

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **HOUSING COMMITTEE - 21 MARCH 2007**

#### **HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY UPDATE**

##### **Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To note and seek approval for proposed expenditure of the funding awarded by the Scottish Executive for 2007/2008 to assist in the delivery of the Homelessness Task Force Recommendations; and to advise members of progress of the East Ayrshire Homelessness Strategy 2006/09.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Since enactment of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, and the Homelessness etc (Scotland) Act 2003, funding has been available to implement legislative changes and the recommendations made by the Homelessness Task Force in its final report "Helping Homeless People - An Action Plan for Prevention and Effective Response."
- 2.2 The Homelessness Etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 requires a Ministerial Statement on the abolition of priority need by 2012. As such, the Scottish Executive carried out consultation with local authorities and other partner agencies, and issued a Ministerial Statement in December 2005, which sets out the measures which local authorities and Scottish Ministers have taken and will take in order to ensure that local authorities can reasonable be expected to perform their homelessness duties.
- 2.3 The Scottish Executive have issued a model template Local Outcome Agreement to monitor spend and activity to achieve homelessness top level outcomes namely:
- No one need sleep rough
  - Existing homelessness becomes more visible
  - Sustainable resettlement is secured for people who become homeless
  - Fewer people become homeless in the first place and
  - Duration of homelessness is reduced

### **3. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2006/09**

- 3.1 The progress of the Homelessness Strategy 2006/09 for East Ayrshire has been documented in the template Local Outcome Agreement as attached Appendix 1. This revised template focuses on 5 top level outcomes as detailed in 2.3 above, and strategic progress in 2006/07 has been measured

against these outcomes. Some of the most notable achievements are detailed in the following paragraphs.

- 3.2 Outcome 1: No one need sleep rough. Following an open procurement process, Glasgow Simon Community have been contracted to provide an Intensive Housing Support Service to rough sleepers on a pan Ayrshire basis. The objective of this service is to help eradicate rough sleeping by providing flexible, varied and intense support to the most chaotic within the homeless population who are most at risk of being excluded from existing accommodation options.
- 3.3 Outcome 2: Existing homelessness becomes more visible: A crucial element in meeting this outcome is to heighten awareness of homelessness issues within our partner organisations. A Multi Agency Training Plan to support progress has been developed and is being promoted to all public and voluntary sector partners within East Ayrshire.
- 3.4 Outcome 3: Sustainable resettlement is secured for people who become homeless. Throughout the period, 82 applicants were assisted via the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme (DiGS) into suitable housing within the Private Rented Sector.
- 3.5 Outcome 4: Fewer people become homeless in the first place. The appointment of a Housing Options Officer has ensured that the provision of housing advice and information is available to a variety of different client groups. Work is being undertaken within all secondary schools and HMP Kilmarnock, as well as ad-hoc outreach to community youth groups seeks to maximise homeless prevention.
- 3.6 Outcome 5: The duration of homelessness is reduced. Over the last 4 years, there has been a steady increase in the duration of homelessness within East Ayrshire. The allocation policy review concluded last year will in part address this issue however the lack of suitable housing will continue to impose a significant challenge.
- 3.7 The Scottish Executive has awarded £504,776 Homeless Task Force Funding and £247,434 Furnished Tenancies Grant to East Ayrshire Council for 2007/08. The proposals for expenditure of this funding are outlined within Appendix 2. In addition, North Ayrshire Council as lead Authority in Ayrshire has been allocated £355,951 Rough Sleepers Initiative funding, in order to continue with the pan Ayrshire Intensive Housing Support Service provided by the Simon Community.

#### **4. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council requires to comply with the legislative provisions contained within the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Homelessness (Scotland) Act 2003 in relation to homelessness

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 All Local Authorities must increase those found to be in priority need by 50%, by 2009, prior to the abolition of the Priority Need test in 2012. As detailed within the Local Outcome Agreement, discussions are underway with the neighbouring Ayrshire authorities to examine the potential for developing a joint approach to meeting this challenge. Further proposals will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.
- 5.2 The implementation of the Homelessness Strategy addresses a number of themes within the Community Plan, namely Eliminating Poverty, Improving Health, and Increasing Opportunities. The implementation of the Homelessness Strategy is driven and monitored by an officer group of Community Planning partners.

