Introduction

Healthcare Improvement Scotland welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Scottish Government’s Housing to 2040 strategy. Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s aim is better quality health and social care for everyone in Scotland. Our priorities are aligned with the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes\(^1\) which set out what health and social care partners are working to achieve through integration. We work in partnership with those delivering care including health and social care partnerships (HSCPs), the third and independent care sector, housing organisations and NHS boards to make improvements in health and social care services which are cost effective and sustainable.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s ihub provides support to health and social care organisations to redesign and continuously improve services to enable better health and wellbeing outcomes for people in Scotland. In 2017-18 we set up our new Place, Home and Housing Portfolio, which focuses on housing’s role in enabling independence and supporting improvements in health and wellbeing. The Place, Home and Housing portfolio supports improvements to strategic planning and housing services to provide people with a home environment that supports greater independence and improved health and well-being.

Our work currently includes:

- Promoting the use of quality improvement methodologies to systematically identify ways to improve the design and delivery of services across housing, health and social care.
- Creating opportunities for HSCPs and housing organisations to share and learn from each other across Scotland and internationally.
- Supporting HSCPs and housing organisations to use data and evidence to prototype, implement and evaluate improvements to housing and health and social care services.
- Co-designing new pathways of care for people who have multiple and complex needs to improve health outcomes and reduce demand on acute service.

We believe that transforming our health and social care and housing system so it is fit for the 21st century will require a focus on both system redesign and continuous improvement.

Question 1

Earlier this year we published our draft vision and principles. A short and longer version are available here: [www.gov.scot/housing2040](http://www.gov.scot/housing2040). Do you have any comments on the draft vision and principles?

Please be specific and identify what you would change and why.

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\(^1\) The National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes
Answer:

- The Housing to 2040 strategy could be strengthened by a specific vision statement focusing on housing, health and social care given the strong links between health and wellbeing and good housing.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland is of the view that greater weight could be given to the connection between housing and health and social care in the draft vision statement and principles. In our experience, the relationship between Integration Authorities and the housing sector across Scotland is variable and could benefit from some additional clarity. The drafting of this strategy provides an opportunity to reflect on housing’s role within health and social care integration, and set out a vision for housing and health and social care to take Scotland to 2040. There is significant scope to take a whole systems approach to meeting housing and health and social care need by forging strong connections between housing and health and social care. This would lay the groundwork for whole system planning to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

To provide this additional guidance for Integration Authorities and housing organisations, one option is to draw up a specific vision statement which clearly articulates the housing contribution to health and social care. A vision statement such as this should reference the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes, in particular Outcome 2.

### National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes, Outcome 2: “People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community”

It should set out the housing sector’s contribution to achieving the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and how housing should feature in Integration Authorities’ strategic plans. There is also value in articulating the importance of sharing data and evidence across housing, health and social care. This should support efforts to improve understanding of need across the whole system and inform shared decision making, for example what kind of housing should be built where. Other key health and social care policies should also feature, including the Health and Social Care Standards and National Dementia Strategy.

- There is scope for a greater emphasis on the connections between housing, health and social care across the vision and principles as a whole.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland is of the view that there is scope to outline more examples of the positive impact that connecting housing and health and social care has on health and wellbeing outcomes.

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2 [The National Health and Social Care Standards](#)
3 [Scottish Government, National Dementia Strategy 2017-2020](#)
Principle 10

“New housing, and the required community resources, should only be provided where they help to create safer, stronger, attractive, sustainable and integrated communities.”

The emphasis on supporting new housing which facilitates access to healthcare is positive. The statement could be improved by highlighting the potential to make closer links between strategic plans within health and social care and local housing strategy. This has the potential to ensure that health and social care needs and housing needs are met in tandem wherever possible. There is also scope to specifically call out the essential role of social care and the third sector services in enabling people to live at home or in a homely environment within this principle.

Principle 13

“Government should ensure that there are affordable housing options across Scotland for households at all income levels.”

Including the Scottish Government’s aim to reduce homelessness within this principle is extremely welcome. To ensure that efforts to tackle homelessness are as effective as possible there should be mention of the health and social care contribution to addressing homelessness in this strategy. This would acknowledge that, in many cases, addressing homelessness will require a health and social care need to be met in a coordinated way, as well as the provision of a home. This should take into account the findings of recent studies into health and homelessness and multiple disadvantage.

Principle 14

“Housing and the housing market should be highly flexible to enable people to meet their changing needs.”

The mention of innovation and new models of service are very welcome within the context of a vision for a flexible housing system. The principle could be strengthened by mentioning new models of community care which involve joint working between housing and health and social care. These have the potential to improve people’s lives and ensure that health and social care needs are met in a community setting.

To further improve this principle the contribution that health and social care make towards enabling people to live at home should be called out. This would recognise that in many cases support may be required as well as the right home, in the right place. Such an approach would be consistent with the

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4 Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s ihub, ‘The Housing Contribution to Health and Social Care: Key Challenges’, 2019
5 Scottish Government, Health and Homelessness in Scotland: research, 2018 and Heriot-Watt University, Hard Edges Scotland, 2019
6 Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s ihub, ‘Creating the evidence base for a new model of community nursing care’, 2019
key themes drawn out in the Scottish Government’s Age, Home and Community Strategy.\textsuperscript{7} There is also read across to the Health and Social Care Standards and ensuring that these standards are met, or used as a best practice tool where services do not fall within the scope of regulation.\textsuperscript{8}

Finally, mention could be made of the need to take a whole systems approach to the analysis of data on housing need and data on health and social care needs. Building a whole system overview of need in this way has the potential to improve strategic planning, develop new pathways of care and ensure that there is sufficient housing and the right support in place to meet people’s needs.\textsuperscript{9}

**Question 2**

Do you have any comments on the scenarios and resilience of the route map or constraints?

