



Midlothian Council: Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2024-2025

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1. Introduction

Following the publication of the Scottish Governments Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan all local authorities were required to publish a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) by December 2018. These plans were to demonstrate the following:

- How the local authority will move to a model of rapid rehousing over a period of no more than five years.
- How both homelessness demand will be met, and how any backlog of homeless households currently in temporary accommodation will be addressed.

Midlothian Council's original RRTP set out a vision that by 2024:

“An increased number of households will obtain permanent accommodation, no homeless household will be accommodation in Bed and Breakfast type accommodation, and the average time taken for the Council to complete its homeless duty will be halved from 104 weeks to 52 weeks.”

Midlothian Council has published a revised RRTP each year, the most recent version was approved by Council in August 2023 and identified the following outcomes to support this vision:

- The supply of permanent accommodation for homeless households has increased.
- When temporary accommodation is required, it is of a good standard with access to effective support.
- Homeless households with support needs are supported to access and maintain permanent accommodation.
- Housing Options support is in place to prevent homelessness.

Midlothian Council has received support from the Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Fund to help deliver RRTP activities. Table 1 gives details of the confirmed funding allocated to Midlothian.

Table 1 Ending Homelessness Together (EHT) Funding received by Midlothian Council.

Funding	Amount
Initial Grant (development funding)	£32,000
2019/20 EHT Funding	£141,000
2020/21 EHT Funding	£137,000
Winter Support Fund 2020/21	£85,000
2021/22 EHT Funding	£127,000
2022/23 EHT Funding	£121,000
2023/24 EHT Funding	£113,941
2024/25 EHT Funding	£120,000
Total	£876,941

Midlothian Council made decisions on which projects could be delivered within the funding made available, prioritising those it believes will have the most significant impact on reshaping homelessness in Midlothian. Details of the work undertaken, and the progress made is provided in Section 3.

It will not be possible to fully transform the way services are delivered without securing additional resources. Funding for 2024/25 was not confirmed until March 2024, this along with uncertainty of funding in future years makes it difficult to plan for the continuation of some RRTP projects. A copy of the 2023/24 RRTP Monitoring and Spend Report, to be submitted to the Scottish Government is included as Appendix 1.

Section 2 of this updated RRTP includes a summary of the progress made in 2023/24 and highlights the ongoing pressures relating to homelessness in Midlothian. Section 4 of the RRTP sets out how Midlothian Council will continue the work undertaken to deliver these projects in 2024/25 within the resources available. Midlothian Council believes these projects are crucial to further reduce the time

spent in temporary accommodation, improving the quality of temporary accommodation and continuing to deliver Housing First.

2. Homelessness in Midlothian

This section gives an update on homelessness trends in Midlothian during 2023/24. All data presented in this section is sourced from Midlothian Council's HL1, HL2 and HL3 returns to the Scottish Government.

The number of households who applied to Midlothian Council for homeless assistance during 2023/24 increased by 28% compared to the previous year and reflects an increase of 68% when compared to 2021/22 when homeless applications were at the lowest rate since the start of the RRTP. Table 2 shows the proportion of applications from households with dependent children has continued to rise in each of the last two years.

It is thought this increase in presentations is partially linked to the limited availability of other affordable housing options in the area. Midlothian has the fifth highest average house selling price in Scotland. The average price for properties sold in Midlothian has increased by 67% in the last 10 years, with the number of completed sales falling slightly in each of the last two years (Source: [Registers of Scotland – House Price Statistics](#))

Table 2: Number of homeless applications by year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total homeless applications	560	492	480	496	441	579	742
% of households with dependent children	42%	42%	42%	40%	36%	47%	48%
% of households with no children	58%	58%	58%	60%	64%	53%	52%

Table 3 shows this increase in applications is not consistent across all age bands. The applications received from people aged 18-59 has increased by 35% in 2023/24. Whereas the number of applications made by those aged 16-17 reduced by 38%, with the exception of 2019/20 this is the lowest number of presentations from that age group since 2002.

Table 3: Number of homeless applications by year

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
16-17	34 (6%)	29 (6%)	20 (4%)	14 (3%)	23 (5%)	29 (5%)	18 (2%)
18-25	151 (27%)	129 (26%)	111 (23%)	157 (32%)	124 (28%)	141 (25%)	206 (28%)
26-59	355 (63%)	309 (63%)	319 (67%)	303 (61%)	272 (62%)	374 (64%)	486 (65%)
60+	20 (4%)	25 (5%)	30 (6%)	22 (4%)	22 (5%)	35 (6%)	32 (5%)

In Midlothian's 2022/23 RRTP highlighted a sizable increase in the number of homeless applications from males who are single parents (a 143% increase compared to 2021/22) was reported. During 2023/24 the number of applications from this demographic increased again by 34%. Meeting the temporary accommodation requirements of this group continues to be challenging, with 44 households being placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation in the last six months of 2023/24. The [Unsuitable Accommodation Order](#) (UAO) places a legal duty on the Council to move those

households within seven days so as not to breach the order. Despite these additional pressures Midlothian did not breach the UAO during 2023/24, if the demand for accommodation continues at the same rate during 2024/25 it is likely the Council will breach the UAO.