## **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The Homeless Task Force funding is secured until March 2008. It is essential that this funding continues beyond 2008 to ensure the objectives of the Homelessness Strategy can be achieved.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The continued implementation of the Homelessness Strategy 2006/09 will consolidate the work already being undertaken by partners in response to homelessness and assist the Council to meet its legal obligations to homeless people, particularly the need to abolish the priority need test by 2012.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that Members:
- (i) note progress in delivering the agreed Local Outcome Agreement 2006/07 as set out in Appendix 1;
  - (ii) approve the proposed Local Outcome Agreement 2007/08 as set out in Appendix 2; and
  - (iii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

**William Stafford**  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

27 February 2007

CMCA/NT/LA

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. East Ayrshire's Homelessness Strategy 2006 – 2009
2. Helping Homeless People – Ministerial Statement on Abolition of Priority Need by 2012

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above or requiring further information should telephone 01563 576986 and ask for Nicola Thom.

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**Local authority:** East Ayrshire Council

**Local outcome agreement and progress report 2006-07**

**Allocations:**

Homelessness Task Force allocation (HTF budget) – £498,867.00

Rough Sleepers Initiative funding (RSG) budget – £0.00

Furnished Tenancies Grant – £247,434.00

## **SECTION 1: MONITORING SPEND AND ACTIVITY TO ACHIEVE HOMELESSNESS TOP LEVEL OUTCOMES**

### **OUTCOME 1: No-one need sleep rough**

**Current position:** The HL1 dataset indicates that an average number of 6 applications per month were received from someone reporting having slept rough the night before – this represents a decrease since 2002/03 and is comparable with figures for the previous 2 years.

**Capacity:** Access to temporary accommodation is readily available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year via a variety of access points, namely Council offices, local police offices or via the Council Helpline. Emergency bed spaces have been identified to respond to periods where demand outweighs supply to ensure that no one need sleep rough.

**Outcomes for rough sleepers:** The service detailed below has been operational since November 2006. The development of performance monitoring and outcome measurement is currently being defined to ensure that hard and soft indicators are measured to allow ongoing service development across all partners as appropriate.

**Non-engagement:** The development of the support service detailed below seeks to ensure that those who are at risk of rough sleeping, by exclusion from services due to non engagement, are offered additional supports to help maintain their accommodation.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Spend</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Contract for newly established Intensive Housing Support Service (Pan Ayrshire) to help eradicate the need to sleep rough.	£353,000 funded via Rough Sleepers Initiative, awarded to North Ayrshire Council on a pan Ayrshire basis.	Rough sleeping is eradicated
Provision of temporary accommodation and associated costs relating to transport, removals and storage.	£122,455	Provision of temporary accommodation as required.

<b>OUTCOME 2: Existing homelessness becomes more visible</b>		
<b>Current position:</b> The HL1 dataset indicates 1,251 homelessness applications in 2005/06 and an increase over the last 4 years – however, centrally held data does not indicate to what extent this represents the true extent of hidden homelessness becoming apparent.		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Spend</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<p><b>G - Further promote the availability of training programmes for staff within the voluntary sector, highlighting the needs of homeless people.</b></p> <p><b>The Multi Agency Training (MAT) Programme has been developed and is in circulation amongst our partners within the voluntary sector. The Programme covers a range of topics other than homelessness for example domestic abuse, substance misuse, welfare rights etc.</b></p>	<b>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</b>	<b>A heightened awareness of the needs of the homeless population amongst partners</b>
<b>G- Ensure the housing needs of the homeless population are included within ongoing Local Housing Systems Analysis carried out as part of the Local Housing Strategy</b>	<b>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</b>	<p><b>Complete LHSA</b></p> <p><b>Incorporate findings within LHS</b></p>

**OUTCOME 3: Sustainable resettlement is secured for people who become homeless**

**Current position:** The HL1 dataset indicates that 63% of applicant households assessed as homeless in 2005/06 secured permanent accommodation, this is an increase compared with 51% in 2002/03. HL1 data indicates that in 2005/06 10% of applications assessed as homeless or potentially homeless were reassessed as homeless or potentially homeless within 12 months of their cases being closed; this is a decrease on figures for the previous 2 years.

