

**Date:** 27 November 2014

**Agenda item number:** 3

**Title:** Housing priority – draft action plan

**Summary:** Glasgow Homelessness Network (GNH) has facilitated two surveys about people's experiences of poverty and received over 750 responses. Issues around 'housing and the local area' featured very prominently - either poor quality housing being a defining condition of poverty, or better housing seen as offering people a route out of poverty.

At the April meeting, the Panel agreed that further scoping on this issue was required and that 'housing and the local area' may become a seventh priority in the Action Plan. At the August meeting, the Panel agreed on the basic principles of this housing priority.

GNH has drafted the attached report, after consultation with housing providers, including Wheatley Group, and the Council.

**This report is for:** Agreement.

**Recommendation:** The Panel agrees that:

- (i) The draft goals, outcomes and actions be incorporated into the PLP's Action Plan for Change, and work commence as suggested.

### Priority 7 – Improve housing and the local area

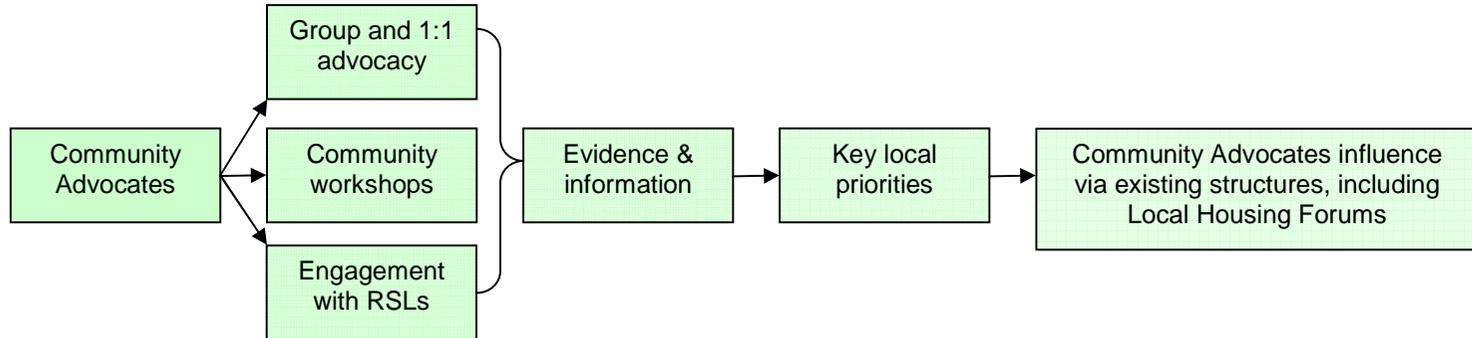
The space we live in affects our health, happiness and well-being. There is also a strong link between the quality of where we live and our social and economic opportunities. We will work to embed the principle of ‘people-first’ placemaking - housing and regeneration that starts with *people*, then the spaces that we occupy, then the buildings that we inhabit.

Serious pressure on the supply of our social housing stock and a lack of affordable, alternative options means Glasgow has the highest levels of homelessness and housing need in Scotland. While current regeneration policy aspires toward mixed tenure areas, geographical patterns of social housing remain across Glasgow, with many of these areas associated with poverty and poor health.

The involvement of local people in local housing matters will create more community ownership, raise awareness of housing challenges and assist local people to advocate for their community and each other. The Poverty Leadership Panel believes that if changes to the housing landscape are necessary over the next phase, then this is something we plan and deliver *with* local people across Glasgow.

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|--------------------|---|
| <b>GOALS</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local people are routinely and meaningfully involved in local housing issues and structures</li> <li>• Local people are better able to advocate for themselves and others about their housing needs across all housing types and tenures</li> <li>• The local expertise of the social housing sector is used to progress shared aims</li> </ul>  |
| <b>KEY ACTIONS</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the first year, we will focus on Parkhead, Priesthill and the Gorbals</li> <li>• We will directly train and support ‘community advocates’ – local people that want to champion their local area</li> <li>• Advocates will facilitate advocacy sessions for people with a problem or worry about their housing or local area</li> <li>• Advocates will align with Glasgow’s Housing Strategy, through the Local Housing Forums</li> <li>• We will facilitate community ‘shared solutions’ workshops for local people to determine priorities and solutions</li> <li>• We will consult with and engage the expertise of social housing providers</li> </ul> |
| <b>CHALLENGES</b>  | <p>Glasgow’s Housing Strategy (2011-16) describes some key challenges affecting Glasgow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate supply of good quality social housing</li> <li>• Accessing affordable and good quality alternatives to social housing in private rented and owner occupied sectors</li> <li>• Ensuring unintentionally homeless people can exercise their right to settled accommodation</li> <li>• Welfare reform – the impact on housing providers and tenants</li> </ul>  |

**FRAMEWORK**



| Goal   | What success will look like   | What we will do differently across the city   | How we will do this   | How we will measure this   | Timeframe    |
|--|---|---|---|--|--------------|
| Local people are routinely and meaningfully involved in local housing issues and structures. | Local people can influence housing policy and practice through local structures that represent their views. | <p>We will directly train and support 'community advocates' – local people that want to champion their local area.</p> <p>Community advocates will learn about and raise awareness amongst their peers of relevant planning structures.</p> | We will focus on the 'thriving places' of Parkhead, Priesthill and Gorbals, linking with Community Planning's 'community organisers'. | 12 'community advocates' - at least 4 local people per area.   | By Sept 2015 |
|  |   |   | Advocates will facilitate individual and group advocacy sessions.   | A minimum of 108 local people over the next year; 36 per local area.   | By Sept 2015 |
|  |   |   | We will facilitate community 'shared solutions' workshops for local people to determine priorities and solutions.                     | 3 workshops facilitated, with local intelligence and evidence used to progress issues about housing or the local area. | By Sept 2015 |

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|--|--|--|---|--|---------------|
| Local people can advocate for themselves and others about their housing needs. | Local people, especially those in vulnerable households, understand their housing options and can make meaningful choices about their housing. | Community advocates will support local people to navigate the housing systems and engage with services and structures. | Community advocates will facilitate 1:1 or group advocacy sessions with people who have a problem or worry about their housing or local area. | A minimum of 72 local people with a problem or worry will be supported- 24 per local area. | By Sept 2015  |
|  | Local people have increased confidence, capacity and skills to tackle problems about their housing or local area.                              |  |   |  |               |
| The expertise of the social housing sector is used to progress shared aims.    | More RSLs involved in progressing the priorities in this Action Plan for Change.   | We will learn from the local knowledge of local housing providers to progress ideas and solutions.                     | Consult with the RSL network via the Glasgow and West of Scotland forum of Housing Associations (GWSF) and Wheatley Group.                    | Initial survey.  | From Jan 2015 |
|  |  |  | Engage with RSLs located in our 3 target areas.   | Roundtable discussions with community advocates.   | From Jan 2015 |