During 2024/25 Midlothian Council will monitor the impact of the changes to [homeless legislation](#) introduced in November 2022 regarding local connection. The changes remove the ability for a local authority to refer an unintentionally homeless person to another Scottish local authority. During the first 18 months of these changes' Officers noticed no obvious impact in Midlothian. However, Officers are now reporting an increase in people approaching the council for assistance seeking alternative options as neighbouring councils struggle to provide accommodation that meets the households needs/wishes.

It is important to recognise that women and children are more likely to require assistance as a result of domestic violence. The number of people seeking homeless assistance as a result of domestic violence or other violence in the household increased from 64 on 2022/23 to 79 in 2023/24. 39 of those applications were from female households, 24 of which had children.

Table 4 gives a breakdown of the reason given when requesting homeless assistance from Midlothian Council. People being asked to leave accommodation by the person they were staying with was the primary reason for seeking assistance from Midlothian Council during 2023/24, with an additional 139 applications compared to the previous year, an increase of 77%. In 2022/23 the majority of applications were made by people following a relationship breakdown, while still accounting for a high proportion of applications presentations for this reason decreased by 18% in 2023/24. There has been a slight increase in the number of applications made after action being taken by the landlord to end a tenancy. This is likely to be as a result of the temporary measures in place through the [Cost of Living \(Tenant Protection\) \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#) coming to an end during the year. There was another slight increase in the number of people who gave up secure accommodation, which may reflect a small number of people struggling to sustain their accommodation from an affordability perspective. During 2023/24 16 people seeking homeless assistance reported that they slept rough the night before presenting to Midlothian Council, in the preceding three years no applicants were reported as sleeping rough. This increase is following the introduction of a new IT system which allows for more accurate reporting of those who sleep rough prior to seeking assistance.

Table 4: Technical reason for homeless application

Reason	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Asked to leave	186	133	102	147	135	180	319
Dispute within household / relationship breakdown: non-violent	86	101	141	151	130	188	154
Dispute within household: violent or abusive	116	77	78	68	54	64	79
Other reason for leaving accommodation / household	25	36	4	6	2	2	30
Fleeing non-domestic violence	1	2	9	9	4	15	28
Other reason for loss of accommodation	44	20	41	47	58	46	25
Other action by landlord resulting in the termination of the tenancy	38	64	37	10	15	20	24

Reason	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Termination of tenancy / mortgage due to rent arrears / default on payments	21	10	13	5	4	5	18
Applicant terminated secure accommodation	6	5	9	2	2	10	14
Overcrowding	11	22	25	24	12	23	14
Discharge from prison / hospital / care / other institution	15	17	13	14	13	12	13
Harassment	3	1	1	4	7	5	12
Loss of service / tied accommodation	3	1	2	0	2	4	6
Forced division and sale of matrimonial home	5	2	5	3	3	3	4
Emergency (fire, flood, storm, closing order from Environmental Health etc.)	0	1	0	6	0	2	2

After the introduction of the RRTP in 2018 Midlothian Council made significant progress in reducing the number of homeless households waiting to be rehoused in Midlothian. Table 5 shows the progress made in those early years of the RRTP with the initial target of reducing the number of open homeless cases to 860 by the end of 2023/24 being exceeded in 2019/20. An ambitious revised target was introduced to reduce open cases to 500 by the end of 2023/24. Due to the rise in presentations reported earlier this target has not been achieved. However, the number of homeless cases closed during 2023/24 remained the same as the previous year. Table 5 shows that the proportion of people who secured some form of permanent accommodation (Scottish Secure or Private Residential Tenancy) continued to increase in 2023/24 from 68% in 2022/23 to 72% in 2023/24. This has largely been achieved through changes to the Council's Housing Allocation Policy which increased the proportion of lets to homeless households, and the number of properties completed as part of the new build housing programme. The number of people securing a Private Residential Tenancy reduced further in 2023/24, with only six homeless cases being closed after securing a tenancy of that type, reflective of the limited availability of this type of housing with rents which are within Local Housing Allowance rates. This limited availability of alternative affordable housing options in the areas continues to place additional pressures on social housing in Midlothian.

