

RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN

2022/23 Monitoring Report



Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans Monitoring Report

In previous years, we have asked all local authorities to provide a written report detailing how they have spent their allocation of funding including funding carried over from previous financial years. For this return we are refocusing on the outcomes of rapid rehousing transition plan spend and have included four questions which ask local authorities to provide qualitative information to capture an overview of rapid rehousing transition plan (RRTP) progress and challenges between 2019-2023.

These questions are designed to identify where RRTP funding has improved outcomes for people experiencing homelessness, to identify best practice and highlight where more support is needed. It is a free text return designed to allow local authorities to capture successes and challenges. We are also seeking anonymised case studies of people who have directly benefitted from the implementation of RRTPs in local authority areas. This qualitative information will be used in the consideration of future funding.

Please complete this report and include it with the latest version of your RRTP for 2022-23 and updated EQIA by **25 August 2023** to:

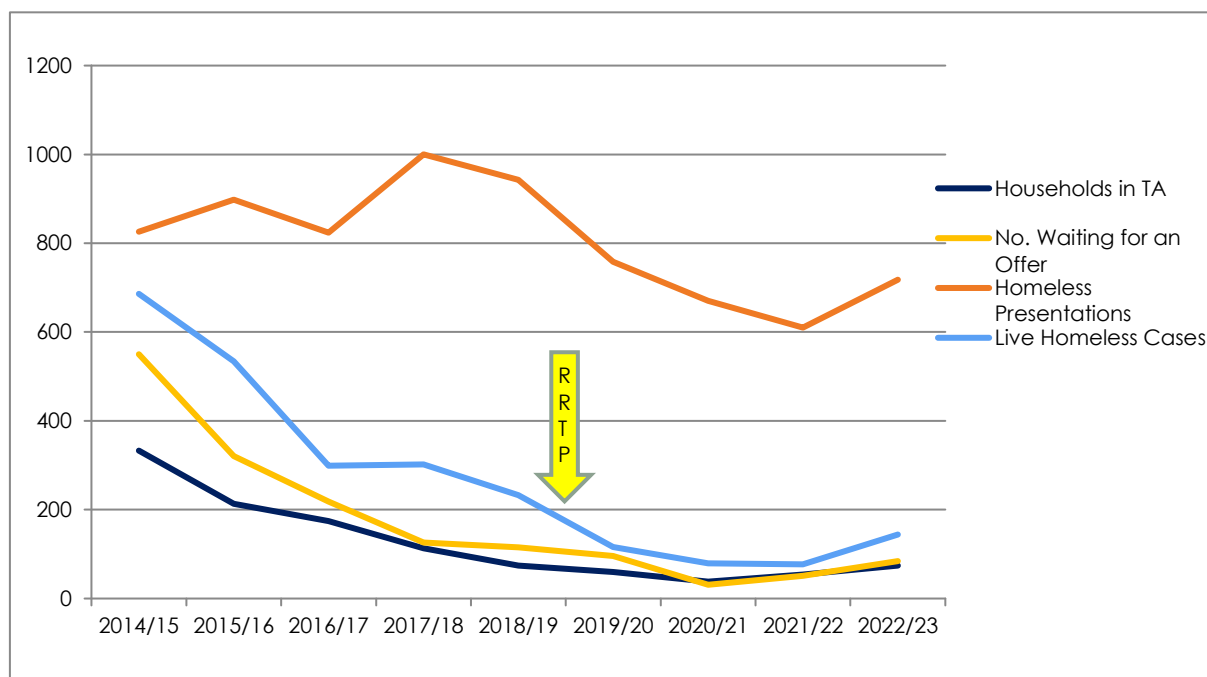
RapidRehousingTransitionPlansMailbox@gov.scot.

Please provide an overview of progress/outcomes since the implementation of your RRTP including anonymised case studies where helpful to demonstrate outcomes.

Word guide: approximately 500 words per question.

Can you describe how implementation of your RRTP has helped prevent homelessness within your local authority area?

Perth & Kinross Council had already made significant progress towards a rapid rehousing model when our RRTP was implemented in April 2019. The chart below shows the progress that had been made prior to the RRTP, particularly in terms of reducing the backlog of homeless applicants waiting on an offer of secure accommodation and reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation.



