

**Health Impact Assessment scoping workshop report -  
Argyll and Bute Local Housing Strategy**

Ending homelessness  
Ending fuel poverty & tackling climate change  
Supporting people with particular needs to live independently and well  
Developing successful places & sustainable communities  
Improving the quality & condition of existing homes  
Improving the operation of the Private Rented Sector

**2. Population**

Q. W

	<p>Housing represented on Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p><b>Children &amp; Young People</b>  LHS closely aligned with the Child poverty action plan and Children &amp; Young People agenda. LHS should have the following positive impacts on CYP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trying to identify what can reduce housing costs for families</li> <li>Improved energy efficiency measures</li> <li>Affordable homes for families</li> <li>Points given through the allocation policy for RSL tenancies for single parents or households with vulnerable children</li> <li>Housing support providers engaging with young people in housing who require additional support</li> <li>Overcrowding is a key factor of HNDA and housing allocation policy, underpins a lot of the strategy</li> <li>Leaving Care Housing options protocol in place</li> </ul>
<p>Women, men and transgender people (include issues relating to pregnancy / maternity)</p>	<p>Known gender differences in the needs presented by people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p><b>Women</b> – more likely to be homeless as a result of domestic abuse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing support contract with Women’s aid. Council provides Crisis emergency fund to them.</li> <li>Pregnancy and maternity needs taken into ac</li> </ul>

<p>Disabled people (includes physical and learning disability, sensory impairment, long term medical conditions, mental health problems.</p>	<p>People with a disability including mental health problems – may require specialist or adapted housing, or housing with support. People with mental health problems may have difficulty sustaining tenancies; partnership working is needed to ensure they have appropriate support.</p> <p>Disabled people should be positively impacted by the LHS through the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated housing OT who ensures people on the waiting list are assessed accurately</li> <li>LHS sits within LD steering group working to deliver core and cluster within new housing projects</li> <li>10% specialist provision housing target with 5% dedicated to wheelchair housing</li> <li>Adaptations to meet a variety of needs including sensory needs</li> <li>Fuel poverty work targeting people with long-term conditions. Promoting available funding</li> <li>Focus on dementia and people on the autistic spectrum</li> </ul>
<p>People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership</p> <p>Minority ethnic people (including Gypsy / Travellers, non-English speakers</p> <p>Refugee &amp; asylum seekers</p>	<p>Assessed as neutral/minimal impact, as everyone is assessed on individual needs.</p> <p>LHS should have a positive impact on minority ethnic people through the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with Gypsy/Travellers groups to inform the Local Housing Strategy. Looking at their current housing provision and looking to improve it and me(e)-3(l p)-lowing</li> </ul>

	<p>Access to interpreter service</p> <p>The Local Housing Strategy can be produced in different formats on request.</p> <p>Some refugees who have been successfully accommodated.</p>
People with different religions or beliefs	Assessed as neutral/minimal impact.
Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people	Assessed as neutral/minimal impact.
People in poverty / people of low income	<p>In general, people in poverty/of low income may benefit from more affordable homes and improvements that reduce fuel poverty. Argyll and Bute experienced higher than national average fuel poverty rates.</p> <p>LH should positively impact on this population group through the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welfare rights partnership working that help people to maximise their income</li> <li>Good partnership working with RSLs, Home Energy Scotland, and National Advice Line for all energy efficiency programmes, etc...</li> <li>Making sure all national schemes are advertised in A&amp;B.</li> <li>Increase in new build affordable housing</li> <li>Low cost ownership</li> <li>Affordable market housing pilots on Mull and Islay</li> </ul>
Carers (include parents, especially lone parents; and elderly carers)	<p>Generally positive impacts as per other equalities groups, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Support</li> <li>Fuel Poverty / energy efficiency measures</li> <li>Welfare Rights - income maximisation</li> <li>Housing Options advice</li> </ul>







### 3. How will the policy impact on the causes of health inequalities (health determinants)?

Q. Which positive and negative impacts do you think there may be? Are there any impacts about which you feel uncertain? Which groups will be affected by these impacts?

The group identified the following potential impacts of the policy on the causes of health inequalities