Table 5: Number of closed and ongoing homeless cases in Midlothian

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of cases closed	563	669	529	536	598	611	611
Number of open cases on 31 st March	1082	899	843	802	666	634	765
% closed to LA or RSL tenancy	44%	47%	52%	54%	57%	66%	71%
% Closed to Private rented accommodation	2%	9%	7%	10%	5%	2%	1%

One of the key objectives of Midlothian Council's RRTP is to reduce the time taken to close a homeless case in Midlothian. It was acknowledged that this would increase during the early stages of implementing the RRTP as a number of actions focused on reducing the number of long-term legacy cases. Table 6 shows this reduced further in 2023/24 to 63 weeks. The average length of stay in temporary accommodation (Table 7) has also continued to reduce to 45 weeks.

Table 6: Average case duration (weeks)

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Average case duration	106	106	108	115	97	80	63

Table 7: Length of stay (weeks) in temporary accommodation

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Average total time in temporary accommodation	-	-	72	104	75	67	45

Long term, the activities undertaken as part of Midlothian Council's transformation of services will continue to focus on reducing the time taken to make an offer of permanent housing and reducing the length of time in temporary accommodation.

3. Midlothian Council's RRTP progress

This section provides an update on activities undertaken by Midlothian Council as part of its RRTP during 2023/24.

3.1. Revised housing allocation policy

Midlothian Council revised its allocation policy in Spring 2020 as one of the first actions intended to contribute towards the objectives of the RRTP. As noted in Section 2 and in previous years this made a significant contribution to improving outcomes for homeless households in Midlothian. A review of the policy was completed in 2023/24 to ensure it was still addressing the needs of people in Midlothian in the greatest housing need. After consulting stakeholders an updated Housing Allocation Policy was approved by Council in March 2024.

The revised policy maintains the target of allocating 60% of void council tenancies to applicants who are on the homeless list. Other changes sought to take a more preventive approach to allocating housing and reducing future need for homelessness assistance including:

- Introducing additional points for people in private rented accommodation in receipt of a valid Notice to Leave, where no decree for eviction has been granted by the First Tier Tribunal.
- Additional safety points to support harassment and domestic abuse.
- Revising the approach taken to waiting time for those on the homeless list to ensure that the person who has been registered as homeless the longest is offered housing more quickly.
- To further integrate initiatives for specific groups such as the National House Project and Housing First into the allocations policy.

The effectiveness of these changes will be monitored over the coming years. Some of the changes such as the change to waiting time for homeless applicants may result in the average time to close as case to increase in the short term as the number of long-term homeless cases is further reduced.

3.2. Updated housing support services contract

During 2023/24 Midlothian Council completed a tender exercise to procure a provider to deliver the following services:

- Temporary Homeless Accommodation Management and Support

- Tenancy Support
- Housing First support.

As part of this exercise the specification of each area of the contract was reviewed to ensure the support provided is delivered from a trauma informed perspective, and person centred to meet the needs of the household. The review also included revised minimum staffing levels in supported accommodation to ensure the accommodation provides a safe environment where residents are able to access effective support at the earliest opportunity.

3.3. Housing First

During 2023/24 a further 18 people were accepted for Housing First in Midlothian, this means a total of 68 people have been accepted for Housing First since its launch in June 2020. While 10 tenancies have ended for a range of reasons there have been no evictions from a Housing First tenancy in Midlothian. There are 10 people who remain in their Housing First tenancy who are no longer actively receiving support from the support provider, and a further 14 in the 'step down' stage of receiving a reducing level of support. Of the 68 people accepted for Housing First 16 are female.

Midlothian Council has ensured a multi-agency approach is taken to the delivery of Housing First. This is demonstrated through the agencies referring people to available Housing First properties summarised in table 8.

Table 8: Number of referrals accepted for Housing First by service

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Alcohol/drug services	5	2	5	6	18
Homeless services	3	11	5	6	25
Justice services	1	5	7	2	15
Joint Mental Health Team	-	1	1	2	4
Through-care/After-care	-	1	-	2	3

3.4. Youth Homelessness

Midlothian Council launched a Youth Homeless Prevention and Support service in partnership with the Rock Trust on 1st February 2024. The service is available to young people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Midlothian. The service is delivered from a person centred and trauma informed perspective by a team of project workers who have a background in youth work. 27 young people were referred to the service during the first two months, examples of the positive impact made by the service include:

- Young people being supported to establish a home after securing their first tenancy, including applying for assistance to furnish the property from a range of source including referrals to sources of assistance not traditionally available to people in Midlothian
- Young people supported to set up utility accounts and provided with ongoing support to help with budgeting including setting up payment methods for a range of bills.
- Support has been given to prevent young people from accruing rent arrears by providing them with advice on the different payment methods allowing the young person to make an informed decision about the option which works best for them.
- Homelessness has been prevented by the provision of mediation between young people and their parents. Enabling the young person to safely return to the family home after a short period in supported accommodation.

