

Midlothian 

**Rapid Rehousing  
Transition Plan  
2023/24**



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## 1. Introduction

Following the publication of the Scottish Government’s Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan all local authorities were required to publish a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) by December 2018. As part of these plans Local Authorities were asked to demonstrate the following:

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

Midlothian Council’s original Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan was given approval by a meeting of the full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018. This set out a vision that by 2024:

*“An increased number of households will obtain permanent accommodation, no homeless household will be accommodated 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.”*

The following key actions were identified to support this vision.

- Increasing the supply of affordable housing in Midlothian.
- Revise Midlothian Council’s Housing Allocations Policy to address the backlog of homeless households already in temporary accommodation, and reduce the time taken to house homeless households in the future.
- Seek alternative models of temporary accommodation, and reduce the need for Bed and Breakfast type accommodation
- Ensure homeless households are supported to access the widest range of housing options including the private rented sector.
- Develop a ‘housing first, approach to house homeless households with complex needs.

Midlothian Council has updated its RRTP on an annual basis, with the most recent version being approved in August 2022. Those revised plans give an update on the activities undertaken during the year and which activities are to be prioritised in future years.

Midlothian Council has received support from the Scottish Government’s Ending Homelessness Together Fund to help deliver these activities. Table 1, gives details of the confirmed funding allocated to Midlothian. It will not be possible to fully transform the way services are delivered without securing additional resources.

<b>Table 1 Ending Homelessness Together (EHT) Funding received by Midlothian Council</b>	
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£796,941</b>

Midlothian Council made decisions on which projects could be delivered within the funding available, prioritising those it believes will have the most significant impact on reshaping homelessness in Midlothian. Details of work undertaken and progress made during 2022/23 is provided in Section 3.

This updated Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan will provide an update on progress made in 2022/23 and show how Midlothian Council will continue the work undertaken to deliver these projects during 2023/24. Midlothian Council believes these projects are crucial, to further reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation, improving the quality of temporary accommodation and continue to deliver Housing First. The plan also explains how Midlothian will intend to develop initiatives which seek to prevent homelessness from occurring. These priorities are set out in Section 4.

A copy of the 2022/23 RRTP Monitoring and Spend Report, to be submitted to the Scottish Government is included as Appendix 1.

## 2. Homelessness in Midlothian

This section will provide an update on homeless trends in Midlothian during 2022/23, and reflect on the impact of the cost of living crisis and The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order (UAO). All data presented in this section is sourced from Midlothian Council's HL1, HL2 and HL3 returns to the Scottish Government. During 2022/23 the number of households seeking homeless assistance increased by 33.3% compared to the previous year. This is the highest number of applications in Midlothian since 2014/15. Table 2 shows a significant shift in the proportion of applications from households with dependent children, rising from 34% of applications in 2021/23 to 46% in 2022/23.

<b>Table 2: Number of homeless applications per year</b>								
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total homeless applications	526	509	566	495	481	490	432	576
% of households with dependent children	44%	46%	41%	39%	41%	35%	34%	46%
% of households with no children	56%	54%	59%	61%	59%	65%	66%	54%

Although the increase in homeless applications has been seen across all age bands, Table 3 shows that this was particularly significant for those aged 26-59 in the last year.

<b>Table 3: Number of applications by age (percentage of all applications)</b>								
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
16-17	29 (6%)	25 (5%)	34 (6%)	29 (7%)	20 (4%)	14 (3%)	22 (5%)	28 (5%)
18-25	137 (26%)	120 (24%)	153 (27%)	130 (26%)	112 (23%)	155 (32%)	119 (28%)	140 (24%)
26-59	339 (64%)	344 (67%)	359 (63%)	311 (62%)	320 (67%)	299 (61%)	269 (62%)	373 (65%)
60+	21 (4%)	20 (4%)	20 (4%)	25 (5%)	29 (6%)	22 (4%)	22 (5%)	35 (6%)

While the number of people seeking assistance increased across all household demographics, it has been particularly prevalent in the number of applications from Males who are single parents. The number of applications from this group increased by 143% in comparison to the previous year (44 applications in 2021/22, 107 applications in 2022/23), and accounts for 44% of the additional applications received during 2022/23. The majority of applications within this group are from people who have overnight access to children, rather than children who reside with them on a permanent basis. Meeting the temporary accommodation requirements of this group has been the biggest challenge experienced by homeless services in Midlothian during 2022/23. Midlothian Council has successfully avoided any breach of the UAO during 2022/23. However, this has resulted in a significant number of properties having to be repurposed as self-contained temporary accommodation.

It is important to recognise that woman 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 abuse or other violence in the household increased from 59 in 2012/22 to 82 in 2022/23. 55 of those applications were from female households, 52 of which had dependent children in the household.

Table 4 gives a breakdown of the reason given when requesting homeless assistance from Midlothian Council. People leaving accommodation following a breakdown with a partner or parents, or being asked to leave by the person they were staying with remained the main causes of homelessness in Midlothian during 2022/23. The increase in applicants citing one of those reasons as the cause of homelessness has been particularly significant in this period. The number of presentations from people as a result of action being taken by their landlord remained relatively unchanged during 2022/23. This may be as a result of The Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022, which placed some limitations on evictions. Those measures remain in place until at least 30 September 2023. The number of people seeking homeless assistance after giving up secure accommodation increased in comparison to the previous two years, and may be reflective of a small number of people unable to sustain their accommodation from an affordability perspective.

