

HOUSING CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Sustainable housing solutions for a wide range of people are key to fully delivering health and social care integration. The National Health and Wellbeing outcome 2 states that *“People, including those with disabilities or 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”*. This Housing Contribution Statement summarises how this will be delivered in Dumfries and Galloway as part of the wider Health and Social Care Strategic and Locality Plans.

The role of Housing in the protection and promotion of individual wellbeing extends beyond brick and mortar. The Council, and our partner Registered Social Landlords, provide a wide range of other services designed to help people remain in their home as long as they can. These services include the provision of housing support based on an individual assessment of need, physical adaptations to properties based on Occupational Therapy recommendations, warden and care call services provided in sheltered/very sheltered housing and the delivery of services to homeless people.

Registered social landlords also actively promote tenant participation in a range of community based activities. They are therefore in an ideal position to contribute fully to the development of Strategic and Locality Plans in partnership with a wide range of organisations. The integration of Health and Social Care provides a unique opportunity to strengthen these relationships and to ensure that the key role the housing sector has to play is embedded in our work.

Revised Scottish Government guidance states that the Council’s new Local Housing Strategy should set out clearly how it will meet the housing, and service needs, of people with particular needs. The evidence base for this strategy is gathered through the production of a new Housing Needs and Demand Assessment. The findings of this research will feed directly into a future update of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. For example, it is likely this work will result in future opportunities to redesign some sheltered/very sheltered housing stock, to develop a range of intermediate “step up step down” care options and to develop a full Housing Options Service that will meet the housing, care and support needs of our customers through partnership working.

There are some specific housing services that are required to transfer into our Health and Social Care Integrated Scheme. These are the Care and Repair, Handy van and Food Train Extra Services. This will provide an opportunity to create a seamless service to deliver adaptations across the social rented, private rented and owner occupied sectors.

We will:

- Review data from the new Housing Needs and Demand Assessment, in parallel with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, to ensure evidence based decisions are made regarding future housing requirements for people with particular needs
- Contribute to the development of housing related services that reduce unplanned admissions to hospital, reduce the incidence of delayed discharge and minimise the frequency of unnecessary presentations to accident and emergency departments

This will be achieved through use of preventive measures such as Equipment and Adaptations, and by increasing and improving existing community based care and support services.