

Fife Housing Partnership Meeting

Date:	Thursday 28th August 2025 (1pm – 2.30pm)
Venue:	Virtual via MS Teams
Attendance:	Partners: Tom Barclay (KHA) (Vice Chair), Lucy Denvir (NHS), Nicki Donaldson (FHG), Cllr Brian Goodall (FC), Patricia Gray (FFOTRA), Cllr Judy Hamilton (FC) (Chair), Bruce McCall (GK), Gerry McDougall (Private Landlord) & Caryn Nicolson (FF). Support: Amanda Cathrew, Tracey Drummond, Alexis Lohoar, Greig Henderson, John Mills, Mhairi Mullen, Paul Short, Patricia Spacey, Gavin Smith & Lucy Turner (FC).
Chair:	Cllr Judy Hamilton
Issued:	8 th September 2025

Item	Agenda Items	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Alexis Lohoar was recently appointed as a Housing Professional in the affordable housing strategy team. She attended Fife Housing Partnership (FHP) for training and development purposes.</p> <p>Elaine Dawson (Scot. Gov) will be replacing David Steane on the Partnership, following on from his retirement back in May. Elaine is unable to attend this meeting.</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Partners: Gavin Brady (CK), Chris Conroy (H&SCP), Alan Dalby (FFOTRA), Elaine Dawson (Scot Gov), Alistair Dee (Scot Gov) & James Erskine (Rural Property & Business Association).</p> <p>Support: Rob Bowditch, Joan Lamie & Helen Wilkie (FC).</p>	
2.0	<p>Note of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The partnership agreed the note of previous meeting.</p> <p>Action Note:</p> <p>Action point 5 – Key Worker Policy / consultation – lots of positive work on-going which will be reported to FHP in due course. The Key Worker Policy will be embedded into the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) and Allocation Policy.</p> <p>Action point 6 – FHP agendas – future agendas will reflect the focus areas of the Housing Emergency Strategic Statement.</p> <p>Action point 7 – Housing First evaluation – the draft paper has been circulated, and this is on the agenda for an update.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there an update on the rural housing as discussed at the previous meeting and is there still time to access the Rural Housing Key Workers Fund? <p>The Key Worker policy needs to be approved and in place prior to accessing the national funding. The funding is still available. Once the policy is in place, steps towards accessing the fund will be progressed.</p>	

3.0 Director of Public Health Annual Report, 2024

Lucy Denvir (NHS) presented the 2024 Director of Public Health Annual Report. The report theme is 'Healthy Eating, Active Living for Everyone', which primarily links to housing through healthy spaces and places. The report was published in March 2025 and aligns to two public health priorities (PHP 1 and PHP 6). Some of the issues experienced include ultra processed foods contributing to obesity and diabetes, the ageing population impacting the number of people who have multiple health conditions and food insecurity closely linking to poverty and deprivation. Housing links are evident in the Population Health Framework through places and communities, as well as links to spatial planning and NPF4 through helping to enable people to stay active and remain healthy. Physical activity is closely linked to social connections. What can housing do to contribute towards achieving priorities and how can active spaces and places be promoted?

Positivity has been recorded in the levels of breastfeeding, uptake of school meals, opportunities offered to access outdoor blue and greenspaces and a wealth of partnership projects in Fife (e.g. EATS Rosyth). However, inequality and food security challenges are still evident. A Whole Systems Approach is required to address food and physical activity issues. The Local Development Plan and Local Place Plans play a crucial role in making healthier places and communities, but more is required, particularly in the context of the ageing population and maintaining wellbeing in later life. Progress can be reported next year.

Comments were raised on the following:

- Is there any work being progressed on open spaces in Fife? All Housing Associations have small bits of land which become a headache to manage. This would provide an opportunity to bring overgrown areas to life.
- It's good to hear about the positive work regarding greenspaces. Green prescribing has a real impact on health.
- Are there any vegetarian policies to help promote community gardens and healthy eating? The environmental impact of meat production links closely with wider work at present.
- Is there any data available on the correlations between foodbanks and housing poverty?
- There is close correlation between good housing and healthy lifestyles. Stress and anxiety levels are increasing amongst tenants and staff. Need to raise awareness of the interventions, other than drugs, that can be used as a coping mechanism. An article in 'Down Your Street' would raise awareness of the support available.
- People need to feel safe in greenspaces regardless of the time of day. This needs to be addressed whether reality or perception.
- It's important to continue working with older people to keep them active. Housing, in partnership with Fife Sports and Leisure Trust, offer exercise classes for older people. Feedback demonstrates people feel better after exercise.