<b>Table 4: Technical reason for homeless application</b>								
	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23
Asked to leave	157	138	189	133	101	151	130	172
Dispute within household / relationship breakdown: non-violent	84	103	86	99	138	150	127	194
Dispute within household: violent or abusive	105	104	117	73	78	69	53	67
Other reason for loss of accommodation	25	25	46	20	43	43	57	46
Overcrowding	12	14	10	24	26	22	14	21
Discharge from prison / hospital / care / other institution	17	11	15	19	16	11	9	13
Other action by landlord resulting in the termination of the tenancy	55	57	38	66	38	8	17	19
Fleeing non-domestic violence	3	1	1	1	9	8	6	15
Emergency (fire, flood, storm, closing order from Environmental Health etc.)	4	2	1	1	1	5	0	2
Other reason for leaving accommodation / household	39	23	26	40	3	6	3	1
Harassment	4	2	3	1	1	5	7	4
Termination of tenancy / mortgage due to rent arrears / default on payments	12	16	21	10	13	4	4	5
Forced division and sale of	9	7	5	2	4	4	3	3

matrimonial home								
Applicant terminated secure accommodation	2	3	6	5	9	3	1	10
Loss of service / tied accommodation	2	4	3	1	2	0	1	4

Since 2017/18 the number of ongoing homeless cases closed each year has exceeded the number of presentations made to Midlothian Council. Resulting in a significant reduction in the overall number of homeless households who are waiting to be rehoused in Midlothian, this is shown in Table 5. Midlothian Council's 2019/20 RRTP including a target to reduce the number open homeless cases to 860 by 2023/24. This target has been revised in subsequent action plans, most recently in the 2022/23 action plan, which included a target of 500 open homeless cases by the end of 2023/24. The table also shows the proportion of people who secure some form of permanent accommodation (Scottish Secure or Private Residential Tenancy) has continued to increase from 42% of all closed cases in 2015/16 to 67% in 2022/23. This has largely been achieved by the revisions made to Midlothian 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 has reduced from 55 in 2020/21 to 15 in 2022/23, this is reflective of a reduction in the number of properties available in the area with rents that are within Local Housing Allowance rates.

<b>Table 5: Number of closed and ongoing homeless cases in Midlothian</b>								
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of cases closed	504	447	571	678	537	531	615	594
Number of open cases on 31 <sup>st</sup> March	1025	1087	1082	899	843	802	630	587
% closed to LA or RSL tenancy	41%	46%	42%	46%	51%	54%	60%	67%
% closed to Private Rented Accommodation	1%	1%	1%	8%	7%	10%	5%	2.5%

As Midlothian Council moves on to the next phase of Rapid Rehousing it will focus on activities that aim to prevent homelessness to further reduce the number of homeless applications made and remains committed to reducing the number of open homeless cases. However, should the number of homeless applications continue to increase meeting the target of 500 open homeless cases by the end of 2023/24 will pose a significant challenge.

Table 6 shows that the average time taken to close a homeless case in Midlothian reduced during 2021/22, this demonstrates the positive impact of the revised allocations policy in previous years, reducing the number of long term legacy cases. The average length of stay in temporary accommodation (Table 7) also reduced during this period.

<b>Table 6: Average case duration (weeks)</b>								
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Average case duration	91.7	108.1	109.4	106.7	109.2	118.1	97.9	78.4

<b>Table 7: Length of stay (weeks) in temporary accommodation</b>								
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total (all)	-	95.1	36.1	60.6	72.5	87.3	76.2	62

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**

#### **3.1. Delivering a model Housing First to house homeless households with complex needs.**

Midlothian Council launched Housing First in June 2020. During the first three years of the project 57 people (43 Male and 14 Female) have been provided with a permanent tenancy with wrap around support to promote tenancy sustainment, with a view to preventing future instances of homelessness and addressing wider non-housing support needs.

Midlothian Council continues to ensure a partnership approach is taken to the delivery of Housing First, this is reflected in the primary source of referrals into the project shown in Table 8. During 2022/23 work has continued to expand on those partnerships to include additional third sector organisations. Including establishing links with Social Bite's Jobs First scheme, to improve options for people seeking access to employment and training opportunities.

<b>Table 8: Number of housing first referrals accepted since July 2020 by agency/service area</b>	
Substance Use Services	17
Justice Services	14
Homeless Services	21
Mental Health Services	2
Through-care/After-care	3

While a small number of tenancies have ended for other reasons, there have been no evictions from a Housing First tenancy in Midlothian, and no current action being taken to end a Housing First tenancy in this way.

In keeping with the key principles of Housing First a proactive approach to tenancy sustainment has been taken, including management transfers where risks to the person have been identified in the original property, supporting people to return to directly to their tenancy following a short period in prison with no rent arrears. People previously accepted for Housing First who have returned to the Midlothian area have been accepted back into the project and provided with a permanent tenancy.