**Homelessness Task Force recommendations – sustainable resettlement**

Recommendation*	Progress (Red/Amber/Green)/Comments	Spend	Outcomes
Access to rent deposit/guarantee scheme(9)	G – a rent deposit guarantee scheme is in place and can be accessed by households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness	£50,486 from HTF funding	82 homeless people were given information, advice or access to Rent Deposit Guarantee private rented accommodation.
Framework for joint working(32)	G – there is a well established robust framework for implementation of the Homelessness Strategy, ensuring cohesion across the Community Planning Framework	Staffing costs from HTF (1)	Implementation of Homelessness Strategy within agreed timescales. Monitoring and reporting of progress across partners.
Crisis response system(34)	G - The Homelessness Strategy 2003/06 identified the need for additional temporary accommodation resources throughout East Ayrshire. This has been achieved to ensure that all homeless people have access to immediate emergency accommodation prior to assessment. The working arrangements in place with partners in Social Services, Mental Health teams and Addiction services allows us to ensure a swift and effective onward referral for those with most complex needs. Similarly our partners are able to refer to us with the same degree of priority for those at risk of homelessness. These cases are managed via agreed Care Management Principles across all partners to ensure the most positive outcome for the service user.	Previous years HTF	Provision of flexible and responsive service that meets the needs of service users.
Access to information & advocacy(36)	G - The council has developed an Information and Advice Strategy which aims to ensure the availability of independent and informed advocacy services within the area. The implementation of that Strategy is driven by a multi agency	Staffing costs from HTF (1)	The objectives of the Information and Advice Strategy are achieved.

	<b>Information and Advice steering group. A range of materials have been developed to meet not only the Housing Information and Advice Standards, but also the standards as stipulated by the Care Commission.</b>		
Location of resettlement (38)	<b>G - Homeless applicants are, wherever possible, rehoused within the community of their choice where they have access to local and family supports and to ensure school/nursery arrangements can be maintained. In order to respond to this requirement, and to ensure equity across the district, amendments have been made to the Allocation Policy to increase the quota of properties offered to homeless people across all letting areas. This is obviously offset against available housing supply.</b>	<b>Staffing costs from HTF (1)</b>	<b>Homeless people are able to access housing in all parts of East Ayrshire, dependant upon availability.</b>
Support packages(39)	<b>G - Develop protocols and update staff training in relation to Social Services and Care Management Plans, namely Single Shared Assessment, Care Management Planning and Care Programme Approach</b>  <b>In addition, the Department has introduced a Matrix Support Assessment Tool to ensure equality and consistency when assessing the support needs of homeless people, or those at risk of homelessness. This Matrix has in the past year been shared with partners within the voluntary sector who work with homeless people which enhances the communication between partners and ultimately improves service delivery to service users.</b>	<b>Staffing costs via HTF and SPG (1)</b>	<b>Robust mechanism of assessment and referral for homeless population</b>
Barrier free housing(40)	<b>All new housing development projects involving partners between the Council, Communities Scotland and Registered Social Landlords will secure the provision of new affordable houses built to “housing for varying needs” standards.</b>  <b>The Council has also established an east Ayrshire wide Care and Repair project which provides practical and funding support to older people to allow them to remain in their homes rather than either becoming homeless or moving into long term residential care.</b>		

	<b>The Council also provide repair and improvements grants, funded by the Scottish Executive to assist in the adaptation of houses to meet the needs of disabled owners who might otherwise be at risk of having to leave their home to find more suitable accommodation.</b>		
Domestic abuse(41)	<p><b>G - Within the Homelessness Strategy and the Local Housing Strategy, the need for replacement refuge facilities was identified. One refuge has been replaced, and further plans to secure alternative types of accommodation within the South of the district have been identified as a future objective.</b></p> <p><b>The needs of children affected by domestic abuse are catered for via Children’s Learning, Health and Supported Play initiative (CLHASP)) which ensures that homeless children are not disadvantaged by their housing circumstances, i.e transport to school, access to out of school care, access to health visiting and school nursing service etc.</b></p>	Staffing costs from HTF (1)	<b>Robust mechanism of assessment and referral for those affected by domestic abuse.</b>
Social networks(57)	<b>G - Social interaction is assessed as a support need within the assessment framework detailed above. In addition, the Council in partnership with East Ayrshire Community Health partnership, has engaged the support of the local church community who are now a registered charity – East Ayrshire Churches for Homelessness Action (EACHa). The remit of this group has included donation and collation of hygiene packs, activity packs and Christmas presents for homeless people. The group are currently seeking to secure funding for a befriending service which is expected to be operational within 2007/08.</b>	<b>£3,000 from HTF match funded by East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership</b>	<b>Implementation of a befriending service within the community managed and coordinated by local churches</b>
Record GP information(43)	<b>G – This is recorded as routine part of homelessness and support assessment. Contact is made with GPs as appropriate.</b>	<b>Staffing costs from HTF and SPG (1)</b>	<b>Homeless people are able to access health provision as appropriate, regardless of location of temporary or permanent accommodation provided.</b>
Action to tackle substance misuse and homelessness (47)	<b>G - Continue to support the Single Homelessness Addictions Pathway Evaluation (SHAPE) which will identify service</b>	<b>£3,000 HTF match funded by other Ayrshire</b>	<b>Services within Ayrshire can be tailored to meet the needs</b>