These are set out in sections 3 and 4 of Annex C.

**Answer:**

- There is potential for the drivers of change to be more specific

Mention could be made of the projected increase in the number of people living with dementia and increase in the number of people over 75 as well as the role that housing organisations can play in supporting people with specific conditions. For example, people living with dementia and people living with frailty will likely need help and support through housing and health and social care to remain in their own homes.

- Reference could be made to the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

Another key driver of change relevant to housing strategy are the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes. In particular Outcome 2 which places an emphasis on meeting people’s health and social care needs at home or in a homely environment.\textsuperscript{10} This is a key outcome within health and social care which requires a strong housing contribution.

- There is scope for greater clarity in relation to aids and adaptations

In relation to aids and adaptations greater clarity would be beneficial on where responsibility lies for these budgets across Scotland. This could be complemented by an improved understanding of what constitutes an effective adaptation which references the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and an assessment of the role of aids and adaptations in prevention.

**Question 3**

Do you have any proposals that would increase the affordability of housing in the future?

**Answer:**

- Greater collaboration between health and social care partnerships, local authority housing strategy officers and housing organisations

\textsuperscript{7} Scottish Government, *Age, Home and Community: Next Phase*, 2018

\textsuperscript{8} Scottish Government, *Health and Social Care Standards: my support, my life*, 2017

\textsuperscript{9} A report by Gillian Young for the Joint Improvement Team, ‘Making the Connection’, 2015,

\textsuperscript{10} Outcome 2, *The National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes*
This has the potential to increase the number of affordable homes delivered meet the needs of specific groups. There are various good examples of collaboration between housing and health and social care\textsuperscript{11} and more could be done to support similar initiatives across Scotland.

**Question 4**

**Do you have any proposals that would increase the accessibility and/or functionality of existing and new housing (for example, for older and disabled people)?**

**Answer:**

- Improving understanding of the impact of aids and adaptations and small repairs services on health and wellbeing

Tenure neutral adaptation and small repairs services play a key role in enabling people to remain in their own homes. More could be done to ensure that everyone who requires an aid or adaptation is able to access services like Care and Repair.\textsuperscript{12} Further, understanding could be improved in relation to the impact that aids and adaptations have on health and wellbeing outcomes, as well as prevention, within health and social care.

- Improving coordination between housing, health and social care in relation to sharing evidence on need

There is potential to improve coordination between health and social care partnerships, social landlords and local authorities in relation to how housing and health and social care needs are met. This could include joined up work in relation to how new housing developments are planned and delivered, ensuring that they meet identified housing and health and social care needs. For example, affordable housing developments delivered in partnership between social landlords and health and social care partnerships have been shown to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities\textsuperscript{13} and older adults in need of care.\textsuperscript{14}

**Question 5**

**Do you have any proposals that would help us respond to the global climate emergency by increasing the energy efficiency and warmth and lowering the carbon emissions of existing and new housing?**

**Answer:**

- Improving understanding of the impact that fuel poverty and energy efficiency initiatives have on health and wellbeing

There is scope for health and social care professionals to play a greater role in identifying and supporting vulnerable people who are at risk of being in fuel poverty. This should involve collaboration across health and social care, housing and the third sector. Ensuring that those who need help and support with keeping their homes warm has the potential to both enable people to live well at home and reduce carbon emissions.

\textsuperscript{11} Video: [Eildon Housing Association development in the Scottish Borders](http://careandrepairscotland.co.uk/)

\textsuperscript{12} [http://careandrepairscotland.co.uk/](http://careandrepairscotland.co.uk/)

\textsuperscript{13} [Eildon Housing Association development in the Scottish Borders](http://careandrepairscotland.co.uk/)

\textsuperscript{14} Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s ihub, ‘Creating the evidence base for a new model of community nursing care’, 2019
Question 6

Do you have any proposals that would improve the quality, standards and state of repair of existing and new housing?

Answer:

- Refreshing guidance and standards which relate to accessibility

Given the need to ensure that existing and new housing meets the needs of everyone there is merit in:

- replacing the Housing for Varying Needs Design Procedures\(^{15}\)
- refreshing guidance on the provision of aids and adaptations,\(^{16}\) and
- reviewing building standards.

This should be complemented by improvements in sharing evidence on housing and health and social care need as mentioned in our answer to Question 4.

- Promoting the Housing and Dementia Framework

There is also potential to improve housing outcomes for people living with dementia through supporting the uptake of the housing and dementia practice framework\(^ {17}\) and the adoption of dementia friendly design principles in the delivery of new housing.\(^ {18}\)

Question 7

Do you have any proposals that would improve the space around our homes and promote connected places and vibrant communities?

Answer:

- Recognising and supporting housing organisations in their role as community anchors

Over time housing organisations have broadened the range of services and support they offer to local communities. This is often referred to as acting as a community anchor and the support and services on offer can include: advice about financial inclusion, education, fuel poverty and health and wellbeing. There is potential to improve the connections between housing and health and social care in relation to this role, for example by supporting initiatives led by housing organisations to tackle social isolation and loneliness.\(^ {19}\)

Question 8

Any other comments?

N/A

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\(^{15}\) Scottish Government, CSGN 2004/12 Housing for Varying Needs Design Procedures


\(^{17}\) Healthcare Improvement Scotland (ihub), CIH Scotland and Alzheimer Scotland, Housing and Dementia Practice Framework, 2019

\(^{18}\) Dementia Services Development Centre

\(^{19}\) Video: ['Be Well Connected' tackling social isolation and loneliness in Torryburn] Video: ['Be Well Connected' tackling social isolation in Linwood]