### **3.2. Improving temporary accommodation and reducing the time spent in temporary accommodation**

As documented in previous RRTP's Midlothian Council ended the use of Bed and Breakfast type accommodation during 2020/21. To help achieve this two projects were set up providing emergency accommodation to homeless people with children and or a pregnant person in their household. The first of these projects was based in the Mayfield area, with the second in Gorebridge. During 2022/23 this second project has been relocated to the Loanhead area. This allows Midlothian Council to provide this type of accommodation in a wider range of geographical locations, helping people to maintain connections and supportive relationships close to their local community, or outwith an area where they may be experiencing domestic abuse.

The re-development of Jarnac Court in the centre of Dalkeith into supported accommodation has been completed, with the first residents occupying the property during September 2022. The bespoke accommodation provides good quality temporary accommodation for up to 22 households, including some rooms with ensuite facilities. Residents are able to access support 24 hours a day, ensuring their support needs can be identified at the earliest opportunity. Midlothian Council was able to end the use of two older supported accommodation properties around the same time as Jarnac Court opening.

As shown in Table 7 the average total time spent in temporary accommodation reduced to 62 weeks in 2022/23. This been achieved through a variety of initiatives including implementing a revised Housing Allocation Policy in 2022/23 where 61.2% of properties were allocated to homeless households. Midlothian Council has also sought to reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation by offering households the opportunity to have their temporary accommodation converting into a permanent tenancy. This reduces the number of moves households are required to make allowing them to remain in their local community and maintain existing supportive networks. Since 2019, 229 households have had their property converted in this way, including 129 in 2022/23. All households who have been in their current temporary accommodation for six months or more have either been offered and declined the opportunity to have their accommodation converted in this way, or are in accommodation that is not suitable for this to be considered.

While these initiatives have proven to be successful it is important to note that demand for temporary accommodation remains very high. This is reflected in the number of households in temporary accommodation reducing by 21% since April 2019, compared to an overall reduction in homeless cases of 45% in the same period.

### 3.3. Maximising Housing Options

Throughout the delivery of its RRTP Midlothian Council has looked to increase the housing options available to homeless households. This has been with a view to addressing the 'legacy' cases within the system and reducing the time taken for newer cases to be housed.

Increasing the proportion of council properties allocated to homeless households has played a significant role in a 45% reduction in the number of homeless cases open to Midlothian at the end of each year. This has been particularly important in addressed the backlog of cases, Table 9 shows the reduction in open cases which had been open for two years or more since 2020.

<b>Table 9: Number of open cases at end of quarter based on length of time since assessment</b>			
Length of time since assessment	Number of open cases on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	Number of open cases on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	% change
5+ years	67	9	-87%
4-5 years	54	16	-70%
3-4 years	66	38	-42%
2-3 years	135	79	-41%
Total 2+ years	322	142	-56%

As explained in Section 2 the average time taken to close a homeless case in Midlothian has now reduced to 78.4 weeks as homeless households secure housing more quickly.

As part of its RRTP Midlothian Council introduced measures to assist people to access other accommodation types, particularly in the private rented sector. This has been achieved by increasing the budget available to provide deposits, and establishing a homeless prevention fund, which has occasionally been used to provide the first month's rent in addition to the deposit. These proved particularly successful during the first years of the RRTP with 39 homeless cases securing a private let in 2019/20, 55 in 2020/21 and 31 in 2021/22. However, during 2022/23 this reduced to 15. This follows a reduction in affordable (monthly rent within LHA rates) properties available to rent in the Midlothian area, and an increase in demand/competition for private rented accommodation which became available.

### 3.4. Prevention of Homelessness

Other activities established in the delivery of Midlothian Council's RRTP seek to prevent homelessness from occurring. By assisting people to remain in their

current accommodation or where this is not possible helping them access alternative accommodation before homelessness occurs.

To prevent evictions from Midlothian Council tenancies due to rent arrears a multi-disciplinary Prevention Forum has been established. During the first year of the forum 60 households at risk of eviction due to rent arrears were discussed at a bi-monthly meeting. 31 of those households were successfully supported to resolve their rent arrears, a further 28 continue to be supported and monitored by the forum. Only 1 household referred to the forum was evicted from their tenancy.

Other RRTP activities provide assistance at an earlier stage, before homelessness occurs. This includes help to access the private rented sector through the provision of deposits when a general housing options enquiry is received. In 2022/23 14 households secured a Private Residential Tenancy at this stage compared to 6 in 2018/19.

During 2022/23 Midlothian Council continued to work in partnership with East and Midlothian Women's Aid through the delivery of a long standing nominations agreement. Through this agreement East and Midlothian Women's Aid are able to nominate women experiencing domestic abuse directly for a Scottish Secure Tenancy with Midlothian Council. Those nominated are provided with support to help address practical issues such as registering with GP, liaising with schools, setting up utility accounts, and settling into the community, in addition to emotional support. Four women secured permanent housing in this way during 2022/23 preventing the need for a homeless assessment and likely temporary accommodation.

In 2022 Midlothian Council entering into a similar agreement with Veterans Housing Scotland. Through this agreement Midlothian Council will provide and maintain two properties a year for nominated disabled veterans and their families. Additional support is be provided by Veterans Housing Scotland to ensure the wellbeing needs of tenants are met. The first two tenants have now moved into their tenancy, preventing potential homelessness in the future.

