

Executive Summary

The Homelessness Strategy 2010 – 2015

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 required local authorities to submit a strategy for preventing and alleviating homelessness. Moray's first Homelessness Strategy was produced in 2003 and covered a five year period from 2003 – 2008.

Scottish Government guidance has since stated homelessness strategies, together with housing support strategies should be integrated into the Local Housing Strategy. The Council, however, in recognising the importance of tackling homelessness, has produced a Homelessness Strategy to cover the period 2010 – 2015.

The Homelessness Strategy seeks to build on the achievements of the first Homelessness Strategy and contributes, through the Local Housing Strategy, to the Single Outcome Agreement between the Council and the Scottish Government. The Community Planning Partnership of the Council tasked with the delivery of the national outcomes identified one of its priorities as addressing the shortage of affordable housing and to tackle homelessness.

The overall aim of the Homelessness Strategy is “to prevent homelessness where possible, but when it does arise, to ensure that appropriate assistance and support is provided”. The Strategy re-affirms the Council's commitment to preventing and alleviating homelessness in all its forms.

The Homelessness Strategy also seeks to link with other Council strategies such as Social Inclusion Strategy, Financial Inclusion Strategy, NHS Grampian Health and Homelessness Strategy etc. The Council's Temporary Accommodation Strategy 2009 was developed to support the Homelessness Strategy and both strategies have been influenced by the Scottish Housing Regulator's inspection of the Council's homelessness services.

The Scottish Government's target for the abolition of priority need by 21 December 2012 highlights the importance of prevention work, support and sustainable solutions, together with the provision of a range of accommodation options.

The Homelessness Strategy proposes the objectives that sit within the themes of:

- Prevention
- Provision of accommodation (temporary and permanent)
- Support and sustainable solutions

The actions required to achieve the identified objectives are detailed in the Action Plan as follows:

- Maximise the opportunities to prevent homelessness
- Develop suitable accommodation for a range of housing needs
- Design services which will reduce repeat homelessness
- Increase opportunities to access support services

The Action Plan has been developed to form the basis for a monitoring and evaluation framework and enables the Council, its partners and other agencies to measure the achievement of the Homelessness Strategy objectives.

The improvements identified within the Scottish Housing Regulator Improvement Plan and the Temporary Accommodation Action Plan are not duplicated within the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.