The Midlothian House Project has been operating since July 2020. The project supports young people leaving care to establish their own home and live connected a fulfilled lives within the local community. Continuing support is provided through the project the ensure longer term tenancy sustainment. Since its launch 39 young people have entered the programme, included 11 in 2023/24, and 25 young people are now moved into their home (7 during 2023/24).

3.5. Reducing time in temporary accommodation

Since 2019 Midlothian Council has offered households in temporary accommodation the opportunity to have their temporary accommodation converted to a permanent tenancy, where the property is suitable to be converted in this way. This contributes to several positive outcomes including, reducing the time spent in temporary accommodation, reducing the number of moves needed before securing settled permanent housing, and enabling for supportive networks within the community to be maintained on a longer-term basis. 484 households have had their accommodation converted in this way since 2019 including 139 in 2023/24. All households who have been in their current temporary accommodation for nine months or longer have been given the opportunity to convert their tenancy in this way or are in accommodation not suitable to be converted.

3.6. Maximising housing options

Following the introduction of the Private Residential Tenancy in 2018 local authorities have been able to discharge their homeless duties to this type of accommodation in the same way they can to a Scottish Secure Tenancy. During the early stages of the RRTP Midlothian Council was successful in supporting an increased number of households to secure private rented accommodation and included measures to assist more households including increasing the funding available to secure deposits.

Over the last two years it has become increasingly difficult for households to access the private rented sector due to limited availability of properties that are affordable, resulting in just six homeless cases being closed after securing a Private Residential Tenancy in 2023/24. There is some evidence that expanding eligibility for deposit assistance to those seeking housing advice is preventing homelessness as 7 of the 13 households provided with a deposit were not yet recorded as being homeless in the next two months.

On 26th March 2024 Midlothian Council approved the adaptation of its [Mixed Tenure Strategy](#). The strategy aims to provide more choices to those in housing need through the promotion of a range of mixed tenures to meet the need for affordable homes, actions identified include:

- To deliver a range of affordable ownership tenures in partnership with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).
- To support more homes being made available for discounted sale through Golden Share Schemes
- To approve the delivery of Mid-Market Rent in partnership with RSLs ensuring preference is given to Midlothian residents in housing need and give further consideration to Midlothian Council directly delivering Mid-Market Rented accommodation.

4. Midlothian Council Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

4.1. Key objectives

Midlothian Council's original RRTP set out four key outcomes that would achieve the overall vision of the RRTP:

Midlothian's vision for the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan is that by 2024:

“An increased number of homeless households will obtain permanent accommodation, no homeless household will be accommodated in bed and breakfast accommodation, and the average time to complete its homeless duty will have halved from 105 weeks to 52 weeks”

It is recommended that Midlothian continues to publish an annually updated RRTP with a revised vision which reflects the achievements made while recognising the challenges currently facing homelessness services. The revised vision for the RRTP is:

An increased number of homeless households will obtain permanent accommodation, households will be able to access support to prevent homelessness and sustain their accommodation. Households will spend a reduced amount of time in temporary accommodation, and the average time to complete its homeless duty will reduce to 52 weeks.

The outcomes identified to achieve this vision are detailed below, it will only be possible to achieve these outcomes if the Council and key stakeholders work in partnership. More details on the proposed actions are provided in Section 4.2. The outcomes and activities will be revised periodically to ensure that the RRTP remains a relevant strategic document.

Outcome 1: The supply of permanent accommodation for homeless households has increased.

Achieving a significant increase in the supply of affordable housing is key to providing homeless households, and others in housing need, with a settled housing outcome as soon as possible. The low supply of affordable housing has been the biggest contributor to issues such as length of time taken to close a homeless case and lengthy periods spent in temporary accommodation. It is thought the limited number of available and affordable housing options out with social housing in recent years has further contributed to the rise in homeless applications received since 2022.

There has been significant investment in new housing over a sustained period of time in Midlothian. It is important that this investment continues as set out in the [Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2024/25 - 2028/29](#).

This investment alone will not be sufficient to deliver the wider aims of the RRTP. It is important to maximise the opportunities to prevent homelessness from occurring, and for homeless households to have access to the widest choice of housing options including improving access to the private rented sector.

