of Housing for Varying Needs and housing related Delayed Discharges.



## Shared Evidence Base and Housing- related Challenges

Below is a summary of what we know about the health, wellbeing and social care needs in the City, and the links between these and housing.

The IJB's strategic vision is to 'empower communities to achieve fulfilling and healthy lives'. The Local Housing Strategy has identified seven priorities for action: -

- Adequate supply of housing, including affordable housing.
- Placemaking with communities
- Make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring
- Promote independent living in communities
- Promote health through housing
- Improve housing quality and energy efficiency
- Support a well-managed private rented sector

For both women and men, **healthy life expectancy** is declining in the city. People living in more **deprived areas** have shorter lives and are more likely to live with poorer health for longer. All seven priorities in the LHS will support improvement in healthy life expectancy particularly for those living in deprived areas. In particular there are commitments that those who suffer from economic inequalities will be supported to find a good quality, affordable and sustainable home as quickly as possible and that citizens will be supported to know where and how to access financial inclusion services and benefit from targeted initiatives, such as the Rent Assistance Fund.

1 in 4 adults describe themselves as having a **limiting, long-term illness**. The **population is ageing** and as people get older, they may need more health and social care support, and the support of dependants to help manage long-term conditions or diseases. There is a rising number of adults choosing not to have children, and this is likely to require very different housing models and care needs in the longer term. Preventing disease progression and encouraging the adoption of healthier behaviours are important elements for improving health outcomes. Both the Local Housing Strategy and the IJB's Strategic Plan commit to understanding the future long terms needs of citizens and to planning for longer term changes.

Whilst the rates at which people are being admitted to hospital due to alcohol and the rate of alcohol-related deaths has been declining or has been relatively stable over the last few years, the drug-related death rate has increased substantially. Continuing to reduce the **serious consequences of alcohol and drug use** remains a priority which will result in improved health outcomes for those affected. Data suggests that more people are being prescribed drugs for anxiety and depression than ten years ago, though the rate of people being in hospital for mental illness has fallen. **Deaths from suicides** have risen and the effects of the cost-of-living crisis suggest that mental health and wellbeing may further deteriorate in the near future. Early intervention should be a focus, addressing, for example, the number of people feeling socially isolated in our communities.

The Local Housing Strategy commits to ensuring that everyone in Aberdeen, particularly those with mental or physical health needs, receive housing and support

which meets their housing and wider needs to support them to live a healthy life. Providing appropriate housing for people with **complex needs** can be challenging but ACC housing and ACHSCP commit to working in partnership to monitor and review the need for specialist and support accommodation.

We know that financial, spatial and relational factors are associated with **housing insecurity and mental health**. We also know that overcrowded homes can be associated with **stress, anxiety and the spread of respiratory illness**. The Local Housing Strategy commits to ensuring that housing policies allow citizens to have sufficient space in their home and are not overcrowded.

Aberdeen City is in a fairly unique position in that almost all of adult social care is provided by externally commissioned organisations. ACHSCP produce a number of Market Position Statements that help inform housing and social care providers of the changing needs of the population over time in order that they can plan their response to these as our commissioning needs arise.

This Housing Contribution Statement has been developed jointly by Aberdeen City Council Housing Services and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership and is informed by public consultation on both the JB Strategic Plan, the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Development Plan. All three of these documents have been contextualised around the identified social determinants of health relevant to Aberdeen city reflective of our shared and aligned endeavour to deliver better outcomes for people of Aberdeen.

