

Review of the Housing Related Content within Strategic Commissioning Plans (SCP)

1 Introduction

IHub housing associates (previously JIT Action Group members) have been tasked with the job of trying to raise the profile of 'housing' within the process of health and social care integration. Our aim has been to ensure that 'housing' plays its full part in contributing to the stated national health and wellbeing outcomes. We have offered support to LA/RSL partnerships, published good practice/briefing notes, supported national networks, conducted surveys and offered ad hoc advice and support.

One measure of our success or otherwise would be a brief examination of what has been stated within published SCPs about the housing contribution to health and wellbeing stated outcomes. This paper attempts to summarise what we have found within the body of SCPs although it should be noted that twelve SCPs have their Housing Contribution Statement (HCS) contained as an appendix. A review of the content of each specific HCS across all 32 Authorities is the subject of a separate report.

2 Background Guidance and Legislation

Strategic planning is a vital part of ensuring that public services remain focussed on the needs of the population, perhaps especially at times when services are being reshaped. Both for housing and for health and social care, the respective legislation sets out specific requirements for strategic planning. Guidance was published by Scottish Government in September 2015 describing how planning for housing services and for health & social care can be better aligned.

The Integration Authority must prepare and produce a Strategic Commissioning Plan, or SCP (referred to in the Act as a “strategic plan”). This plan will have a 3-year life-cycle and provide the strategic context for the commissioning of services as directed by the Integration Authority. The plan will set out how the delegated functions will be delivered and the resource allocation to support the achievement of national and local health and well-being outcomes.

The Strategic Commissioning Plan Guidance provides a framework for the operation of the strategic commissioning function by the Integration Authority. Strategic commissioning is the term used for all the activities involved in assessing and forecasting needs, linking investment to agreed desired outcomes, considering options, planning the nature, range and quality of future services and working in partnership to put these in place. The Guidance states that the SCP should ensure correlation with other local policy directions as outlined in, for instance, Single Outcome Agreements, NHS Local Delivery Plans, **Housing Strategies**, NHS Clinical Strategies, community plans and other local corporate plans.

It is clearly desirable for there to be strategic coordination between the expressed approaches of the SCP and the LHS as they relate to health and housing. Three requirements to support this coordination are: the involvement of housing representatives in the Integration Authority’s Strategic Planning Group and localities; shared work on the Needs Assessments underpinning the two strategies; and the production of a Housing Contribution Statement by each Integration Authority, as part of its Strategic Commissioning Plan, to explain how services have been aligned.

3 How well has the importance of housing been expressed within SCPs?

The good news is that despite the fact that Integration Joint Boards had a relatively short period of time between Housing Advice Note Guidance being published (Sept '15) and production of SCPs, it would seem that the housing contribution has been recognized by many. Examples below of some of the statements made within the body of the SCPs.

- “The housing interface with health will be crucial to the success of integration” (Dundee City and Fife)
- “Housing options needs to be a key feature of our integration of health and social care services” (Scottish Borders).
- “Housing has a critical role to play” (Renfrewshire)
- “Having a suitable affordable place to stay is at the very core of addressing an individuals health and social care needs” (South Ayrshire).
- Both Falkirk and Perth and Kinross mention “housing as a critical link”
- Inverclyde talks about the “vital Contribution that housing partners can give”.
- “There is a strong connection between health inequalities and homelessness” (Midlothian)
- ‘Housing is a key partner and makes a vital contribution” (Moray)
- “Housing is an essential feature of health and wellbeing with providers giving a critical link to the wider community” (West Lothian).

4 Where can we find the Housing Contribution Statements (HCS)?

Inevitably different approaches have been made to the production of an HCS by the 31 Integration Joint Boards across Scotland. Upon closer examination of the Strategic

Commissioning Plans the picture is as follows –

- **12 SCPs with their HCS appended**

Aberdeen City, Argyll and Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, Glasgow*, Inverclyde, Moray, North Ayrshire*, Renfrewshire, Shetland, South Lanarkshire, West Lothian

- **14 SCPs who have separate HCS not within SCP**

Angus, Clacks, Stirling, Dundee, East Dunbartonshire, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire*, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Midlothian, North Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders, West Dunbartonshire, Western Isles*

- **SCPs with HCS in the body of Document**

Aberdeenshire, Orkney, Perth and Kinross and South Ayrshire.

- **SCPs with little said about Housing Contribution**

East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and Highland

*Denotes draft HCS or interim HCS.

5 Common Housing Themes within SCPs

a) **Housing Supply/Lack of Affordable Housing**

At least 10 SCPs make reference to housing supply as a key issue or challenge for the achievement of health and wellbeing outcomes. Some of the conclusions on this have been lifted from local housing strategies (LHS). Aberdeen city describe *“the lack of access to affordable and decent housing as a challenge to the continuity of care for certain priority groups including mental health”*.

b) **The need to develop specialist models of housing**

At least 9 SCPs refer to the requirement for extra care housing to be developed and/or other forms of specialist housing to help meet identified needs of the population. The Angus SCP has a section devoted to this topic that also ties in well with their LHS and Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP). Falkirk talks about the lack of extra care housing options.

c) Importance of Shared Evidence Base

At least 7 SCPs make reference to the need to better join up their evidence bases and many make reference to the housing need and demand analysis (HNDA) matching up with the Joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA). Midlothian SCP gives a good overview of their shared evidence base while Orkney refers to the work they have done to match up their data. South Lanarkshire also describe the work they are undertaking to utilize info they hold on House condition survey alongside the HNDA and JSNA information. Dumfries and Galloway SCP states “we will combine HNDA with JSNA to help plan....”

d) Homelessness/Complex Needs

This issue features within at least 12 SCPs. In South Lanarkshire the IJB is to host health and homelessness services, while many other have this issue as a key priority within their plans moving forward. West Lothian SCP talks about the importance of housing options/homelessness services being closely aligned with health. Edinburgh SCP also discusses homelessness and complex needs, while Glasgow considers homelessness service reform and housing options. Perth and

Kinross have a health and homelessness section within their SCP with statistics/shared evidence, while Renfrewshire plans to implement health and homelessness standards alongside its health and homelessness action plan. South Ayrshire have a health and homelessness staff nurse.

e) Adaptations

At least 9 SCPs discuss adaptations services and some of them consider this alongside Care and Repair service. East Renfrewshire considers the need to better forecast future demand for adaptations while Edinburgh has a focus on making better use of adaptations budget. Inverclyde recognizes the importance of having an improved database that identifies adapted housing within their boundary. The Orkney SCP has listed specialist housing and adaptations as one of its key themes. The SCP within Scottish Borders cites Adaptations as one of its 8 key objectives.

f) Housing support

At least 8 SCPs discuss these issues. Orkney sees support and care as one its key challenges alongside the need for more specialist housing. Perth and Kinross mention housing and support (Inc. floating housing support) playing a crucial role in future. South Lanarkshire have a good action plan within its SCP which includes housing support alongside a sustainable housing section. West Dunbartonshire say they will develop new models of 'care at home' as part if its extra care housing option. Aberdeen City SCP discusses the objective of helping people stay at home and prevent unnecessary hospital

admissions by having enhanced links to housing services,

g) Links with LHS and SHIP

At least 14 SCPs discuss the significance of the local housing strategy and strategic investment plans. South Lanarkshire spent some time in their SCP describing the LHS links with health and wellbeing outcomes and develop a very good action plan with priority themes at section 2.6 of their plan. Angus refer to their LHS and SHIP while discussing the development of new models of specialist housing. East Dunbartonshire draws a picture of how its LHS themes match the broader objectives of the SCP while East Renfrewshire briefly refers to the Strategic development Plan and LHS within their 'staying at home' section of the SCP. Fife includes the LHS high level objectives in a separate annex of its strategic commissioning plan. And the Inverclyde SCP considers 4 key housing issues of supply, support, adaptations and info/advice on housing and support alongside other LHS highlights.

6 Additional Points

There are a number of other interesting points to note from a 'housing' viewpoint. Most SCPs describe the locality planning and improvement arrangements partnerships either have in place now or plan to put in place soon. Some of these describe a clear role for housing reps to be involved and many will utilize existing community planning consultations structures and adapt. Dumfries and Galloway say they have locality plans already available and they have a spotlight on 'Dementia Step up Care'.

Also some plans indicate the inclusion of RSLs and the Third sector featuring prominently. Aberdeenshire have 2 reps on Strategic Planning Group (SPG) incl RSL while East Renfrewshire also have the chief housing officer and CEO of a local RSL. Edinburgh have RSLs very well 'plugged' into the whole process too via their Affordable housing P'ship sub group chaired by an RSL member. And of course the stock transfer authorities inevitably have RSLs taking the lead on the housing contribution to health and wellbeing objectives set out in the SCPs. One or two SCPs (incl Glasgow) also discuss the importance of access to employment and health education.

Finally, a good number of SCPs discuss the issue of Dementia. Falkirk discussed Dementia and Care at Home while Moray and Inverclyde describe their plans for Dementia friendly design and dementia friendly communities. Given that CIH is currently undertaking phase 2 of its Dementia and Housing project, it might usefully note some of the SCPs where Dementia proposals feature prominently so as to gain some early traction on the findings/outputs from the project.

At least 6 SCPs discuss the benefits of Care and Repair services and technology enable care. Many partnerships, including Borders see the need for greater use of TEC, while Shetland SCP discusses the integration of telecare and telehealth.

7 Concluding remarks

It should be remembered that this report simply focuses on the housing content within the body of the SCP reports. It does not describe what is contained within discreet Housing Contribution Statements some of which are included as appendices to the SCP. A separate report on content of HCSs is currently under preparation.

It would seem from the findings in this report that the picture is really quite encouraging in these first reports with many partnerships fully recognizing the importance of the housing contribution. As expected however it is too early to see many examples at this stage of service redesign. Instead we see descriptions of what partnerships see as 'the future state' of health and social care services further down the line.

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