	<b>provision and gaps for those with dual diagnosis health needs</b>	<b>Authorities and NHS Ayrshire and Arran</b>	<b>of this client group.</b>
Furnished tenancies grant(10)	No of tenancies created: <b>282</b> Permanent/temporary split: <b>Permanent (SST and Short SST)</b> Sector split: <b>All LA Properties</b>	<b>£247,434 Furnished Tenancy Grant</b>	<b>Homeless people will be assisted to resettle effectively within the community</b>
<b>Activity</b>		<b>Spend</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>G - Implementation of the Health and Homelessness Action Plan</b>		<b>Staffing costs from HTF (1)</b>	<b>Implementation of the Action Plan within agreed timescales. Monitoring and reporting of progress across partners.</b>
<b>G - Review current arrangements with RSLs to meet the accommodation need of homeless people and agree to monitoring arrangements.</b>		<b>Staffing costs from HTF (1)</b>	<b>Revised referral protocol and enhanced monitoring arrangements</b>
<b>G - Strengthen access to services offering practical assistance to homeless people, i.e. meals, clothing, support</b>		<b>Staffing costs from HTF (1)</b>	<b>Robust referral and self referral arrangements to voluntary sector services</b>
<b>A - Develop protocols with training organisations to enhance opportunities for homeless people.</b>		<b>Staffing costs via SPG (1)</b>	<b>The introductions of a comprehensive directory of appropriate training organisations that can offer assistance to homeless people</b>
<b>A - Develop protocols with employment agencies to enhance opportunities for homeless people.</b>		<b>Staffing costs via SPG (1)</b>	<b>The introductions of a comprehensive directory of appropriate employment agencies that can offer assistance to homeless people.</b>
<b>A - Strengthen links with educational establishments to enhance opportunities for homeless people.</b>		<b>Staffing costs via SPG (1)</b>	<b>The introductions of a comprehensive directory of appropriate educational establishments that can offer</b>

		assistance to homeless people.
<b>A - Develop a plan to meet unmet support needs of intentionally homeless people, based on published research guidance.</b>	<b>Staffing costs via SPG and HTF (1)</b>	<b>Agreement of a clear plan to assess and respond to unmet support needs of intentionally homeless people.</b>
<b>A - Develop robust mechanisms to ensure service user support needs are integrated in service development via Supporting People Strategy.</b>	<b>Staffing costs via SPG and HTF (1)</b>	<b>Support needs of homeless population identified within Supporting People Strategy.</b>

\* see detail of recommendations at Appendix

**OUTCOME 4: Fewer people become homeless in the first place**

**Current position:** The HL1 dataset indicates that the number of households being assessed as homeless has fluctuated over the last few years, falling to 734 from 808 between 2005-06 and 2004/05, having risen during 2004/05 from a static position for the previous 2 years. In 05-06 the HL1 dataset indicates that 186 households were assessed as potentially homeless, of whom 72 went on to become homeless during the course of the application. The 05-06 data also indicates that 63% of applicant households assessed as potentially homeless secured permanent accommodation, 21% were returned to previous/present accommodation and other outcomes/unknown outcome was recorded for the remainder. This represents a shift towards returning to previous/present accommodation over the last few years and a drop in the number of applications where no outcome was recorded.

**Homelessness Task Force recommendations – preventing homelessness**

Recommendation*	Progress (Red/Amber/Green)/Comments	Spend	Outcomes
Review & improve identification of housing difficulties, support provided and housing education(18)	<p><b>G - Continue development and delivery of the housing education and advice programme within all secondary schools in East Ayrshire.</b></p> <p><b>G – Continued staff development and training in National Standards for Housing Information and Advice</b></p>	<p>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</p> <p><b>£2,400</b></p>	<p><b>Expansion of service to hard to reach and excluded groups and the introduction of peer education.</b></p> <p><b>42 Staff members successfully completed National Standards for Housing Information and Advice.</b></p>
Preventative services(19)	<p><b>A - Contact local mortgage lenders to promote Mortgage to Rent Scheme</b></p> <p><b>R - Develop mediation, negotiation and advocacy services between tenants and landlords in order to meet the requirements of Section 11 of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003.</b></p>	<p>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</p> <p>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</p>	<p><b>Increased access to Mortgage to Rent scheme.</b></p> <p><b>The implementation of robust response services to those at imminent danger of loss of tenancy.</b></p>