Our RRTP is based on reducing the reliance on temporary accommodation through a broad focus on prevention, rapid rehousing and tenancy sustainment. The chart above shows a significant reduction in homelessness presentations between 2018 and 2022. At a glance, it looks like this could be wholly attributed to the RRTP but this is not the case.

The main drivers for this reduction in presentations were the work undertaken to reduce the backlog of homeless applicants combined with a revised Common Allocations Policy (CAP) which was also implemented in April 2019. The revised CAP awards a higher level of priority to people in insecure housing situations and this, combined with the significant reduction of homeless applicants on our waiting lists, meant that many applicants in these situations get an offer of housing before they reach a crisis point and make a homeless application.

We have used the RRTP funding in a number of ways which contribute towards homelessness prevention and tenancy sustainment.

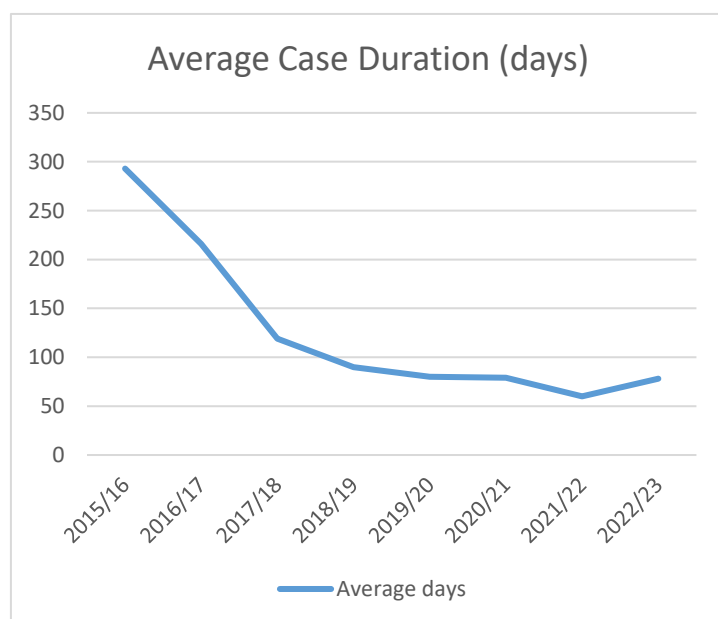
- Private Sector Team – funding has been directed to this Team who have been successful in sourcing private-rented sector (PRS) properties which can be accessed using our Bond Guarantee Scheme. We don't typically discharge our

homelessness duty into PRS properties but some of the people who access them would otherwise have come into the homelessness system.

- Additional Support Officer – we recruited an additional Support Officer to focus on homelessness prevention and tenancy sustainment.
- Youth Homelessness – we have used some of the RRTP monies to fill a funding gap in our youth homelessness support service which is delivered by The Rock Trust.

Can you describe how implementation of your RRTP has helped speed up the process of rehousing homeless households?

Average homeless case duration (decision to discharge of duty) is one of the key homelessness indicators that we monitor through our performance management framework. The chart below shows that we had already achieved significant reduction in case duration when our RRTP was implemented in April 2019.



The reduction in average case duration is closely associated with the reduction in the backlog of homeless applicants waiting for an offer of permanent housing. Reducing the backlog is fundamental to creating the conditions for rapid rehousing and should be the main focus of RRTP's. Operating with a small backlog/queue of homeless applicants means that;

- New homeless applicants don't join the back of a very long queue where hundreds of other applicants need to be rehoused before it's their turn.
- Non-homeless applicants have a greater chance of being allocated a property as there is less competition from homeless applicants on the waiting list. This means that applicants in insecure housing situations can be rehoused before they reach the point of having to make a homelessness application.