Various work is being progressed by Fife Coast & Countryside Trust (FCCT). The NHS have a Greenspace Strategy which looks at NHS land use. Lucky Ewe at Stratheden is an example of a countryside project on NHS land. Fife Council have an Allotment Strategy and a dedicated Allotment Officer. Many years ago, people lived close by allotments. Land is now being used to resolve car parking and access issues. Regarding green prescribing, a Green Health Partnership Coordinator was recently appointed by FCCT to enhance

	<p>partnership working and contribute to positive public health outcomes. Plant based diets can be tricky to manage but small changes can help. There is a lack of data on foodbank usage as many people don't want to be identified.</p> <p>Action/Decision No further action / decision required.</p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<p>No Wrong Door</p> <p>GH presented an overview of No Wrong Door (NWD). The Cowdenbeath area is being used as a live test area for 1-year. This area was selected as a trial due to poverty levels and children in poverty, higher proportions of people reporting long-term health issues and various challenges presented across different communities. A range of staff across several partners including NHS, police, third sector and Fife Council are involved. Findings are due to be reported back to Cabinet Committee in September 2026. A return on investment needs to be evidenced as well as improved outcomes for customers. Change was required due to linear and siloed organisations and systems, ineffective and unconnected decision making and customers repeatedly having to tell stories causing fragmented service user experience. NWD is a new model of public service to provide customers with better service through a joined-up, person-centred approach. This ensures people get the right support, first time. It is recognised if help is provided earlier, problems are prevented from turning into deeper crises.</p> <p>The Cowdenbeath trial will inform the Fife wide roll out, however, the model will need tailored to suit different areas. NWD should become the core way services are delivered. It will eliminate signposting and enable cross-service collaboration to offer earlier support before issues escalate. Cowdenbeath area housing team are already experiencing positive impacts through savings and officer time, despite the roll out only occurring recently.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a really exciting concept which should positively impact budgets and help prevent crisis. • This should prevent Housing Officers from being left to pick up cases they are not best placed to deal with. • A multi-tenure approach is implemented through the contact centre. • As part of the eventual roll out of NWD, Fife Housing Association Alliance (FHAA) hope to actively engage in this initiative. It matches the 'resolution hub' services focus that Kingdom Group is developing for customers. The work is welcomed. Hopefully all the FHP stakeholders will be positively challenged to engage as fully as possible in the roll out mode. <p>The interest from FHAA is positive and involvement is welcomed.</p> <p>Action/Decision No further action / decision required.</p>	
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Whole Systems Approach</p> <p>GS updated on a Whole Systems Approach (WSA) to housing and homelessness which has been developed over the last 2-years in partnership with Turning Point Scotland (TPS). TPS are the largest homelessness organisation nationally. A WSA focuses on a person's needs to solve them properly, removes barriers and creates direct access to services. Public Health Scotland have been implementing a WSA for some time now. Cowdenbeath was selected as a trial area which links closely with NWD. The ambition is to prevent</p>	

	<p>homelessness and help people thrive in their own homes. Work is also on-going to prepare for the Ask and Act duty. The work in Fife can hopefully be replicated by other local authorities and at a national level. Indigo House have been commissioned as a learning partner to enable reporting as work progresses. Three aims are identified in the Indigo House report to help reduce homeless presentations in Cowdenbeath. The reports can be shared if required.</p> <p>In Cowdenbeath, community navigators have been recruited to assist with repeat homelessness, establish how a person was treated and why the required support was not provided. The navigators are visibly available in the community to approach for help. This has been highly successful; however, system access issues across different services pose challenges by restricting information and data availability. Data challenges are also being addressed to follow an individual's journey through the system. A Task & Finish Group, constituting various partners, has been examining out of hours provision and rough sleeping. The groups report and recommendations are expected to be available shortly. Not only is homelessness being addressed, other issues such as poverty and alcohol dependency are also being identified and tackled through on-going work.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is very impressive partnership work with a really obvious connection to NWD. KHA will ensure their communities team understand the detail of this initiative. • It would be good to view the Indigo House Report. Can the links be shared? <p>Action/Decision Share links to the Indigo House Reports on a Whole Systems Approach (WSA).</p>	GS
5.1	<p>Housing First Evaluation Item deferred to November meeting due to time constraints.</p> <p>It is worth noting, a multi-agency partnership even is due to be held on the 18th September which will explore the wider upscale of Housing First.</p> <p>Action/Decision A full Council Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on the 18th September. An alternative date to be considered to ensure elected members can attend.</p>	GS
5.2	<p>Housing Emergency Consultation Plan GS advised a Housing Emergency Strategic Statement was approved by Cabinet Committee in June 2025. It contains six recommendations and 24 actions. A copy of the statement will be circulated to FHP. The Scottish Government were initially criticised for a slow response to the housing emergency, but engagement has been taking place more frequently through the National Sprint exercise. A number of asks have been put forward to the Scottish Government. A statement is expected at national level very soon and it is hoped some of these asks will have been considered.</p> <p>Lots of positive work is ongoing in Fife through the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) framework including affordable housing delivery, the implementation of smart technology, returning empty homes back into housing use, housing first and the reduction of hotel and B&B accommodation usage. £6m has also been diverted to build on affordable housing capacity. The next Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) provides an opportunity for change. Some housing emergency actions are already well underway, others have just been initiated, and a small number have no ownership at present. Work</p>	GS

