

Dundee City Council Annual Assurance Statement 2020/210

To comply with the Scottish Housing Regulator's Framework for the Regulation of Social Housing in Scotland, Dundee City Council confirms that the Council has met all of its legal obligations associated with housing and homelessness services, equality and human rights, and tenant/resident safety with regard to:

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

However, Dundee City Council did breach the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) Order (2014) during 2020/21 in relation to the length of stay in bed and breakfast accommodation as a result of the pressure on temporary accommodation during the pandemic.

This statement requires the Council to notify the Scottish Housing Regulator of any tenant and resident safety matters which have been reported to, or are being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive, or reports from regulatory or statutory authorities, or insurance providers, relating to safety concerns. There are no reports or investigations ongoing concerning Dundee City Council's Housing Service.

The Scottish Housing Regulator identified two areas in its Engagement Plan for Dundee 2019/20 where they required further information and assurance. This plan is the most recent Engagement Plan in place and remains applicable for 2020/21. The areas covered were in Homelessness and Gas Safety.

Neighbourhood Services Committee agreed Dundee City Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan in 2019 and annual updates have continued to be submitted to Scottish Government and Committee. The Council has made good progress in delivering the Housing First Model with the Pathfinder in Dundee and is now mainstreaming this service in partnership with Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership and 3rd sector partners.

The Council achieved 100% compliance for gas safety in 2019 /20 and this continued for 2020/21.

The Covid-19 lockdown happened at the end of the 2019/20 reporting period and the Council made plans for delivery of priority services whilst ensuring the safety of tenants and staff. This included, for example, reviewing procedures for gas safety, emergency repairs and homeless services. Subsequently we have developed and are implementing a recovery plan to ensure that services return to normal as far as is possible

Dundee City Council is committed to taking a human rights-based approach to its policies and Practices through good participation and empowerment, accountability, non-discrimination and meeting legal requirements. The Council has a robust framework for Equality Impact Assessment of its policies which was recently reviewed

We will put in place mechanisms to collect the relevant data and equality monitoring requirements as per Scottish Housing Regulator guidance.

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

Signed

Convener of Neighbourhood Services
Anne Rendall