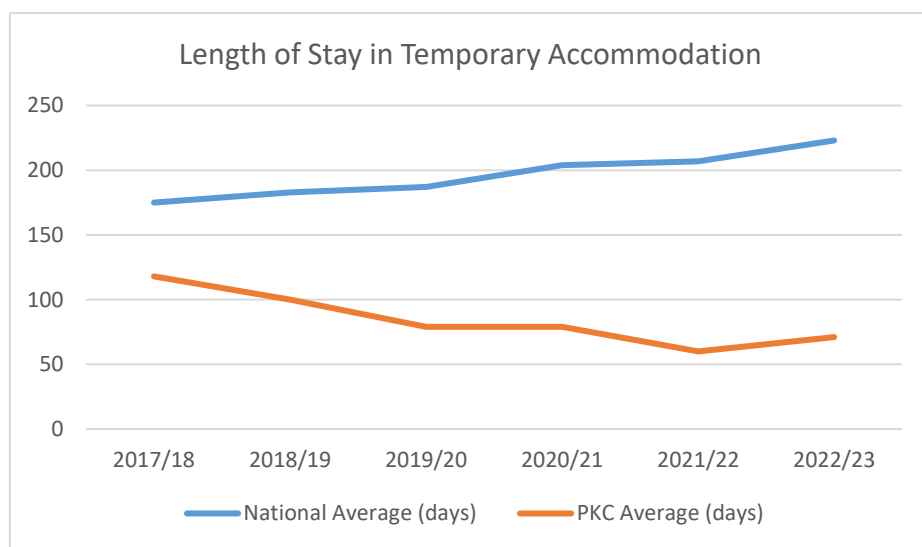
We realise that we are in a unique position in Perth and Kinross, having made significant progress towards implementing a rapid rehousing model prior to the requirement to produce a RRTP. This means that the RRTP itself hasn't delivered a significant reduction in homeless case duration.

How has implementation of your RRTP affected the numbers of households in temporary accommodation and the time spent there?

Perth & Kinross Council has had the lowest number and prevalence of households in temporary accommodation in Scotland for the last three years (22/23 national data is not yet available at the time of writing). We have also had the shortest length of stay in temporary accommodation for the last 3 years. As per previous responses, this is related to the work already undertaken to create the conditions for rapid rehousing rather than the RRTP itself.

On 31st March 2012, we had 411 households in temporary accommodation. On the same date in 2021, we only had 38 households in temporary accommodation, a reduction of more than 90%.

The chart below shows the average length of stay in temporary accommodation in Perth and Kinross in the last 6 years compared with the national average.



Is your local authority on track for making the planned transition to rapid rehousing? If not, what major factors are hindering progress?

Perth & Kinross Council's Home First response to homelessness is a fully mature rapid rehousing model. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the conditions required for rapid rehousing and 2022/23 was a particularly challenging year.

The recently published [SOLACE report](#) articulates the current pressures affecting the housing system nationally and proposes some solutions. The particular challenges we are facing in Perth and Kinross are broadly around increasing demand and reduced supply. These challenges are outlined in more detail below.

Increased Demand

We saw a 19% increase in homeless presentations in 2022/23. This followed several years of reducing presentations from a peak in 2017/18 where 1,000 households presented as homeless to a low in 2021/22 when we had 610 presentations, a reduction of 39%. There are a variety of factors driving the increased demand including the emergence of demand that was suppressed for various reasons during the pandemic and cost of living pressures.

One area that we didn't anticipate was a significant increase in presentations from non-UK nationals. Most of these presentations involved families from Romania who have come to the Perth and Kinross area to work in the food production sector. This was happening at a concerning level and a multi-agency response was implemented involving various local agencies, Police Scotland, the Gangmaster and Labour Authority and the Home Office. The situation is now stable in terms of homelessness applications from this cohort, but we are aware of large numbers of migrant workers living in overcrowded and unsuitable accommodation in the private-rented sector.

We have invested significant resources in the humanitarian response to the conflict in Ukraine and we have one of the largest populations of Ukrainian displaced people (UDP's) in Scotland relative to population. From the outset, we developed strategies to minimise the extent to which UDP's would come into the homelessness system. This involved;

- Working with partner housing providers to identify low demand stock that could be used to accommodate UDP's
- Creating a bespoke landlord offer to incentivise private landlords to make properties available for UDP's
- Providing enhanced payments to hosts to encourage the continuation of hosting arrangements beyond the initial period
- Bringing empty properties back into use with funding from the Scottish Government's Ukraine Longer-Term Accommodation Fund