Eviction programmes(20)	<b>G - Access to information and advice is available to those appearing in court for eviction from the In Court Advisor service. This service provides a review of the case management in an attempt to resolve disputes with landlords and ultimately avoid eviction.</b>	<b>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</b>	<b>Reduction in number of people becoming homeless following eviction.</b>
Arrears management and ASB(21)	<b>G - In November 2006 Housing Committee agreed a revised Rent Arrears Policy. This policy has introduced an option to allow the tenant to remain within their property, following decree. This option will be fully explored for everyone at risk of eviction, and will be dependant on the outcome of the support assessment.</b>	<b>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</b>	<b>Reduction in number of people becoming homeless following eviction for rent arrears.</b>
High risk groups(26)	<p><b>G - Expand provision of services within HMP Kilmarnock and develop linkage with other prisons to avoid housing crisis at point of liberation.</b></p> <p><b>A - Strengthen protocols with partners for ex children in care to reduce numbers of looked after and accommodated children becoming homeless.</b></p> <p><b>A - Establish policy and procedures for Refugees and Migrant Workers.</b></p>	<p><b>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</b></p> <p><b>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</b></p> <p><b>Staffing costs via HTF (1)</b></p>	<p><b>Increased access to services for prisoners/ex prisoners</b></p> <p><b>Agreed protocol to assist looked after and accommodated children access housing option</b></p> <p><b>The implementation of clear guidance and training for staff in service provision to new migrant workers</b></p>

For detail of recommendations see Appendix

<b>OUTCOME 5: The duration of homelessness is reduced</b>		
<b>Current position:</b> The HL1 dataset indicates that on average the length of time from application to case closure for homeless/potentially homeless cases was 63 days – this represents a steady increase over the last 4 years.		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Spend</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
A - Develop a plan to meet the suspension of the Local Connection assessment of homeless applications by 2006.	Staffing costs via HTF (1)	Reduction in Duration of homelessness

## **SECTION 2: TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

**Current position in relation to Homelessness Task Force recommendation 37\* and temporary accommodation provision more broadly:**  
HL2 data indicates that the number of households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2006 had risen to 100 from 71 on 31 March 2005. 27 of these households contained children or pregnant women – the majority of these households were accommodated in the social sector, with 3 in hostel accommodation. The authority has recorded no breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order at the end of each quarter from June 2005 – March 2006.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Spend</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>G - Increase the supply of temporary accommodation secured via Private Sector Leasing Scheme</b>	£8,594	<b>Successful evaluation of pilot service.</b>
<b>G - Ensure a supply of temporary accommodation from within stock owned by RSLs and EAC</b>	£5,855	<b>Increased options for temporary accommodation to meet the varied needs of homeless applicants and increase provision for storage of goods</b>

- See appendix for full text of recommendation

### **SECTION 3: PROGRESS TOWARDS INTERIM TARGET FOR ABOLITION OF PRIORITY NEED**

<b>Proportion of households assessed as homeless then assessed as having a priority need for accommodation</b>	
<b>Baseline position (2003-04)</b>	<b>2009 target (2008-2009)</b>
58%	79%
Current position	64%
Approach being taken locally to reach interim target	<b>G - Amend the allocation policy in order to meet demand from homeless people and others with housing need, in response to target to abolish Non Priority assessments of homeless people.</b>
Key challenges/achievements	<b>The 3 Ayrshire Authorities are discussing an approach that is consistent on a pan Ayrshire basis. As such, key groups have been identified to provide equitable assessment. Within East Ayrshire, our policy is to secure a housing option for every homeless applicant as appropriate – whether that be a mainstream tenancy, supported accommodation or a mediated return home.</b>