#### **4. Midlothian Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan**

##### **4.1. Key Objectives**

Midlothian Council's original RRTP set out 4 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 taken for the Council to complete its homeless duty will have halved from 105 weeks to 52 weeks.”***

A set of actions is associated with each outcome which will only be achieved if the Council and key stakeholders work in partnership. More detail on the proposed actions is provided in section 4.2. Some of the outcomes and activities will be revised over the coming years 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 the length of time taken to close a homeless case and lengthy periods spent in temporary accommodation.

As stated earlier 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 2023/4-2027/8](#).

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 good standard with access to effective support.**

This outcome was revising in 2021/22 after successfully ending the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation in 2020. It is important that measures continue to be in place to ensure there is no risk of using unsuitable accommodation in the future.

Good progress has been 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 by 2023/24 access to permanent accommodation for homeless households will need to continue to increase.

To ensure accommodation meets the needs of homeless households in Midlothian a review of council owned supported accommodation will need to 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 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 during 2023/24.

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

To deliver effective support to homeless people, Midlothian Council will need to

develop 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. This will include re-establishing housing education programmes which could not be delivering while Covid-19 restrictions were in place, and developing a bespoke youth prevention and support service.

#### **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. It is important for people to be offered 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 these services effectively it is important that staff delivering the Housing Options service are well trained and able to provide a person centred approach.

All households who are assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness will have a support needs assessment completed.

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 such as libraries and GP surgeries.

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.

## 4.2. Action Plan

Midlothian Council Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan: Action Plan (updated June 2023)

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

What Actions are planned		Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2022/23	Target indicator 2023/24	Resource requirement	Comments
1.1	Increase number of Scottish Secure Tenancies allocated to homeless households in Midlothian	Midlothian Council, RSLs	Ongoing	291 Homeless cases closed after securing a Scottish Secure Tenancy	350 let to homeless households by Council and RSLs	Existing resources	2021/22 – 373
1.2	Fully implement updated Housing Allocations Policy (approved in December 2019)	Midlothian Council, RSLs	Ongoing	61.2% lets to homeless households	60% lets to homeless households	Existing resources	
1.3	Review & Update Housing Allocations Policy	Midlothian Council	March 2024	-	Revised policy in place	Existing resources	
1.4	Review nominations agreement with RSLs to ensure homeless households are housed more quickly	Midlothian Council RSLs	Ongoing	-	-	Existing resources	Review completed in 2021/22. Will be kept under ongoing review. As required and when RSL new sites are developed.
1.6	Provide settled accommodation to homeless households in the private rented sector	Midlothian Council, Private landlords	Ongoing	15 homeless cases closed after securing a private rented tenancy	35 Homeless cases closed to private let.	Yes – see page 30/31	55 in 2022/21, 31 in 2021/22 This reflects the continued limited availability and increased demand for affordable

							private rented accommodation.
1.7	Target open market purchases for council housing to areas and property types in demand from homeless households	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	28 properties purchased in 2022/23	12 Purchases in 2022/23 based on SG funding.	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 Total - 140
1.8	Reduce the average number of weeks taken to close a homeless case	Midlothian Council RSLs	By 2023/24	78.4 weeks to close a homeless cases	Average 52 weeks to close a homeless cases	Existing resources	Reducing from 118.1 in 2020/21 & 97.9 in 2021/22. Midlothian Council expected this to remain relatively high during the first part of 2022/23. The time taken to close a case significantly reduced during Q4 of 2022/23 to an average of 58.2 weeks.
1.9	No homeless household will spend longer than 2 years in Temporary Accommodation	Midlothian Council, RSLs	By 2023/24	53 households in temporary accommodation longer than 2 years (on 31/3/2022)  All households who have been	All households in temporary accommodation for over 9 months will have been offered the opportunity to have the	Existing resources	2019/20 – 189 2020/21 – 52 2021/22 – 51

				in their current temporary accommodation for nine months or more have been offered this opportunity, where the property is suitable.	property converted to permanent housing, where the property type is suitable for this to happen.		
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Outcome 2: Where temporary accommodation is required it is of good standard with access to effective support.

What Actions are planned		Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2022/23	Target indicator 2023/24	Resource requirement	Comments
2.1	Ensure no breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	0	0	Existing resources	
2.2	Ensure adequate supply of emergency accommodation for households with children and pregnant persons by developing a 2 <sup>nd</sup> project to replicate the Mayfield Families Project.	Midlothian Council	Complete	N/A	Two projects established to be used for emergency accommodation for families.	Yes – see page 30/31	Second project operational in July 2021.  Second project re-located in March 2023.
2.3	Convert Jarnac Court – an existing office building owned by Midlothian Council – into 22 short term lets.	Midlothian Council	Complete	N/A	22 units	Existing Resources	Opened September 2022