Will the policy impact on?	Potential impacts and any particular groups affected
<p>What impact will the proposal have on <b>health-related behaviour</b>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diet and nutrition</li> <li>Exercise and physical activity</li> <li>Substance use: tobacco, alcohol or drugs</li> <li>Sexual health</li> <li>Learning Skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced housing costs releasing income for healthier diets</li> <li>Improved homes- environment both indoors and outdoors, within neighbourhood</li> <li>Promote active movement/walking to accessible amenities/town centres etc.</li> <li>Opportunities for apprenticeships in construction sector</li> <li>Improved home circumstances facilities learning and study</li> <li>Minimum housing standard- everyone has access to clean and suitable cooking facilities and food preparation areas</li> <li>Housing support for young people who need to learn skills to manage their homes and bills for the first time</li> <li>Encouraging the Place making tool kit for new build developments</li> <li>Housing support contract that includes trips when possible</li> <li>Involvement in the Antisocial behaviour group to minimise impact on the wider community</li> <li>Involvement in the Alcohol and Drugs partnership</li> </ul>
<p>What impact will the proposal have on the <b>social environment</b>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social status</li> <li>Employment (paid or unpaid)</li> <li>Income and income equality</li> <li>Crime and fear of crime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help move onto/up housing ladder; secure permanent home in turn helping with education and employment</li> <li>Jobs/apprenticeships in construction sector; health/care sectors and other businesses maximising income.</li> <li>Improved communities (new homes, remove derelict/vacant properties etc)</li> <li>Engagement in strategic planning process; community consultation on new</li> </ul>

<p>Family support &amp; social networks  Stress, resilience &amp; community assets  Participation &amp; social interaction  Influence and sense of control  Identity and belonging</p>	<p>developments; CHAT exercises; Place standard Tool etc  Work with Community Justice to ensure people leaving prison are housed on release  Part of the MAPPA process to try and find housing for registered sex offenders that would have minimal impact on communities and victims  Creating opportunities for local people to purchase a home through Local Home Ownership  Rural Growth Deal focusing on delivering affordable housing market value properties particular on the islands  Working with community groups and third party agencies to carry out community housing need and demand assessments on a very local level</p>
<p>What impact will the proposal have on the <b>physical environment</b>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Living conditions</li> <li>Working conditions</li> <li>Natural space</li> <li>Pollution – air, water, soil</li> <li>Climate change (waste, energy, resource use, transport patterns)</li> <li>Unintentional injuries &amp; public safety</li> <li>Transmission of infectious diseases</li> </ul>	<p>Improved properties, neighbourhoods, places  Improved/increased home working options, improved town centres, reduction in need for commuting  Enhanced/increased green space by design  Renewable energy/heat systems; improved energy efficiency measures; greener development processes.  External and internal wall insulation programmes contributing to reduction of dampness and better external appearance of buildings  Scheme of assistance that supports private owners to make property improvements.  Focusing on the 20 minute neighbourhood principals, where appropriate for rural areas</p>
<p>How will proposal impact on <b>access to &amp; quality of services</b>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthcare</li> <li>Transport and connections</li> </ul>	

Social services  
Housing quality, mix, flexibility  
Education provision  
Culture, leisure and play provision

Promoting effective partnership working to ensure better digital connectivity  
Access to health services via Near Me

What impact will proposal have on **equality**?

Discrimination against groups of people  
Promoting equality of opportunity  
Tackling harassment  
Promoting positive attit

## 4. Summary of key impacts

Overall, the discussion highlighted that the measures in the LHS would be expected to have positive impacts on health overall. Affordable, high quality housing is a key determinant of health. Improvements in housing will have a direct positive impact on the health of those that benefit from such improvements. Likewise, improvements in energy efficiency and actions to reduce fuel poverty/maximise income will have positive impacts on health.

High quality housing that meets the needs of the population can have positive impacts on education outcomes (e.g. appropriate space within homes for children to learn and study; effects of children feeling safe and secure at home). People who are satisfied with their housing have been shown to have lower stress and increased wellbeing. Having housing that is available and appropriate for key workers is essential for services such as education, health and social care. Having a range of housing options can encourage family support & maintain social networks, as people do not need to move out of the area to find housing that meets their needs. The LHS also builds on previous HIA recommendations to offer preventative housing options service to older people to provide information on alternative housing at an earlier stage.

The LHS and ongoing work contains several measures that will have positive impacts on reducing health inequalities by targeting and putting in place services for specific groups, e.g. designated housing OT, mental health and addictions Housing Practitioner, links with Learning Disability group and Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.

Improvements in housing quality, availability & affordability can attract migration to Argyll and Bute. This is important for economic viability of rural areas, however important to be aware of possible displacement of existing communities and loss of community connectedness. The LHS mitigates against this by supporting community groups to deliver housing in their communities. For example the Colonsay Community Development Company – new housing will mean that families can remain on the island and sustain the education system.

## 5. Suggested initial recommendations

During the workshop participants identified some initial suggestions to enhance the positive impacts of the LHS and mitigate against the negative impacts:

- Ensure that digital inclusion & connectivity plays a key role in the LHS.

- There is a potential negative impact on households if access to reliable and affordable broadband is not considered within the strategy. Noted that households can be provided with tablets if they don't have sufficient access but considering digital access universally can prevent stigma.

- Take forward issue of electric charging provision for cars in new builds (planning issue)

- Continue to work with communities to:

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