



Argyll and Bute Council

Housing Annual Assurance Statement 2021

Legislative Compliance

We can confirm that Argyll and Bute Council achieves all the standards and outcomes for people who are homeless and others who use our services:-

- All relevant regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework
- All relevant standards and outcomes in the Scottish Housing Social Charter
- All relevant legislative duties

Argyll and Bute Council can confirm that there were no breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order in 2020/21.

Argyll and Bute Council can confirm that there were no health and safety breaches in 2020/21 in relation to homelessness resulting in intervention by the Health and Safety Executive.

Argyll and Bute Council can confirm that a statement is being prepared on Equalities and Human Rights in relation to homelessness in the local authority area.

In 2019 The Scottish Housing Regulator notified Argyll and Bute Council that they would be engaging with the Council over 2 areas of work based on the Scottish Government national statistics for 2017/18 and the Annual Returns of the Charter :-

- Argyll and Bute's assessment of homeless applications
- Outcomes for people who are homeless

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the Scottish Housing Regulator has not been able to engage with the Council about the 2020/21 position. The tables below provide an update on the areas of engagement previously notified by the Regulator in 2019.

Argyll and Bute's Assessment of Homeless Applications

No.	Area of Engagement	Progress Made
1.	The percentage of households assessed as not homeless nor threatened with homelessness is above the Scottish average	Argyll and Bute figures – 5% of cases at the end of 2020/21 compared to 5% of cases at the end of 2019/20. Scottish Average for 2020/21 – 3%
2.	The percentage of households assessed as intentionally homeless is the same as the Scottish average	Argyll and Bute figures – 1% of cases at the end of 2020/21 compared to 7% of cases at the end of 2019/20 Scottish Average for 2020/21 – 1%
3.	The percentage of households withdrawing their homeless application before decision is the same as the Scottish average	Argyll and Bute figures – 5% of cases at the end of 2020/21 compared to 3% of cases at the end of 2019/20 Scottish Average for 2020/21 – 5%

Outcomes for People who are Homeless

No.	Area of Engagement	Progress Made
1.	The percentage of people in Argyll and Bute assessed as unintentionally homeless which it provided with a Scottish Secure Tenancy is above the Scottish average	Argyll and Bute Figure for 2020/21 – 81% 2019/20 – 67% 2018/19 – 66% Scottish Figure for 2020/21 – 78% 81% of all unintentionally homeless cases secured settled accommodation in 2020/21 compared to 78% across Scotland
2.	There are a relatively high number of people waiting for more than one year for an outcome	Argyll and Bute Council continues to work with partners to implement a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) which will address this situation. The RRTP Annual Update was approved by Council and

		submitted to the Scottish Government in June 2021.
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The Impact of COVID 19 on the Homeless Service in Argyll and Bute

As reported in the Annual Assurance Statement 2020 the Council has continued to provide a service to households in need of accommodation during the COVID 19 pandemic. Regular contact continues to be maintained with existing households and housing support services continue to provide support to households to ensure that they are able to sustain their accommodation.

The number of temporary accommodation units have now returned to pre-Covid 19 levels. The temporary exceptions to the Unsuitable Accommodation Order are due to end on 30th September 2021. This has given the local authority time to be able to comply with the Unsuitable Accommodation Order.

As a Stock Transfer authority the Council continues to work effectively with the Registered Social Landlords to secure permanent housing for statutory homeless households.

I can confirm that the Council has sufficient assurance and scrutiny processes in place to support this statement.

Signed

Kirsty Flanagan

Executive Director

Signed

Councillor Robin Currie

Policy Lead for Economy and Rural Growth