2.4	Improve the turnover of emergency family accommodation by reviewing internal working practices and developing appropriate performance indicators	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	60 days	Families will spend no longer than 28 days in emergency accommodation	-	2020/21 – 36 2021/22 – 34.9  The increase during 2022/23 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.  All emergency family accommodation is considered suitable in terms of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order
2.5	Include a review of temporary accommodation rents as part of the next rent setting strategy.	Midlothian Council, tenant groups	Complete	Revised rents in place from April 2023	Revised rents in place	Existing resources	
2.6	Complete a review of the furnishings provided in temporary accommodation to ensure it is of a good	Midlothian Council	Complete	N/A	N/A	Existing resources	

	quality and meets the needs of tenants						
2.7	Following completion Jarnac Court complete a review of all supported accommodation to make sure it provides the services and support required	Midlothian Council, H+SC Partnership	2023/24	N/A	N/A	Existing resources	
2.8	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 by Autumn 2023
2.9	Ensure sufficient staffing resources are in place to manage temporary accommodation effectively.	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	0.5 FTE Officer recruited to manage shared temporary accommodation  0.5 FTE Officer recruited to manage emergency accommodation for families  Both in post until end of March 2024	Continual review as projects are developed	Yes – see page 30/31	This post is funded through 2023/24.

2.10	Improve tenant satisfaction with the quality of temporary accommodation	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	68%	85%	Existing resources	2022/23 – 72 surveys completed, 49 responded as very satisfied or fairly satisfied.
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Outcome 3: Homeless households with support needs are supported to access and sustain permanent accommodation

What Actions are planned		Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2022/23	Target indicator 2023/24	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: 0%	% of applicants who slept rough the night before applying: 0%	Existing resources	
3.2	Continue to deliver Housing First beyond first year pilot.	Midlothian Council, H+SC Partnership	Ongoing	20 People supported into accommodation during 2022/23	Up to 20 new housing first tenancies established a year*	Yes – see page 30/31	*Number of tenancies created will continually be reviewed to ensure tenancy sustainment is prioritised.
3.3	Review resources required to ensure sufficient capacity to provide effective support to people in Housing First tenancies	Midlothian Council, H+SC Partnership	Complete	Additional staffing resource funded for 2023/24	All Housing First tenants who require support are provided with this for as long as they require.	Yes – see page 30/31	<a href="https://cmis.uk.com">Midlothian Council &gt; Meetings (cmis.uk.com)</a>
3.4	Complete full review of Housing First in Midlothian with a view to creating a long term sustainable	Midlothian Council H+SC Partnership	2023/24	Initial review complete. Further review and funding to be considered	A long term model for Housing First is in place for 2023/24	Existing resources (Funding model to be confirmed)	

	model of delivery that can be mainstreamed.			with wider tenancy support service structure in 2023/24			
3.5	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	2023/24	N/A	N/A	Existing resources	
3.6	Develop an Equally Safe Housing And Homeless policy	Midlothian Council	Complete	-	-	-	Approved by Directorate Management team in November 2021
3.7	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	
3.8	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	Percentage of people identified as having no accommodation available on release are provided with accommodation on release from prison 100%	Existing resources	

				accommodation on release from prison 100%			
3.8	Support young homeless people to develop the skills required to successfully sustain a tenancy by delivering training to obtain SQA award.	Midlothian Council	2023/24	Complete the redesign of six core modules from the SQA accredited course	All young people will be offered the opportunity to complete modules appropriate to their needs.	Existing resources	
3.9	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	2023/24	-	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.
3.10	Develop and procure a dedicated Youth Prevention and Support Service	Midlothian Council	2023/24	-	Youth homeless support service in place	Yes – see page 30/31	

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

What Actions are planned	Lead Partners	Timescale	Current indicator 2021/22	Target indicator 2023/24	Resource requirement	Comments	
4.1	Reduce the number of open homeless cases	Midlothian Council, RSLs	By 2023/24	587*	500	Existing resources	*Exceeds original RRTP target of 860 by 2023/24

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. <a href="#">Council to set up cost of living taskforce   Midlothian Council</a>
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 30/31	Reflects the challenges accessing the private rented sector described in Section 3
4.4	Continue to provide housing education courses in Midlothian Secondary Schools	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	1 School talk completed during 2022/23	All secondary schools have housing education on curriculum	Existing resources	
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	2023/24	Continued roll out of training.	100% of Homelessness, Housing and Temporary accommodation officers have received trauma informed training.	Existing resource	Officers have been requested to sign up for Level 1&2 Trauma Informed training advertised in June 2023
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 30/31	All Housing and Homeless staff were provided with access to the tool kit at launch in January 2022.

							Regular reviews in place to ensure all new staff are given access to the training. Training has also been offered to a wider range of internal partners.
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 resource	
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	2023/24	Monitoring framework to be developed.	Reducing percentage of section 11 notices that result in a homeless presentation.	Existing resource	

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	2023/24	Monitoring framework to be developed	Reducing percentage of section 11 notices that result in a homeless presentation.	Existing resource	
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	60 Households discussed during 1 <sup>st</sup> year. 31 where issues have been resolved, 28 continue to be monitored, only 1 household evicted.	Reducing number of evictions that result in a homeless presentation.	Existing resource	
4.11	Develop a crisis intervention fund to prevent homelessness at an early stage. Removing risk of homelessness in specific cases and testing new solutions that do not fit into existing pathways.	Midlothian Council	Complete	Launched in July 2022.	Reducing number of Housing Advice cases that result in a homeless presentation	Yes – see page 30/31	
4.12	Develop pathways to prevent homelessness for groups who are predictably at highest risk of becoming homeless including, ensuring	Midlothian Council	2023/24	Equally Safe Housing And Homeless Policy in place.	-	Existing resource	Current work with East HUB partners and SPS to develop a housing options pilot in HMP Edinburgh.

