



Equality, Children's Rights and Wellbeing and Fairer Scotland Duty

Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028
Impact Assessment results summary

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1. Executive summary

The public sector equality duty requires Renfrewshire Council to assess the impact of applying a proposed new or revised policy, strategy or practice. Equality legislation covers the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, gender, sexual orientation and religion and belief.

The Equality Act 2010 harmonised existing equality legislation and includes a public sector duty ('the Duty') which requires public authorities to pay due regard to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, or any other prohibited conduct;

Advance equality of opportunity; and

Foster good relations between different groups - by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

In addition, local authorities must give due consideration to the Fairer Scotland Duty that places a responsibility on the public sector to reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. An assessment against this Duty has been undertaken as part of this assessment.

Furthermore, a Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the joint assessment with the EQIA.

This Equality, Children's Rights and Wellbeing and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment has considered the potential impacts of the Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 on each of the protected characteristics, the Fairer Scotland Duty and Child Rights and Wellbeing. The provisions and how they impact on people across the protected characteristics are set out under Key Findings.

The Local Housing Strategy is intended to be of positive benefit to Renfrewshire's communities and the Assessment has not identified any elements that would adversely impact on people sharing protected characteristics, children and young people or people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. The evidence gathered and data analysed indicates that the Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 will have a positive

impact or neutral impact on equality and related matters. As a result, it is not considered that any changes to the Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 should be made as a result of the assessment.

2. Background

Covering all tenures and types of accommodation, the Local Housing Strategy is a key planning document that sets out Renfrewshire's strategic vision and priorities for the delivery of housing and housing related services for the period 2023-2028. It also sets out the Strategic Priorities we want to achieve and the range of actions the Council and its partners will take to improve this over the next five years, whilst reflecting both national priorities and local needs. The Local Housing Strategy is key in setting out the strategic direction of the Council and its partners in delivering housing and related services, directing investment and meeting identified need.

Renfrewshire's Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 contains five Strategic Priorities that it seeks to achieve for Renfrewshire. These Strategic Priorities take account of current national and local policy priorities as well as new evidence and this new Local Housing Strategy aims to build upon past successes whilst striving to meet need and demand for both housing and related services and sets out a wide range of housing-related actions to achieve this. These Strategic Priorities are:

The supply and delivery of housing is increased across all tenures to meet the housing needs of different groups and create attractive and sustainable places.

People live in high quality, well managed homes in sustainable neighbourhoods.

Address the challenges of the climate emergency, delivering homes that are warm, energy efficient and fuel poverty is minimised.

Prevention of homelessness and providing support for those in housing need.

People can live independently for as long as possible in their own home and the different housing needs of people across Renfrewshire are being met.

3. The scope of the Equality, Children’s Rights and Wellbeing and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

The Local Housing Strategy is a wide-ranging document that covers a broad range of services and functions that relate to housing and housing-related services. As a consequence, it has the potential to have an impact on all protected characteristic groups and the assessment considered any potential impacts of the strategy on particular protected characteristic groups.

The likely impacts of the Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 were informed by a range of evidence, including customer and stakeholder engagement which included two online questionnaires at the pre-draft stage and then at formal consultation, statistical data, local and national reports and plans from a variety of sources and existing research. The views of key stakeholders were also sought at key stages of the strategy development.

Key Findings

Age: Older People - This strategy supports delivery of purpose-built housing to meet the identified housing needs of older people and identifies a requirement to support development of sheltered and amenity standard housing for older people and supports provision of a range of services in partnership with other departments, agencies and organisations that support independent living and facilitate people remaining in their own homes for longer. (HSCP, Aids and Adaptations, Care and Repair, Telecare Services etc).

Age: Previously looked after Young People - This strategy recognises that Renfrewshire Council is a Corporate Parent to young people previously looked after and accommodated by the local authority with measures in place to ensure that all young people are provided with support to access housing and prevent homelessness. A protocol exists between the Council’s Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Services and Children’s Services to support planned moves from care to independent living and to ensure that care experienced young people are fully supported to consider their housing options, complete a housing application and are given a degree of priority for social housing in the areas of their choice.

People with disabilities - This strategy supports delivery of purpose-built housing across different tenures to meet housing needs of people with physical disabilities and learning disabilities. This strategy includes targets for housing designed to wheelchair standard as

well as accessible housing that is flexible in its design to allow for adaption to meet both current and future needs of residents. This strategy also supports provision of a range of services in partnership with organisations that support independent living, (HSCP, Aids and Adaptations, Care and Repair, Telecare Services etc).

Sexual orientation - This strategy notes the Council's recognition of the barriers that can be faced by members of the LGBT+ community when accessing housing services and advice. The Council have staff member within the George Street Service that has been identified as a 'champion' of LGBT+ and Domestic Violence issues and has attended training sessions from LGBT Youth Scotland, with this information cascaded to other members of the team.

People living in poverty/socio-economic disadvantage - This strategy supports significant regeneration activity to deliver new warm, safe and energy efficient homes that meet the needs of individuals and families. New homes delivered for social rent by the Council or partner housing associations are provided at an affordable rent and will incorporate build design and technology to reduce carbon emissions whilst tackling fuel poverty to reduce fuel costs for residents. Providing quality homes supports physical and mental wellbeing as well as educational attainment.

