

**Homelessness Strategic Outcome Statement**

<b>Theme</b>	Community Wellbeing.  CW4 – Providing Quality Housing Services. CW3 – Ensure the needs of homeless people are met in line with National Policy.
<b>Strategy</b>	Local Housing Strategy – Access to Housing
<b>Sub Theme</b>	Homelessness.
<b>National Outcome / Single Outcome Agreement 7.3.1</b>	We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society / All homeless households will be entitled to settled accommodation by 2012.
<b>What do we want to achieve/ improve (Priority/ Output)</b>	<p><b>(i)</b> We will have homelessness prevention measures in place including the provision of a clear homelessness information and advice framework with the aim of reducing homeless presentations by 5% per year.</p> <p><b>(ii)</b> Homeless households will have settled accommodation, with relevant support by 2012.</p> <p><b>(iii)</b> The health and wellbeing of homeless people is considered in all contacts and addressed in the most co-ordinated way possible.</p>
<b>Challenges</b>	<p>Scottish Government, 2012 Target – To abolish the ‘Priority Need’ category and to provide permanent accommodation to all unintentionally homeless people.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>The need for additional temporary accommodation and to reduce the reliance upon B&amp;B accommodation.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Single homelessness is a significant problem in Aberdeenshire requiring targeted responses.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Engaging with Service Users.</p> <p>Provision of appropriate support including specialist support.</p>
<b>How well are we doing (Baseline)</b>	In <b>07/08</b> there were <b>1587</b> presentations. <b>08/09</b> there was <b>1575</b> presentations (-0.8%). <b>09/10</b> there was <b>1670</b> presentations (+5.6%).

	<p>Average length of stay in B&amp;B accommodation – <b>54</b> days. <b>(07/08)</b> <b>08/09</b> – <b>59</b> days (+9%). <b>09/10</b> – <b>63</b> days (+6.8%)</p> <p>Average length of stay in Council’s furnished temporary accommodation – <b>147</b> days <b>(07/08)</b> <b>08/09</b> – <b>150</b> days (+3%). <b>09/10</b> – <b>126</b> days (-16%)</p> <p>In <b>07/08</b> there were <b>17</b> breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order.  <b>08/09</b> – <b>10</b> breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order (-41%)  <b>09/10</b> – <b>0</b> breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order</p> <p><b>(iii)</b> The health of homeless people will be improved through increased service provision and raising awareness among staff. Indicators have yet to be identified.</p>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Strategic Development Officer (Homelessness)
<b>Strategic Outcome Group</b>	Homelessness Strategy Group

<sup>1</sup> Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and Homelessness etc (Scotland) Act 2003 placed new responsibilities on Local Authorities to provide temporary accommodation for all those assessed as being homeless, and extended the responsibilities of RSLs in providing accommodation. The 2003 Act made a number of further changes, to be introduced in stages.

- Extension of the priority need categories and plans to abolish the ‘priority need’ test.
- Changes to the operation of the intentionally homeless test and the provision of accommodation for intentionally homeless households.
- Suspension of the ‘local connection’ test.
- Details of what constitutes suitable accommodation for homeless persons particularly where children are involved.

<sup>2</sup> The Scottish Government committed to 2012 as the target date for abolishing the priority need distinction.

Research carried out by Craigforth Consultants in June 2008. ‘A Temporary Accommodation Strategy for Aberdeenshire’.

<sup>3</sup> Homelessness in Aberdeenshire – A study of the HL1 ‘returns’ of Aberdeenshire Council 2002-2007 and a survey of partner agencies. Dr John G Love, Robert Gordon University.