	<p>polices reflect the needs of vulnerable groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women and children experiencing domestic abuse.</li> <li>• Young people</li> <li>• Individuals up to the age of 26 who were previously looked after by the local authority</li> <li>• Gypsy/travellers</li> <li>• Individuals with a history of offending</li> <li>• Individuals discharged from hospital or other institutions</li> </ul>						
4.13	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 resource	Working practices will be kept under continued review to ensure the needs of service users are met.
4.14	Monitor the effectiveness of prevention activities as set out in Single Midlothian Plan.	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	55.5%	55%	Existing resource	

4.15	Assess feasibility of delivering/procuring a mediation service	Midlothian Council	-	-	-	Existing resource – Staff time to complete	This will be included as part of a wider review of housing support services.
4.16	Review Housing Advice availability in the Midlothian Council area including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and develop bite sized housing options leaflets</li> <li>• Review housing options content on Midlothian Council website</li> <li>• Ensure housing options advice is accessible in a variety of settings i.e. libraries, GP surgeries, Local Job Centre Plus</li> </ul>	Midlothian Council	Ongoing	-	-	Existing Resource – Staff time to complete	
4.17	Ensure staff from a variety of partner agencies have a basic understanding of housing options advice and availability of other services in Midlothian	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 resource	

	through the delivery of awareness sessions.						
4.18	Ensure Housing Advice and Homelessness services are sufficiently resourced. Allowing effective advice and assistance to be delivered.	Midlothian Council, H+SC Partnership	Ongoing	1 additional homeless officer funded to March 2024	Officers have manageable caseloads that allow effective prevention work to be completed.	Yes – see page 30/31	

## 5. Resource Plan

Table 10 provides an estimate of the funding required to deliver Midlothian Council's RRTP in 2023/24. Midlothian council is confident it will be able to deliver the projects within these costs. However, additional resources will be required to deliver projects beyond 2023/24 For this reason, Midlothian Council's RRTP will be subject to continual review and, therefore possible amendment.

<b>Table 10: Projected resources required by activity.</b>	
Activity	Resources required 2023/24
RRTP – Coordinator 0.5 FTE	£21,955
Housing First Support	£72,125
Housing First co- ordinator 0.25 FTE	£10,977
Crisis Intervention Fund	£30,000
Private Rented Deposit Scheme	£32,000
1 FTE Homelessness Officer	£43,909
Temporary accommodation Officer- 0.5 FTE (Emergency Families accommodation)	£21,955
Temporary Accommodation Officer – 0.5 FTE ( Shared Accommodation)	£21,955
Emergency Accommodation (Families) – Support staff	£50,207
Housing Education (SQA) 0.33 FTE	£14,636
Housing Education (Schools Programme) 0.33 FTE	£14,636
Housing Options Training Toolkit	£1,244

Youth Prevention and Housing Support Service	£200,000
Total	£535,599

## 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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Customer and Housing Services  
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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.

## Appendix 1 – Midlothian Council RRTP 2022/23 Activities and Spend 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](mailto:RapidRehousingTransitionPlansMailbox@gov.scot).

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

Word guide: approximately 500 words per question.

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

Several actions from Midlothian Council's R RTP have contributed to the prevention of homelessness examples include:

- As part of its R RTP work Midlothian Council has sought opportunities to 'upstream' activities to provide assistance to people before homelessness occurs. Including giving assistance to access the private rented sector at an earlier stage. Midlothian Council has a long standing budget allocated to helping homeless households access the private rented sector by paying deposits to prospective landlords. Deposits up to the Local Housing Allowance for the property are paid directly to the Landlord. After ending the use of Bed and Breakfast type accommodation Midlothian Council was able to repurpose some of the financial savings to increase the budget available to help people access private rented accommodation. This increased budget enables this assistance to be provided to people when they first approach the Council for general housing options advice, before being homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Midlothian Council has looked for ways to maximise the housing options available to people seeking general housing advice, and those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. One initiative is the creation of the Homeless Prevention Fund, this small discretionary fund is available to front line officers to prevent homelessness from occurring. People have been able to access private rented accommodation with assistance from this fund to pay the first month's rent in advance. The fund has also been used to prevent homelessness from occurring by helping people to remain in their current accommodation, including help people maintain their accommodation during a short term custodial sentence ensuring preventing the need for homeless assistance on release.
- Several R RTP activities have provided opportunities to develop improved partnership working arrangements to deliver positive outcomes for households, enabling people to remain in their accommodation or prevent recurring homeless in the future. This includes establishing the Homeless Prevention Forum. The forum brings together professionals from a range of services included, Rent Arrears, Housing/Homeless Services, Children and Families, Joint Mental Health Teams, Justice Social Work and Substance Use Service. The forum meets every two months, to discuss Midlothian Council tenants who are greatest risk of eviction, or escalating action as a result of rent arrears. Other initiatives where a similar multi-disciplinary groups have been established include, SHORE standards, and Housing First. All of these groups identify person centred solutions to address all support needs of the household are met, wherever possible.