Gender - This strategy supports the delivery of a range of support measures in partnership with other services and agencies to address the disproportionate number of men who become homeless, particularly for those with complex needs arising from alcohol and substance misuse.

Minority ethnic people – This strategy supports the delivery of actions by the Council to assist refugees and asylum seekers, including families with children to settle in a safe environment. The strategy recognises the needs of Gypsy Travellers and Travelling Show People and we will work to meet their needs throughout the term of this Local Housing Strategy.

Pregnancy and Maternity, Gender Reassignment, Religion or Belief, Marriage or Civil Partnership and Human Rights issues - This strategy will have a positive or no impact upon groups with these particular protected characteristics.

Fairer Scotland Duty - The Local Housing Strategy aims to make a positive impact on the lives of people within Renfrewshire and its communities. Of the 225 datazones in

Renfrewshire, 56 (25%) sit within the 20% most deprived in Scotland, according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020. Just under 29,000 people live in these areas. Our research shows that areas of poorer quality, less popular Council housing very closely correlate to these areas of deprivation. Our assessment of the Local Housing Strategy recognises that it will have a positive impact on people on low incomes and material deprivation as a result of the development of housing in relation to local economies, through providing modern, energy efficient homes. The Local Housing Strategy contains actions to deliver on specific areas across many of the protected characteristic groups and across socio-economic groupings. This includes elements across housing tenures such as energy efficiency and advice and fuel poverty and income maximisation, housing-led regeneration to improve living conditions, the areas people live in and deliver new energy efficient affordable homes, affordable tenure options to meet housing needs, tackling homelessness and homelessness prevention measures and mitigating the impacts of Welfare Reform changes where possible. Moving forward, placemaking activities and implementation of 20-minute neighbourhoods that aim to make sure that people's everyday needs are within easy safe walking distance will help to address local needs and circumstances where applied.

Child Rights and Wellbeing – In summary the positive impacts are detailed across the Articles of the UNCRC that were assessed as being relevant in relation to the strategic priorities of Local Housing Strategy:

Articles 4, 6, 16 and 27: The Local Housing Strategy supports delivery of a range of property types and sizes across tenures to meet the needs of different households across income groups to promote access to safe, secure, warm homes that act as a high-quality environment that promote health, wellbeing and educational attainment.

Article 4: The Local Housing Strategy supports improvements to existing housing stock, including energy efficiency measures that contribute to creating an appropriate living environment.

Article 22: The Local Housing Strategy through its Service Level Agreement with the Home Office, offers support through the Renfrewshire Refugee Resettlement Project to Syrian refugees for five years from arrival, to assist them to settle in the Renfrewshire local authority area. Glasgow Airport is one of the Welcome Hubs established as part of the UK Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, where the Council and Renfrewshire Health and

Social Care Partnership provide a resettlement team, operating 7 days a week to meet the demands for advice, assistance and support for those staying in temporary accommodation. Renfrewshire Council continues to assist in providing settled accommodation for those who have fled the crisis in Ukraine. The Council has supported other migration schemes including the Asylum Dispersal programme. In April 2022 the UK Government notified all UK local authorities of their intention to expand asylum dispersal arrangements. This is the process by which the Home Office moves asylum seekers to specified local authority areas in the UK.

Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 16 and 27: The Local Housing Strategy through its dedicated particular needs strategic priority, identifies the needs of children and supports the provision of appropriate care in partnership with other department and agencies including Renfrewshire’s HSCP, Social Work and Homeless Services. The Local Housing Strategy also notes the support in place for previously looked after young people and support that is in place to support transition to independent living. The LHS recognises the requirement of the Council across all services and with external partners and agencies, to ensure that the requirements of ‘The Promise’ are put in place for all Care Experienced individuals across Renfrewshire. ‘The Promise’ sets out a vision for organisational and cultural change nationally to ensure that all Care Experienced young people and children grow up to be loved, respected and able to fulfil their potential.

The results of the CRWIA show that there are no potentially negative impacts arising from the Local Housing Strategy. We have assessed that it complies with the UNCRC requirements and has the potential to advance the realisation of children’s rights and wellbeing and will positively impact on a number of the Children’s Rights and the GIRFEC Wellbeing indicators.

4. Recommendations and Conclusion

From the evidence gathered, the assessment concluded that the Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy is unlikely to have adverse impacts on those with protected characteristics, children and young people and those who may experience socio-economic disadvantage.

Indeed, the Strategy contains a number of actions within its Strategic Priorities that will have a positive impact on people from a range of backgrounds, protected characteristics, socio-economic groupings and children and young people, whether directly or indirectly.

The Local Housing Strategy links Renfrewshire Council and its partners, including housing associations and Renfrewshire HSCP, covering a range of housing and related matters and as a consequence will have cross-cutting impacts on a range of protected characteristics. However, we do not find that these will result in discrimination and will have a positive, or no impact, on protected characteristic groups.

It is recommended that we continue to develop our evidence base to ensure the areas in which we have identified gaps are addressed to ensure a breadth of available evidence and addressed as necessary.

The full Equality, Children's Rights and Wellbeing and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment is available upon request by emailing: strategyandplace@renfrewshire.gov.uk

This document can be made available in braille, large print or audio.

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.



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