	<p>is also ongoing with the Fife Council communications team to broaden the consultation approach.</p> <p>Next steps include publishing the Strategic Statement and development of a route map out the housing emergency, consultation on the 'no ownership' actions, engagement through a Communications Plan and a revision of the governance framework. There is a good LHS governance framework in place, but this may need streamlined to deliver housing emergency actions. Another summit type event is being considered for 2026 to allow focused work around partner commitments to be prepared in advance. A report is due to Cabinet Committee by the end of the year.</p> <p>Comments were raised on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be more focus from partners on the housing emergency to prevent it becoming a Council emergency. The next FHP meeting should be used as a Housing Emergency Workshop Session. • The session could incorporate Housing First, and further updates on No Wrong Door and a Whole Systems Approach. Agenda to be developed. <p>Action/Decision</p> <p>Circulate a copy of the Housing Emergency Strategic Statement to FHP. Change FHP meeting on the 18th November to a Housing Emergency Workshop session. Discuss and agree workshop agenda.</p>	<p>LT</p> <p>JH/TB</p> <p>GS</p> <p>LT</p> <p>JH/TB</p>
6.0	<p>AOCB</p> <p>No other business for discussion.</p>	
Next Meeting	<p>Tuesday 18th November 2025 – 1pm</p> <p>Virtual via MS Teams</p>	

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No.	D.O.M	Action Points	Action	Lead	Deadline	Complete
1	27.08.24	Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP) Cabinet Committee Report	Circulate the 6 th June Cabinet Committee report which contains the HEAP to FHP.	LT	Aug	✓
2	25.02.25	Short-term Let (STL) data	Data to be circulated on the number of STL licence refusals 28.02.25 - To date no applications for a licence have been refused. However, due to invalid applications received (for reasons such as relevant certificates not provided), we have rejected to determine these applications, additionally invalid applications have been withdrawn by applicants for similar reasons such as certificates and not following the correct procedure.	TD	May	✓
3	25.02.25	H100 demonstration centre site visit	An FHP site visit will take place on 28 th May from 11am – 1pm. Anyone interested in attending should contact LT. 09.05.25 – all places filled. Agenda to be circulated by SGN one week prior to site visit.	All	May	✓
4	20.05.25	Rural Housing Funding Options Report	Any further comments on the research or report should be shared with LT by the end of May. 12.08.25 – No further comments received.	All	May	✓
5	20.05.25	Key Worker Policy / Consultation	A timeline should be developed which includes consultation to help establish a key worker in Fife. 11.11.25 – this is covered within the allocations policy review which will be reported to Committee in due course.	GS	Oct	✓
6	20.05.25	FHP agendas	Ensure the focus areas of the housing emergency are incorporated into future FHP agendas.	LT	On-going	✓
7	20.05.25	Housing First evaluation	Evaluation of Housing First to be shared with FHP once concluded. 12.08.25 – Draft evaluation shared. On August FHP agenda. 28.08.25 – Agenda item deferred due to time constraints. To be considered as item for FHP Housing Emergency Workshop when finalised report is available.	GS	Aug Nov	✓

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8	28.08.25	Whole Systems Approach	Share links to the Indigo House Reports on Whole Systems Approach (WSA). 28.08.25 – links shared by GS - Blog: Turning Point Scotland and Fife Council release inception report for Whole System Approach ‘test of change’. – Scotland's leading social care developer and provider-Turning Point Scotland	GS	Aug	✓
9	28.08.25	Housing First multi-agency Workshop	Consider alternative date for the workshop due to clash with full council committee meeting. 10.11.25 – Workshop with potential commissioners held on the 18th Sept. Report is being developed for Committee and further member / practitioner events will be arranged in due course.	GS	Sept	✓
10	28.08.25	Housing Emergency Strategic Statement	Circulate a copy of the Strategic Statement to FHP. 28.08.25 – report shared by GS	GS	Aug	✓
11	28.08.25	FHP Housing Emergency Workshop	Amend the next FHP meeting to Housing Emergency Workshop session. 10.11.25 – FHP workshop will be organised in the new year as part of a pathway to follow up a Summit in summer 2026. Format for the workshop to be agreed at the November FHP meeting.	LT	Nov Spring 2026	
12	28.08.25	FHP Housing Emergency Workshop	Discuss and agree agenda content for the FHP Housing Emergency Workshop, taking Housing First, No Wrong Door and Whole System Approach updates into consideration. 10.11.25 – FHP workshop will be organised in the new year as part of a pathway to follow up a Summit in summer 2026. Format for the workshop to be agreed at the November FHP meeting.	JH/TB	Nov Spring 2026	

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