



Argyll and Bute Council

Housing Annual Assurance Statement 2020

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 2019/20.

Argyll and Bute Council can confirm that there were no health and safety breaches in 2019/20 in relation to homelessness resulting in intervention by the Health and Safety Executive.

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 Covid-19 the Scottish Housing Regulator was not able to engage with the Council about the 2019/20 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	<p>Argyll and Bute figures – 5% of cases at the end of 2019/20 compared to 5% of cases in 2018/19 and 8% of cases in 2017/18</p> <p>Scottish Average for 2019/20 – 3%</p>
2.	The percentage of households assessed as intentionally homeless is above the Scottish average	<p>Argyll and Bute figures – 7% of cases at the end of 2019/20 compared to 6% of cases at the end of 2018/19 and 7% in 2017/18</p> <p>Scottish Average for 2019/20 – 3%</p>
3.	The percentage of households withdrawing their homeless application before decision is above the Scottish average	<p>Argyll and Bute figures – 3% of cases at the end of 2019/20 compared to 4% of cases at the end of 2018/19 and 5% of cases in 2017/18</p> <p>Scottish Average for 2019/20 – 4%</p>

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 below the Scottish average	<p>Argyll and Bute Figure for 2018/19 – 66%</p> <p>2019/20 – 67%</p> <p>Scottish Figure for 2019/20 – 72%</p> <p>83% of all unintentionally homeless cases secured settled accommodation in 2019/20 compared to 82% across Scotland</p>
2.	There are a relatively high number of people waiting	Argyll and Bute Council is working with partners to implement a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) which will address this situation. The RRTP Annual Update was

	for more than one year for an outcome	approved by Council and submitted to the Scottish Government in June 2020.
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The Impact of COVID 19 on the Homeless Service in Argyll and Bute

The Council has continued to provide a service to households in need of accommodation during the COVID 19 pandemic. Regular contact was maintained with existing households and housing support services continued to support households assessed as requiring specific support. The Council procured additional accommodation in anticipation of an increased demand across the local authority area. The extension of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order in May 2020 has presented challenges due to the fact that the additional accommodation procured was emergency accommodation as a direct response to the pandemic.

As a Stock Transfer authority the reliance on Registered Social Landlords to secure permanent housing for statutory homeless households has created a backlog due to many RSL's ceasing to allocate for a period of time during the pandemic.

An Action Plan has been agreed which will address the many challenges and pressures put on the service as a result of the pandemic.

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 Housing, Roads and Infrastructure Services