<b>Information being used as basis for assessment of capacity to meet the 2012 target</b>	
Impact on social lets	Current HL1 data, when compared to the statistical returns which records all lettings, indicates that for 2005-06, 27% of social lets are used for homeless households (8% of housing association lets and 31% of local authority lets).
Temporary accommodation	As indicated in section 2 of this template.
Sustainability of solutions	As indicated in section 1, outcome 3 of this template
Progress towards SHQS	LA to comment on how progress/difficulties with SHQS is impacting/likely to impact on progress towards 2012 target.
Voids and void management	Figures published in the Housing Trends series indicate that there were 279 vacant dwellings from normal LA letting stock on 31 March 2006. Early figures from the APSR, still to be confirmed by RSLs, indicate that there were 25 vacant RSL properties in the area on 31 March 2006.
Support needs	Within East Ayrshire, the support needs of homeless people, or those at risk of homelessness

	are met in the main by the Council's Tenancy Support Team. The team links effectively with partners within Social Services and Health to ensure continuity of support. In addition, the newly established Intensive Support Service (RSI Funded) allows for support to increase for those most at risk of tenancy failure/rough sleeping.
Hidden homelessness	As indicated in section 1, outcome 2 of this template.
Preventative activity	As indicated in section 1, outcome 4 of this template.

**SECTION 4: EXPENDITURE ON HOMELESSNESS RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Outcome	Expenditure funded from direct support <sup>1</sup>	Expenditure funded from other budgets	Total expenditure
	£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>1: No-one need sleep rough</b>		<p><b>£4,625</b> Private Sector Housing Grant for the provision of temporary accommodation via LLS</p> <p><b>£8,250</b> East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership for the provision of breakfast within the hostels</p> <p><b>£40,000</b> General Fund for the provision of temporary accommodation</p> <p><b>£226,664</b> Hostel Support Grant</p> <p><b>£18,200</b> East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership – match funding for provision of Health Visiting Post.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> This covers funding through Homelessness Task Force funding, Rough Sleepers Initiative, Innovation Fund, Furnished tenancies

<p><b>2: Existing homelessness becomes more visible</b></p>			
<p><b>3: Sustainable resettlement is secured for people who become homeless</b></p>		<p><b>£29,827</b> Changing Children’s Services Fund to provide transport for homeless children whilst within temporary accommodation.</p> <p><b>£5,000</b> East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership for Health promotion activities.</p> <p><b>£5,000</b> East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership for the development of a befriending service for homeless people.</p> <p><b>£166,326</b> Supporting People Grant</p> <p><b>£85,000</b> Additional funding to enhance access to furniture provision for homeless people</p>	
<p><b>4: Fewer people become homeless in the first place</b></p>		<p><b>£5,230</b> Changing Children’s Services Fund for the development of</p>	

		prevention materials for young people	
<b>5: The duration of homelessness is reduced</b>			
<b>Total expenditure in furthering homelessness outcomes</b>		<b>£594,122</b>	

Footnote 1

HTF Staffing Costs - £247,862

HTF Part Funding for Health Visitor - £18,200

SPG Staffing Costs Tenancy Support Team - £552,471

SPG Staffing Costs Hostel Provision - £616,381

## **SECTION 5: APPENDIX – HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE**

<p>(32) Local authorities, through their homelessness strategies, should provide the direction and create the framework within which all agencies join up to bring together a range of accessible options that open up genuine opportunities for homeless people.</p>
<p>(34) Local authorities should establish crisis response systems which are flexible and provide individualised responses; ensure that all those without accommodation are able to access at least immediate emergency accommodation until appropriate assessment is carried out; are permanently available and accessible and perform a triage function; include joint protocols and procedures for needs assessment to ensure appropriate support for people with complex or multiple needs; have effective referral arrangements in place; ensure that explicit exit strategies are devised; and monitor and evaluate the outcomes of resettlement services and adjust and improve provision wherever appropriate. The effectiveness of these systems should be subject to inspection by Communities Scotland.</p>
<p>(36) Local authorities should give priority to ensuring the availability of independent and informed advocacy services within their area and ensure that these services are well published. Advice and information should be made available in forms which are accessible by people of all ethnic groups and of all abilities.</p>
<p>(37) Local authorities should plan the delivery of a sufficient supply, range and location of temporary and supported accommodation. Provision should be made for the (sometimes very different) needs families, young people and groups who currently find it difficult to access or sustain any form of accommodation. Large-scale hostels should be replaced by alternative provision. Homelessness strategies should include proposals to reduce the use of Bed &amp; Breakfast to a minimum, and to eliminate its use for families.</p>
<p>(38) Homeless people should, wherever possible, be located in a community in which they feel comfortable and are likely to be fully integrated into community life. Wherever possible they should have the opportunity to live near friends and family and their workplace/school or higher/further education institution.</p>
<p>(39) Local authorities should ensure that appropriate support packages are available for homeless people during their resettlement.</p>
<p>(40) Local authorities should plan the provision of barrier-free housing for varying needs and respond quickly to requirements for adaptations to housing stock which will prevent the occupier from becoming homeless.</p>
<p>(41) Local authorities' homelessness strategies should be dovetailed with domestic abuse strategies. In drawing up their homelessness strategies, local authorities should review the information and advice available to those who are, or may become, homeless as a result of domestic abuse, the availability of safe emergency supported accommodation, the availability of suitable long-term accommodation and support packages, and the extent to which local arrangements recognise the needs of children. Homelessness strategies should address the needs of all those who are or may become homeless as a result of domestic abuse, including young people and older people.</p>
<p>(43) All local authorities should record information about the GP registration of all those who register as homeless, and should offer information about local health services to homeless people rehoused outwith their existing GP area.</p>
<p>(47) Relevant part of the recommendation is "Local action to tackle substance misuse and homelessness in parallel should be developed through</p>