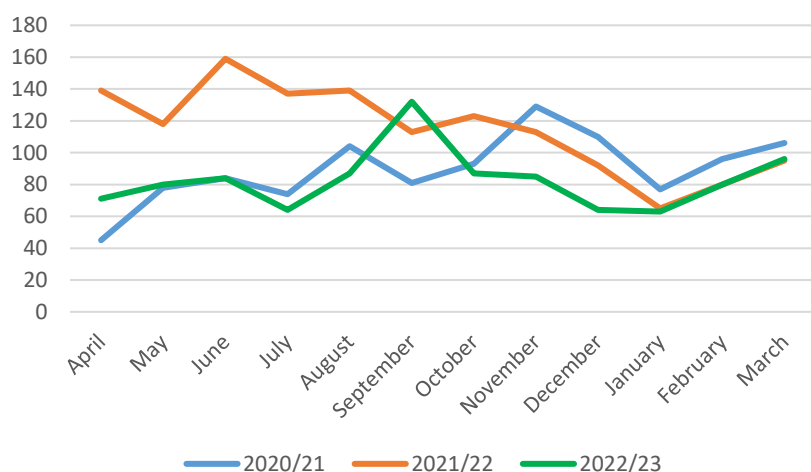
These interventions have meant that very few UDP households have presented as homeless.

Reduced Supply

Across our Common Housing Register partnership, we had a 31% reduction in social-rented vacancies available to allocate in 2022/23. There were a total of 380 less completed lets in 2022/23 compared to the previous year. This, combined with the increase in demand, made delivering our Home First approach to homelessness extremely challenging.

The chart below shows the total number of completed social housing lets by Perth & Kinross Council and our Common Housing Register partners in the last 3 years. There were significantly fewer lets in 2022/23 compared to the year before and fewer even than 2020/21, the first year of the pandemic where there were extensive restrictions in place.

Total Lets - Common Housing Register Partners



We had fewer affordable housing new-build completions in 2022/23 than in previous years and we believe the reduced stock turnover across all social housing providers was associated with cost-of-living pressures acting as a disincentive for people who may otherwise have wanted to move. Housing mobility between sectors has become progressively more difficult with rising interest rates creating barriers for first-time buyers and increased rents and reduced availability in the private-rented sector.

Key Indicators

Despite the considerable challenges around delivering homelessness services in 2022/23, our Home First model proved to be resilient, just as it did when faced with the challenges associated with the pandemic.

The table below shows performance against the three locally agreed targets that we included in our RRTP. Performance deteriorated against all indicators in 2022/23 but we are still within target for two of the indicators and very close to target for the other.

	2022/23 Performance	2021/22 Performance	2020/21 Performance	Target (by end of RRTP)
Number of homeless households waiting for an offer of accommodation	92 households (at 31 March 2023)	51 households	31 households	90 households
Average length of stay in temporary accommodation	71 days	51 days	65 days	65 days
Case duration – decision to discharge of duty	70 days	60 days	79 days	70 days

Details of funding recipient

Local authority	Perth & Kinross Council		
Reporting period	01/04/2022	to	31/03/2023
Reporting officer	Martin Smith		
Position	Service Manager - Housing		
Date completed	25 July 2023		
Total RRTP funding carried over from 2021-22	£73,667		
RRTP funding received for 2022-23	£175,000		
RRTP spend 2022-23	£173,964		
Total RRTP funding carried over to 2023-24	£74,703		

Housing First				
<p>Housing First tenancies</p> <p>Provide a short brief overview of your progress and any obstacles to progression of Housing First in your area.</p>	<p>Perth & Kinross Council is in the process of commissioning an Intensive Housing Support, Housing First type service. The contract has been awarded to Turning Point Scotland and the service is scheduled to begin on 16th October 2023. The contract is for 2 years with an option of a 12-month extension and is being funded using £280K from the Councils 2023/24 budget-setting process (£140K per year for years 1 & 2. Further funding will need to be identified for the extension period).</p>			
<p>Housing First partners</p> <p>Provide detail of all Housing First partners who are supporting the delivery of Housing First.</p>				
<p>Allocation spent on Housing First 2022/23:</p>	£	SG RRTP funding	Local authority funding	Other
<p>Impact of Housing First:</p> <p>Any evidence of the impact of Housing First including anonymised case studies where appropriate</p>				
<p>Future spend planned on this activity in 2023/24:</p>	£	SG RRTP Funding	Local Authority funding	Other
<p>Future plans for Housing First :</p> <p>Provide detail of the future of Housing First delivery in your local area, including timescales and progress towards Housing First being the default option for people with multiple and complex needs experiencing homelessness.</p>				