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

Prior to developing an RRTP Midlothian Council had a large number of ongoing homeless cases, with many that had been open for a long period of time. This led to significantly high average times taken to close a homeless case.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 there were 1082 ongoing homeless cases open to Midlothian Council, many of those were households who had been homeless for in excess of three years. During 2017/18 the average time taken to close a homeless case was approximately 106 weeks.

Some of the earliest RRTP activities adopted by Midlothian Council sought to address this back log of legacy cases and reduce the time taken to close a homeless case. Setting an initial target of having 860 open homeless cases by the end of 2023/24, and a reduced average time to close a homeless case of 52 weeks.

Some of the first activities completed through the RRTP sought to directly address this backlog within the homeless system. Primarily through revisions made to the Housing Allocation Policy. This increased the proportion of properties allocated to the homeless list to 60% from 45%. Other actions include the implementation of Housing First and improving access to the private rented sector.

Since introducing these actions there has been a continual reduction in the number of homeless cases open to Midlothian Council on the 31<sup>st</sup> March of each year. Most recently to 587 open cases on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. In the early stages of implementing the revised Housing Allocation Policy the average time taken to close a homeless cases increased. This was reflective of the large number of 'legacy' cases that were closed in the early stages of this work, many had been open for in excess of four years. However, Midlothian Council is now witnessing the positive impact of this work with the average time taken to close a homeless cases reduced to 58.2 weeks by Q4 2022/23.

While the number of open homeless cases has been reduced the proportion of those closed cases who secured an RSL or Local Authority tenancy has also increased from 42% in 2017/18 to 60% in 2022/23.

Improving access to private rented accommodation has also contributed to the reduction in open homeless cases. In the three years prior to RRTP only 1% of homeless cases were closed after securing a private let. This increased to 10% in 2020/21. While this reduced to 5% in 2022/23, it was more reflective of an increase in people allocated social housing in that year.

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

In addition to reducing the time taken to rehouse homeless households in Midlothian, the activities described above have also had a positive impact in the reduction of time spent in temporary accommodation.

Midlothian Council's RRTP includes an ambition to ensure no homeless household will spend more than two years in temporary accommodation. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 189 households had been in their current temporary accommodation for two or more years. As part of its RRTP Midlothian Council adopted a policy to offer people the opportunity to convert their temporary accommodation into a permanent Scottish Secure Tenancy, where the property is suitable. Since 2018, 229 households have had their temporary

accommodation converted in this way. Resulting in around 52 households being in their current temporary accommodation for two or more years since 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. All those currently in their temporary accommodation for nine months or more have either declined the opportunity to have their accommodation converted in this way, or are in accommodation which is not suitable for this to be offered.

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

During the first three years of delivering its RRTP Midlothian Council made significant progress in moving towards a model of rapid rehousing, with many successes and positive outcomes realised. This was during a time when additional challenges were faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of those successes are highlighted in the sections above. Additional progress in the transition to rapid rehousing has been achieved by ending the use of Bed and Breakfast type accommodation and developing better quality temporary accommodation, developing nomination agreements for people experiencing domestic abuse, and leaving the armed forces to enable access to permanent housing preventing the need for a homeless assessment. A model of Housing First has also been developed, as described later in this document.

Through 2022/23 many of those successes have continued. However, it is important to recognise some of the initial progress has slowed. In the first three quarters of 2022/23 the number of homeless applications received by Midlothian Council exceeded the number of cases closed for the first time since 2019. This results from an increase in the number of applications resulting as a result of a non-violent dispute in the household or being asked to leave by the household they were living with.

There are many potential barriers which could impact on further progressing the delivery of RRTP in Midlothian including:

- The number of affordable housing options available reducing. Only 15 homeless cases were closed after securing a private rented tenancy in 2022/23 compared to an average of 41 in the preceding three years. Many of the private rented properties which do become available have rents above LHA levels, and have an increased demand from prospective tenants.
- If the number of new homeless presentations continues to increase, the number of open cases at the end of each year may start to rise again. It is thought some of the increase in the last year may be from a perception that applying for homeless assistance is the quickest way to secure social housing. Midlothian Council is already receiving requests for housing advice from people stating their landlord intends to sell the property and will be seeking decree from the First Tier Tribunal once limitations on evictions come to an end. This may put further pressure on the homeless system.
- As stated previously the number of open homeless cases has fallen during the time of delivering Midlothian Council's RRTP. However, the number of households in temporary accommodation, while reducing, has not done so to the same extent. This is due to an increase in the proportion of homeless applicants requesting temporary accommodation (45% reduction in the number of open homeless cases, compared to 21% reduction in the number of households in temporary accommodation). As a result many of the positive activities undertaken in the delivery of the RRTP have not been realised to their full potential.