homelessness strategies and Drug and Alcohol Action Team plans.”
(57) Local authorities, through their homelessness strategies, should develop practical means of enabling people affected by homelessness to (re)-build social networks. This may involve the use of new independent services or a review, with Social Inclusion Partnerships, of current practice.
(10) A national framework for furnished tenancies should be drawn up, with appropriate funding, by Communities Scotland. A national furniture grant scheme and furniture re-cycling network should be established. We propose a target of 1,000 additional furnished tenancies a year for 5 years, at which point further need should be assessed.
(9) All local authorities should provide access to rent guarantee / deposit schemes by 2004. The Executive should issue national guidance on such schemes based on lessons learned from local pilots; local authorities should also receive initial funding to enable schemes to be set up.
(18) Local homelessness strategies should review and, as necessary, make proposals for improvements in (1) the arrangements for early identification of those getting into housing difficulties, (2) the advice and support available for those getting into difficulties, (3) the advice and support available for those known to be at particular risk of homelessness and (4) the provision of leaving home and housing education in schools and other youth services. Strategies should take account of the differing and specific needs of families and single people living in urban and rural areas. They should ensure that they take account of the needs of people of differing age, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and belief.
(19) Homelessness strategies should review the availability, accessibility and quality of services such as relationship counselling/mediation, financial/debt advice, drug/alcohol counselling, advocacy and proactive action to manage neighbour disputes and tackle harassment. Local authorities should act proactively to ensure that those at greater risk of homelessness are made aware of the support available, and are helped to access this support.
(20) Homelessness strategies should provide for specific, concentrated support programmes for those threatened with eviction. These programmes should include the provision of access to independent advice and representation.
(21) Local authorities should review their policies for arrears management and anti-social behaviour to ensure that they do not lead to unnecessary or avoidable homelessness. Other social landlords should be asked to conduct similar reviews as part of their contribution to local homelessness strategies.
(26) Those responsible for prisoners, looked after children, long stay hospital patients and the armed forces should develop high quality housing and homelessness advice services with support from Communities Scotland. Standards for these advice services should be set and monitored within the appropriate regulatory regime for each type of institution. Local authorities should ensure that appropriate linkages are being made between services in institutions and services in the community.

## East Ayrshire Council – Homeless Task Force Funding - Local Outcome Agreement 2007 - 2008

Actions	Baseline	Resources	Cost	Outcomes	Milestone	Time scale	Evaluation	Lead
Develop protocols with Police to tackle illegal evictions.	Recommendations within the HTF report indicate that there are levels of homelessness that could be avoided by tackling illegal evictions within the private sector. Developments within this sector via Landlord Registration and subsequent accreditation of landlords will assist in the eradication of illegal evictions.	HTF	Staffing Costs Footnote	Fewer people become homeless in the first place.	Quantify illegal evictions  Agree protocol with partners	From Mar 07	Fewer people become homeless due to illegal evictions	Neighbourhood Services.
Establish the requirement for alternative facilities for homeless people within Cumnock and Doon Valley areas to replace Peden Court.	Peden Court in Cumnock is the existing provision for hostel type accommodation serving the South of the district. It no longer meets the needs of the homeless population or the wider community.	HTF	Staffing Costs Footnote	No one need sleep rough	Identify Partners and secure funding  Locate site for new facility  Develop Plans	From June 07	High satisfaction levels from residents	Neighbourhood Services.
Deliver agreed training programmes for staff within the public sector, highlighting the needs of homeless people to influence culture change	The Multi Agency Training Plan has been developed which will seek to meet these training needs. Further	HTF	Staffing Costs Footnote	Existing Homelessness becomes more visible  Sustainable resettlement is secured	Promote Multi agency training plan	From Mar 07	High attendance at training  Awareness raising across the	Neighbourhood Services.

