

## Dumfries and Galloway Council

### Why we are engaging with Dumfries and Galloway Council (Dumfries and Galloway)

We are engaging with Dumfries and Galloway about its **services for people who are homeless and sites for Gypsy/Travellers.**

To assess the risks to people who are homeless we have reviewed and compared data for all councils from the Scottish Government's 2017/18 national homelessness statistics, the Annual Returns on the Charter, and information from our previous engagement with Dumfries and Galloway. From this we identified areas where we require further information and assurance from Dumfries and Galloway:

- how people access the service: in Housing options cases the percentage of people Dumfries and Galloway recorded as presenting for homeless reasons for whom the council completed a homelessness application; and
- Dumfries and Galloway's assessment of homelessness applications:
  - the percentage it assessed as not homeless is above the Scottish average;
  - the percentage resolved before assessment is above the Scottish average; and
- outcomes for people who are homeless: the percentage of repeat homelessness assessments Dumfries and Galloway undertakes is above the Scottish average.

We have had a high level of engagement with the Dumfries and Galloway's homelessness service over a number of years. Dumfries and Galloway has worked well to refocus its service and has steadily improved its services and the outcomes it achieves for people who are homeless. These improvements include in the time it takes to discharge its duties to people who are homeless, a reduction in the number of people waiting longer than a year for settled accommodation, its approach to strategic and operational management generally and its positive work with RSL partners.

Dumfries and Galloway provides two sites for Gypsy/Travellers, neither of which comply with the Scottish Government's minimum standards for Gypsy/Traveller sites. The deadline for compliance was June 2018. Dumfries and Galloway expects its site at Glenluce to meet the standards in 2019/2020. It has not yet decided on how it will meet the standards at its site at Collin.

### What Dumfries and Galloway Council must do

Dumfries and Galloway must:

- provide us with the information we require in relation to its homelessness service; and
- provide us with an update to its action plan for achieving full compliance with the minimum standards for its Gypsy/Traveller sites by July 2019.

## What we will do:

We will:

- review the information we require from Dumfries and Galloway and carry out a data assurance check in quarter one;
- review our engagement with Dumfries and Galloway when it has finalised its Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan; and
- review Dumfries and Galloway's action plan for achieving full compliance with the minimum standards for its Gypsy/Traveller sites and monitor its delivery of the minimum standards for its Gypsy/Traveller sites.

## Regulatory returns

Dumfries and Galloway must provide us with the following annual regulatory returns:

- Annual Assurance Statement; and
- Annual Return on the Charter.

It should also notify us of any material changes to its Annual Assurance Statement, and any tenant and resident safety matter which has been reported to or is being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive or reports from regulatory or statutory authorities or insurance providers, relating to safety concerns.



**[Read more about Dumfries and Galloway Council >](#)**

### Our lead officer for Dumfries and Galloway Council is:

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