Outcome 2: Where temporary accommodation is required, it is of a good standard with access to effective support.

While Bed and Breakfast type accommodation has not been used by Midlothian Council since 2020 it is important for measures to be in place that ensure there is no risk of using accommodation of this type in the future.

Good progress continues to be made to reduce the number of households who have been in temporary accommodation for over two years. To ensure the overall objective of reducing this number to zero access to permanent accommodation for homeless households will need to continue to increase. To reduce the number of households entering temporary accommodation households must be able to access support to prevent homelessness from occurring.

To ensure accommodation meets the needs of homeless households in Midlothian a review of council owned supported accommodation will be completed. Partnership working with other agencies including those from the Health and Social Care Partnership must continue to ensure support needs can be assessed at the earliest opportunity.

Outcome 3: Homeless households with support needs are supported to access and maintain permanent accommodation

To ensure people who have experienced long term/repeated homelessness with multiple/enduring support needs are supported to live a sustainable way of life, Midlothian Council will continue to deliver up to 20 Housing First tenancies a year.

Midlothian Council will continue to work with the Health and Homeless Steering Group to review and improve service provision to maximise opportunities to prevent homelessness and improve outcomes across all services.

To deliver comprehensive support to homeless people, effective partnership working practices with other organisations to ensure people's wider support needs are also addressed alongside housing need.

Midlothian Council will develop services to meet the needs of young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Including delivering a bespoke youth prevention and support service, housing education within schools, and the Midlothian House Project for young people leaving care.

Outcome 4: Housing options and support is in place to prevent homelessness

In Midlothian it is important that opportunities for homeless prevention and housing options activities are maximised due to the low supply of social rented housing.

The Housing Options process begins when the local authority is approached by anyone in housing need. To achieve the aims of the RRTP it is important for people to have access to the widest choice of housing options, at the earliest opportunity. The advice should also cover other circumstances which may not be housing related, such as debt, employment, mediation, and mental health issues. To deliver services effectively it is important that staff delivering the Housing Options service are well trained and provide a person-centred response.

As many people may not seek face-face advice in the first instance it is important that housing options advice is available through as many sources as possible, including digitally, and in a variety of local settings.

The RRTP also identifies a need to make greater use of the private rented sector and consider innovative ways to prevent homelessness through a crisis intervention fund. It is important that these initiatives are available to people at the earliest opportunity, and not only those at risk of losing their accommodation in the next 56 days.

As the [Housing \(Scotland\) Bill](#) 2024 is progressed through parliament Midlothian Council will work with partners to implement the forthcoming duty to prevent homelessness and wider duties on relevant organisations to 'ask and act' and take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness from occurring.

4.2. Action Plan

Midlothian Council Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan: Action Plan (Updated August 2024)

Outcome 1: The supply of permanent accommodation to homeless households has increased.

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
1.1	Increase number of Scottish Secure Tenancies allocated to homeless households in Midlothian	Midlothian Council, RSLs	Ongoing	430 let to homeless households by Council and RSLs	350 let to homeless households by Council and RSLs	Existing resources	2021/22 – 343 2022/23 – 405
1.2	Fully implement updated Housing Allocations Policy	Midlothian Council, RSLs	Ongoing	56.5%	60% lets to homeless households	Existing resources	Below target in 2023/24 due to the impact of completed new builds allocated through LLI
1.3	Review & Update Housing Allocations Policy	Midlothian Council	Complete	Revised policy in place	-	Existing resources	Review no later than April 2029
1.4	Review nominations agreement with RSLs to ensure homeless households are housed more quickly	Midlothian Council RSLs	Ongoing	-	-	Existing resources	Review completed in 2023/24. Will be kept under ongoing review. As required and when RSL new sites are developed.
1.5	Provide settled accommodation to homeless households in the private rented sector	Midlothian Council, Private landlords	Ongoing	6 Homeless cases closed after securing private rented accommodation	35 Homeless cases closed to private let.	Yes – see page 22	55 in 2022/21, 31 in 2021/22 15 in 2022/23 This reflects the continued limited availability and increased demand for affordable private rented accommodation.
1.6	Target open market purchases for council housing to areas and property types in demand from homeless households	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	27	6 purchases in 2024/25, subject to National Acquisition Programme Funding. A reduced target from 12 in previous years.	SHIP development plan funding	Original RRTP target of 80 properties by 2023/24 has been achieved: 2018/19 – 39 2019/20 – 44 2020/21 – 14 2021/22 – 15 2022/23 – 28 2023/24 - 27 Total – 167

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
							The Affordable Housing Supply Programme funding for 24/25 was reduced and finance has been prioritised towards Midlothian Council's New Build Programme. Midlothian Council is self-financing a small programme of six Open Market Purchases in 24/25. The Scottish Government's National Acquisition Programme funding may allow further OMPs once the details of the programme have been released.
1.7	Reduce the average number of weeks taken to close a homeless case	Midlothian Council RSLs	Ongoing	64 weeks	Average 52 weeks to close a homeless case	Existing resources	Reducing from 118.1 in 2020/21 2021/22 – 98.7 2022/23 – 78.4
1.8	No homeless household will spend longer than 2 years in Temporary Accommodation	Midlothian Council, RSLs	Ongoing	139 households had their temporary accommodation converted to a permanent tenancy in 2023/24 All households who have been in their current temporary accommodation for nine months or more have been offered this opportunity,	All households in temporary accommodation for over 9 months will have been offered the opportunity to have the property converted to permanent housing, where the property type is suitable for this to happen.	Existing resources	2019/20 – 189 2020/21 – 52 2021/22 – 51 2022/23 - 53

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
				where the property is suitable.			

Outcome 2: Where temporary accommodation is required, it is of a good standard with access to effective support.

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
2.1	Ensure no breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	0	0	Existing resources	
2.2	Reduce the average time spent in emergency family accommodation.	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	65 days	Families will spend no longer than 28 days in emergency accommodation	-	<p>2020/21 – 36 2021/22 – 34.9 2022/23 – 60 days</p> <p>The increase since 2022 reflects the increased demand for temporary accommodation from single people with access to children, and the need to prioritise temporary accommodation for that group to prevent breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order.</p> <p>All emergency family accommodation is considered suitable in terms of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order</p>
2.3	Following completion of Jarnac Court complete a review of all supported accommodation to make sure it provides the services and support required	Midlothian Council, H+SC Partnership	2024/25	N/A	N/A	Existing resources	Initial review of staffing resources at each accommodation unit completed as part of procurement exercise in 2024. This will be monitored as part of the

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
							contract with the support provider. Further comprehensive review of support accommodation commencing in Autumn 2024.
2.4	Ensure full compliance with the Temporary Accommodation Standards Framework published in April 2023	Midlothian Council, Third Sector, H+SC Partnership	2023/24	N/A	All temporary accommodation, and associated services provided meet the published standards	Existing Resources	Review currently on going to ensure full compliance as per 2.3
2.5	Improve tenant satisfaction with the quality of temporary accommodation	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	92.5% 226 Surveys were completed, 209 were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied.	85%	Existing resources	2022/23 – 72 surveys completed, 49 (68%) responded as very satisfied or fairly satisfied.
2.6	Consider the recommendations of the Supported Housing Task and Finish Group and explore feasibility/possible options in Midlothian. (Regarding supported accommodation for the small proportion of people who are unable to live in mainstream housing.)	Midlothian Council, Third Sector, H+SC Partnership	2025/26	-	-	Existing resources	

Outcome 3: Homeless households with support needs are supported to access and sustain permanent accommodation

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
3.1	Ensure accommodation and support is available to those in crisis to ensure no rough sleeping occurs in Midlothian	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	% of applicants who slept rough the night before applying 2%	% of applicants who slept rough the night before applying 0%	Existing resources	The increase in 2023/24 results from the introduction of a new IT system which allows for more accurate reporting of this measure.

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
3.2	Support people with a history of long-term homelessness with multiple/high support needs to access and sustain permanent housing.	Midlothian Council, H+SC Partnership	Ongoing	18 People supported into accommodation during 2023/24	Up to 20 new housing first tenancies established a year*	Yes – see page 22	Due to a high turnover a staff in the support service during Jan/Feb 2024 a reduced number of people were accepted into the project to ensure the focus remained on tenancy sustainment. *Number of tenancies created will continually be reviewed to ensure tenancy sustainment is prioritised.
3.3	Complete full review of Housing First in Midlothian with a view to creating a long-term sustainable model of delivery that can be mainstreamed.	Midlothian Council H+SC Partnership	Complete	Review completed as part of the Homeless/Tenancy Support services contract. Resulting in Housing First being funded by Midlothian Council for the duration of the contract.	A long-term model for Housing First is in place for 2023/24	Existing resources	
3.4	Complete review of tenancy support provision to ensure it meets the needs of the Housing/Homeless/Arrears teams with a focus on tenancy sustainment and homeless prevention	Midlothian Council	Complete	Review completed as part of the Homeless/Tenancy Support services contract. Ensuring focus on tenancy sustainment, reducing poverty and providing services from a	N/A	Existing resources	