Homelessness Task Force Fund – Staffing Costs - £257,055

## Appendix 2

and improved service delivery.	promotion of the plan within public sector services will increase awareness			for people who become homeless	Deliver programme of training		public sector services	
Further promote the availability of training programmes for staff within the voluntary sector, highlighting the needs of homeless people.	The Multi Agency Training Plan has been developed which will seek to meet these training needs. Further promotion of the plan within public sector services will increase awareness	HTF	Staffing Costs Footnote	Existing Homelessness becomes more visible  Sustainable resettlement is secured for people who become homeless	Promote Multi agency training plan.  Deliver programme of training	From Mar 07	High attendance at training  Awareness raising across the voluntary sector services	Neighbourhood Services.
Respond to the published findings of the review of interim accommodation, expected in 2007, which was carried out on behalf of the Scottish Executive.	Review of Interim accommodation underway via Scottish Executive.	HTF	Staffing Costs Footnote	Sustainable resettlement is secured for people who become homeless	Publication of findings of review  Action plan to respond to review established	From Mar 07	Provision of appropriate models of accommodation for homeless people	Neighbourhood Services.
Develop and implement a media plan to promote the needs of homeless people positively.	It is recognised, across partner agencies, that there is a vast amount of work undertaken with homeless people that results in positive outcomes and successful resettlement.	HTF	£2,000	Sustainable resettlement is secured for people who become homeless	Agree appropriate format for positive promotion	From Mar 07	Services and communities respond to the needs of homeless people	Neighbourhood Services.
Develop social networks in response to published guidance.	East Ayrshire Council, in partnership with East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership	HTF	£8,000	Sustainable resettlement is secured for people who become homeless	Identify partner agency from within	From Mar 07	Successful evaluation of befriending service.	Neighbourhood Services.

## Appendix 2

	currently funds the development of social networks via Scottish Churches Housing Agency. Development is underway to build capacity within this sector to assist in the introduction of a befriending service for homeless people.				voluntary sector.			
Develop a Young Persons Supported Accommodation Facility to assist young homeless people work toward independent living.	Current provision is offered within a core and cluster model managed by Blue Triangle Housing Association.	HTF	Staffing Costs Footnote	Sustainable resettlement is secured for people who become homeless	Agree model of supported accommodation for young people.	From Mar 07	Services respond to the needs of young homeless people	Neighbourhood Services.
Research the accommodation needs of those supported by the Rough Sleepers Initiative to identify unmet need.	In November 2006, the Simon Community introduced their service on a pan Ayrshire basis offering intensive support to those at risk of rough sleeping. There is a requirement to ensure that the accommodation options available to this client group meets their identified needs.	HTF	Staffing Costs Footnote	No one need sleep rough	Agree research method  Respond to research findings	From Mar 07	Appropriate models of accommodation are available to those at risk of rough sleeping.	Neighbourhood Services.
Ensure the ongoing provision of temporary accommodation	Temporary accommodation obligations are currently met via hostels and	HTF	£165,056	No one need sleep rough	Assess the need for alternative models of	From Mar 07	High satisfaction levels from residents	Neighbourhood Services.

## Appendix 2

	temporary furnished properties. The provision of removals and storage of furniture and personal belongings of homeless people is an associated cost of this service.				accommodation.			
Ensure the ongoing provision of access to a rent deposit guarantee scheme	The contract for the provision of the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme will expire in June 2007. The procurement process to renew the contract is underway.	HTF	£54,000	Continued access to private rented tenancies for homeless people	Procurement of new contractor	From Mar 07	High satisfaction levels from tenants and landlords.	Neighbourhood Services
Ensure the ongoing provision of the Health Visiting service for homeless people.	EAC and EACHP currently jointly fund the provision of a full time health visitor for homeless people. This ensure health promotion, advice and clinical assessment of the health needs of the homeless population.	HTF	£18,665	The health needs of the homeless population are met.	Respond to findings of the health and Homelessness Needs Assessment.	From Mar 07	Improved health opportunities for homeless people	East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership