

Report To: Community Health & Care
Partnership Sub-Committee

Date: 31 May 2012

Report By: Robert Murphy
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Care Partnership

Report No:
CHCP-35-2101-SMcC-R

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Subject: SHR Self-Assessment Process – Homelessness Services

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform members of the outcome of the recent self-assessment and subsequent feedback from the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) on the progress being made by Inverclyde CHCP Homelessness Services.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde CHCP was asked to submit a detailed self-assessment of progress made on the improvement plan submitted to the SHR in 2008, following the re-inspection of the homelessness service at this time.
- 2.2 Senior officers in the homelessness service then engaged in dialogue with the SHR inspection team on how issues contained within the improvement plan had been progressing, and shared appropriate data and information for inspection purposes.
- 2.3 SHR has now advised the CHCP that the process described above has given them 'assurance of progress in a number of areas'. And as result, their overall assessment of the homelessness service is 'green'.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the positive outcome of the above, and acknowledge the ongoing improvement in the services currently being delivered by the CHCP in relation to services to homeless and potentially homeless people in Inverclyde.

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4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) is the regulatory body for all housing and homelessness services provided by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in Scotland.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Council's homelessness services was subject to a cyclical re-inspection in 2008, in which the service received a grading of 'fair', with a number of improvements noted since the initial inspection in 2004.
- 4.3 Following this inspection, the Council was required to submit an improvement plan in order to progress any issues where further improvement could be achieved. The SHR subsequently sought a detailed self-assessment after a period of 3 years, and this was submitted by Inverclyde CHCP in September 2011.
- 4.4 The SHR has now provided feedback on the self-assessment and subsequent dialogue with homelessness services, and has stated that it is assured of the progress being made by the service, and as a result has noted its overall assessment of the service as 'green'.
- 4.5 This assessment will now be fed into the broader Assurance and Improvement Plan (AIP) which is prepared for each local authority by the various regulators of statutory services.
- 4.6 There is no further planned inspection activity in relation to Inverclyde's homelessness service, however the SHR has noted its intention to 'keep a watching brief' on the situation regarding the number of lets made by local RSLs to homeless applicants, which is yet to reach the target set within Inverclyde Council's recently published Local Housing Strategy.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the positive feedback provided by the SHR in its findings on the CHCP homelessness service, and the ongoing improvement in standards of service delivery in this area.
- 5.2 That CHCP staff in conjunction with colleagues in the Council's Safer and Inclusive Communities team, continue to make representations to the local RSLs in Inverclyde to secure an increased number of housing lets to homeless clients in line with targets set out in the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal: There are no legal implications contained in this report. Inverclyde Council retains the statutory duty to implement relevant homelessness legislation in this area.
- 6.2 Finance: There are no financial implications in this report.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments

- 6.3 Personnel: There are no personnel implications in this report.
- 6.4 Equalities: There are no equalities implications in this report