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
				trauma informed perspective.			
3.5	Develop an Equally Safe Housing and Homeless policy	Midlothian Council	Complete	-	-	-	Further review to be completed when relevant sections of the Housing (Scotland) Bill 2024 are enacted.
3.6	Continue to support improved health and wellbeing outcomes for homeless households through the Health and Homelessness Steering Group	Midlothian Council; H+SC Partnership, NHS Lothian	Ongoing	-	-	Existing resources	The group will continue to review the forthcoming "ask and Act" duties as more details are confirmed following the introduction of the Housing (Scotland) Bill 2024
3.7	Ensure compliance with SHORE standards is maintained.	Midlothian Council, H+SC Partnership, SPS	Ongoing	Percentage of people identified as having no accommodation available on release are provided with accommodation on release from prison 100%	Percentage of people identified as having no accommodation available on release are provided with accommodation on release from prison 100%	Existing resources	A review of procedures for Homelessness Services will be completed in Autumn 2024, to ensure they are fit for purpose and the Council is meeting all statutory duties.
3.8	Revise working practices to ensure all individuals seeking Housing Options Advice/Homelessness Assistance are provided with a Personal Housing Plan to ensure early identification of support needs	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	-	100% of individuals seeking Housing Options Advice/Homelessness Assistance are provided with a Personal Housing Plan	Existing resources	Procedures will be fully revised to reflect changes enacted following the recommendations of the Prevention Review Group and incorporate forthcoming duties through 'Ask and Act'.
3.9	Develop and procure a dedicated Youth Prevention and Support Service	Midlothian Council	Complete	Youth Homeless Prevention and Support Service launched in Feb 2024.	Youth homeless support service in place	Yes – see page 22	On going monitoring through contract

Outcome 4: Housing options and support are in place to prevent homelessness

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
4.1	Reduce the number of open homeless cases	Midlothian Council, RSLs	By 2023/24	765	500	Existing resources	*Exceeds original RRTP target of 860 by 2023/24, but an increase from 587 at end of 2022/23
4.2	Ensure people effected by cost-of-living crisis and/or rising energy costs are supported to maximise income and remain in their current accommodation	Midlothian Council Third Sector	Ongoing	-	-		Cost of Living Task Force Established in June 2022. Council to set up cost of living taskforce Midlothian Council
4.3	Make better use of the private rented sector by increasing the number of households given assistance to access a deposit.	Midlothian Council, Private Landlords	Ongoing	13 households provided with deposit assistance	45 Households provided with deposit assistance	Yes – see page 22	Reduced from 18 in 2022/23 reflective of the challenges accessing the private rented sector described in Section 3. Although demonstrates the preventative approach taken to provided assistance.
4.4	Continue to provide housing education courses in Midlothian Secondary Schools	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	4 School talks completed during 2023/24	All secondary schools have housing education on curriculum	Existing resources	School talks will be completed by the Youth Homeless Support Service for the duration of the contract.
4.5	Ensure a person-centred approach is taken to the delivery of all housing options, homelessness and tenancy management functions by having a trauma informed workforce.	Midlothian Council, H+SC Partnership, NHS Lothian	Ongoing	Continued roll out of training.	100% of Homelessness, Housing and Temporary accommodation officers have received trauma informed training.	Existing resources	
4.6	Roll out of the Housing Options Training tool kit to all appropriate staff teams	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	Monitoring of progress embedded in MPM framework for staff from Housing Services	All housing staff have completed HO tool kit training	Yes – see page 22	All Housing and Homeless staff were provided with access to the tool kit at launch in January 2022. Modules 4, 5 and 6 launched in March 2024.

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
							Regular reviews in place to ensure all new staff are given access to the training. The training has also been made available to a number of staff within Communities and Lifelong Learning, and Support Assistants who support Housing Services.
4.7	Continue work with the Edinburgh, Lothian's and Border Housing Options HUB to identify and share best practice across the region, and to ensure joint working on homeless prevention activates.	Housing Hub membership areas. Scottish Government	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	Existing resources	
4.8	Reduce the number of evictions from RSLs following receipt of a Section 11 notice. Liaise with RSLs to develop joint working protocols based on the good practice identified through the North HUB. Develop a recording and monitoring framework to measure the effectiveness of the work	Midlothian Council, RSLs	2024/25	Monitoring framework to be developed.	Reducing percentage of section 11 notices that result in a homeless presentation.	Existing resources	Not progressed in 2023/24 due to staffing resources and pressures on HML service
4.9	Develop an improved response to Section 11 Notices received from private landlords and mortgage lenders. Develop a recording and monitoring framework to measure the effectiveness of the work	Midlothian Council	2024/25	Monitoring framework to be developed	Reducing percentage of section 11 notices that result in a homeless presentation.	Existing resources	Not progressed in 2023/24 due to staffing resources and pressures on HML service