- The increased cost of delivering services, and pressures on existing Local Authority budgets has been well documented particularly over the last year. The cause of many of those difficulties were not something which could be predicted at the start delivering RRTP activities. As a consequence Midlothian Council will be required to make some challenging decisions in terms of the scope and size of projects which can be delivered and/or mainstreamed. Some of those decisions will be made more difficult following the end of RRTP funding.

### Details of funding recipient

<b>Local authority</b>	Midlothian Council		
<b>Reporting period</b>	<b>01/04/2022</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>31/03/2023</b>
<b>Reporting officer</b>	<b>Matthew McGlone</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Housing Options Development Officer</b>		
<b>Date completed</b>	<b>28 July 2023</b>		
<b>Total RRTP funding carried over from 2021-22</b>	<b>£324,993.00</b>		
<b>RRTP funding received for 2022-23</b>	<b>£121,000</b>		
<b>RRTP spend 2022-23</b>	<b>£146,761.83</b>		
<b>Total RRTP funding carried over to 2023-24</b>	<b>£229,231.17</b>		

### Housing First

<b>Housing First tenancies</b> Provide a short brief overview of your progress and any obstacles to progression of Housing First in your area.	Midlothian Council developed a Housing First project in the early stages of delivering its RRTP. During each of the first three years 20 Housing First tenancies were created. While there have been
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	<p>many successes realised as a result of delivering Housing First it is not entirely without its challenges. Midlothian Council has adopted a model of Housing First which finds suitable properties before inviting nominations from a multi-disciplinary core group. Towards the end of 2022/23 and early 2023/24 no suitable properties were identified to be used for Housing First which may result in a reduced number of tenancies created in 2023/24. However, this would be preferable to setting a person up in a property where there is an increased risk of them failing to sustain the tenancy.</p>			
<p><b>Housing First partners</b> Provide detail of all Housing First partners who are supporting the delivery of Housing First.</p>	<p><b>Midlothian Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Housing Services</b></li> <li>- <b>Homelessness &amp; Temporary Accommodation</b></li> <li>- <b>Justice Social Work</b></li> <li>- <b>Children &amp; Families</b></li> <li>- <b>Joint Mental Health Team</b></li> <li>- <b>Revenues</b></li> <li>- <b>Rents</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Midlothian Substance Use Service</b> <b>Women’s Aid East and Midlothian</b> <b>Change Grow Live</b> <b>Health in Mind</b> <b>Department of Work &amp; Pensions (local Job Centres)</b></p>			
<p><b>Allocation spent on Housing First 2022/23:</b></p>	<p>£</p>	<p>SG RRTP funding</p>	<p>Local authority funding</p>	<p>Other</p>
		<p>£56,349</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p><b>Impact of Housing First:</b></p>	<p>Since launching Housing First there have been many positive outcomes realised for people who</p>			

Any evidence of the impact of Housing First including anonymised case studies where appropriate

have secured a tenancy through the project. To date there have been no evictions from a Housing First tenancy in Midlothian, and no tenancies where escalated action is being taken as a result of rent arrears.

The benefits of Housing First are not just limited to housing, examples include:

- People being able to both access and sustain full time employment. Others have also been supported to access full-time further education.
- People with a long standing history of entering the justice system, including entering custody, have not committed any further offences.
- Two people who received short custodial sentences (for offences committed before securing their Housing First Tenancy) were successfully supported to maintain their tenancy while in custody. This allowed them to return to their tenancy directly on release without accruing rent arrears during this time.
- Some Housing First tenants have been able to address their wider support needs and demonstrate stability to an extent where they have been able to have access to their children, for some this has includes unsupervised overnight access.
- Having a secure tenancy has provided many people with a stable base to address wider issues relating to long-term substance use.. One person was accepted for Housing First

	<p>while in the later stages of residential rehab, allowing them to move directly into their tenancy, removing the need for temporary accommodation. Others have been supported to complete a detox programme at home in the safe environment, which would not have been possible in shared temporary accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support workers have adopted a pro-active approach to identifying issues which may result in people accruing rent arrears. People have been supported to engage with reviews of benefits, preventing gaps in entitlement/sanctions which may then stop or reduce payments of Housing Costs.</li> </ul>									
<p><b>Future spend planned on this activity in 2023/24:</b></p>	£	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="687 1021 927 1072">SG RRTP Funding</th> <th data-bbox="927 1021 1163 1072">Local Authority funding</th> <th data-bbox="1163 1021 1396 1072">Other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="687 1072 927 1200">£72,125</td> <td data-bbox="927 1072 1163 1200" style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td data-bbox="1163 1072 1396 1200" style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SG RRTP Funding	Local Authority funding	Other	£72,125	-	-		
SG RRTP Funding	Local Authority funding	Other								
£72,125	-	-								
<p><b>Future plans for Housing First :</b> 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>	<p>Midlothian Council has committed to delivering Housing First through to the end of March 2023. This includes the provision of an additional 0.5FTE support worker to ensure sufficient can be provided.</p> <p>During this time the number of people accepted into Housing First will be kept under continual review to ensure existing tenants continue to receive the support required with a focus on tenancy sustainment.</p> <p>Decisions relating to long term delivery of Housing First and levels of service capacity will be taken during 2023/24. Those decisions will form part of a wider review of tenancy support and supported accommodation contracts.</p>									

