



Your Moray - Your Safety

REPORT TO: SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORTS – HOUSING STRATEGY GROUP AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY GROUPS

BY: CHIEF HOUSING OFFICER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report provides a progress report from the Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Groups, which develop and monitor the implementation of the Moray Local Housing Strategy and the Moray Homelessness Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **It is recommended that the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group notes this report.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Moray Housing Strategy Group was established to develop and monitor the implementation of the Moray Local Housing Strategy. It is a multi agency group which comprises representatives from a wide range of partners, including the Council, Scottish Government, NHS, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), HIE, Cairngorm National Park Authority, etc. The Group's work is supported through a variety of sub groups which deal with specific aspects of housing strategy eg Fuel Poverty, Private Sector Housing, Community Care, Information and Housing Investment.

3.2 The Homelessness Strategy Group was established to develop and monitor the implementation of the Moray Homelessness Strategy. It is also a multi agency group which comprises representatives from a wide range of partners, including the Council, NHS, Registered Social Landlords, Moray CAB and voluntary organisations involved in providing accommodation or support to homeless people. There are three sub groups which deal with Young Persons, Temporary Accommodation and Vulnerable Adults. A fourth sub group on information and advice is to be established in 2009.

4. HOUSING STRATEGY GROUP

- 4.1 The Housing Strategy Group meets six monthly. The last meeting of the Group was held on 30 June 2009.
- 4.2 The Group discussed the outturn on the Affordable Housing Investment Programme (AHIP) for 2008/09 and welcomed the level of AHIP funding for 2009/10 in Moray. It was noted that the submission date for the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2010/15 is the end of November 2009.
- 4.3 The Group considered the review of the Local Housing Strategy for 2008/09 and the revised Action Plan for 2009/10.
- 4.4 The Group also considered the approach to be adopted in the continuing development of the Moray Local Housing Strategy. It is intended that a draft Interim LHS would be presented to the Council's Communities Committee in December 2009. In order to achieve this timescale, a further meeting of the Housing Strategy Group was agreed for 2 October 2009.

5. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY GROUP

- 5.1 The Homelessness Strategy Group aims to meet quarterly, although this is not always achieved. The last meeting of this Group was held on 18 June 2009.
- 5.2 The Group discussed the progress made by the three sub groups and noted that significant areas of improvement had been achieved. A new Support Assessment Form influenced by the Young Persons Theme Group is now being used across all Support Providers and the Temporary and Permanent Accommodation Group suggested a new Placement Group to allow greater flexibility across all the providers in terms of accommodating vulnerable homeless people. This has been in operation since March 2009 and initial feedback confirms that this initiative has been particularly successful. Further work on developing the Vulnerable Adults Group is still outstanding and progress will be reported at next Committee.
- 5.3 An update on the Health and Homelessness Action Plan highlighted that training workshops with NHS staff have been well received and there is work currently being completed to improve the discharge of homeless people from hospital.
- 5.4 The work to revise the Homelessness Strategy is underway and a further meeting of the Strategy Group is being arranged for September/October 2009 to discuss a draft revised strategy.

6. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The Local Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy support the work of the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group and the achievement of the Single Outcome Agreement in Moray.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy or legal implications arising from this report.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

(d) Consultations

Consultation on this report has taken place with the Housing Programmes Manager and the Housing Needs Manager in the Housing Service.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 This report provides information on the work currently undertaken through the Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Groups.

Author of Report: Jill Stewart, CHO
Background Papers: Held by author
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Signature: Jill Stewart Date : 2 September 2009

Designation: Chief Housing Officer Name: Jill Stewart