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
4.10	Develop processes to improve the response to those at risk of being evicted from Council tenancies in Midlothian	Midlothian Council H+CP Children and Families	Ongoing	2 Households discussed at the forum have been evicted for arrears during 2023/24	Reducing number of evictions that result in a homeless presentation.	Existing resources	Improved monitoring of outcomes to be implemented during 2024/25.
4.11	Develop pathways to prevent homelessness for groups who are predictably at highest risk of becoming homeless including, ensuring policies reflect the needs of vulnerable groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and children experiencing domestic abuse. • Young people • Individuals up to the age of 26 who were previously looked after by the local authority • Gypsy/travellers • Individuals with a history of offending • Individuals discharged from hospital or other institutions 	Midlothian Council	2024/25	Equally Safe Housing and Homeless Policy in place.	-	1 FTE Grade 6 officer. See page 22	
4.12	Develop partnership working with internal teams and third sector support providers to deliver more effective responses across all services.	Midlothian Council, RSLs, H+SC Partnership, Third Sector	Ongoing	-	-	Existing resources	Working practices will be kept under continued review to ensure the needs of service users are met.
4.13	Monitor the effectiveness of prevention activities as set out in Single Midlothian Plan.	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	30%	55%	Existing resources	

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
4.14	<p>Review Housing Advice availability in the Midlothian Council area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and develop bite sized housing options leaflets Review housing options content on Midlothian Council website Ensure housing options advice is accessible in a variety of settings i.e. libraries, GP surgeries, Local Job Centre Plus 	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	-	-	Existing resources	
4.15	Ensure staff from a variety of partner agencies have a basic understanding of housing options advice and availability of other services in Midlothian through the delivery of awareness sessions.	Midlothian Council, H+SC Partnership	Ongoing	Four information sessions have been provided to a variety of third sector organisations.	Number of Housing/Homeless Sessions delivered per year: 4	Existing resources	H&SCP Sessions no longer take place.
4.16	Develop a Midlothian Homeless Monitor Framework to measure impact of RRTP work, pressures on homelessness/housing and to identify opportunities for prevention	Midlothian Council	2024/25	-	Monitoring framework is in place	Existing resources	
4.17	Introduce a revised framework to monitor quality/consistency of decision making and housing options work undertaken to prevent homelessness	Midlothian Council	2024/25	-	Monitoring framework is in place	Existing resources	
4.18	Review Mutual Exchange process to improve customer journey, reduce staff time	Midlothian	2024/25	-	-	Existing resources	

	What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2023/24	Target indicator 2024/25	Resource requirement	Comments
	processing applications and reduce number of unsuitable applications received.						

5. Resource plan

Table 9 provides an estimate of the resources required to deliver the RRTP in 2024/25. Midlothian Council is confident it will deliver the projects within these costs. However additional resource will be required to deliver projects beyond 2024/25. For this reason, Midlothian Council's RRTP will be subject to continual review and therefore possible amendment.

Table 9: Projected resources required by activity.

Activity	Resources required 2023/24
RRTP – Coordinator 0.5 FTE	£23,944
Housing First co-ordinator 0.25 FTE	£13,040
Crisis Intervention Fund	£30,000
Private Rented Deposit Scheme	£32,000
1 FTE grade 6 officer	£37,158
Housing Options Training Toolkit	£1,244
Youth Prevention and Housing Support Service	£184,660
Total	£322,047

6. Monitoring, Equalities and Consultation

Midlothian Council provides opportunities for consultation and engagement with tenants and other service users. If you have any comments or queries on the content of this document, please contact the Housing Planning & Performance Section at Midlothian Council for more information.

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Midlothian Council is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity and combating discrimination through a series of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory policies. The Council has embedded equalities principles into strategic planning as well as service delivery. Housing policies and services are regularly monitored, reviewed and reported on to ensure that they comply with equalities requirements.

Midlothian Council carried out an Integrated Impact Assessment when publishing its original Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan to ensure that the needs of all equality strands were considered. This has been reviewed in June 2023. Additional Integrated Impact Assessments have been completed for individual activities. These assessments found no evidence that any direct discrimination will arise from any of the activities. Where relevant Midlothian Council has continued to consult with tenants and service users when developing activities related to this plan.