



Glasgow and West of Scotland
Forum of Housing Associations

**GWSF Draft Response
Glasgow City Integration - Joint Board Strategic Plan**

The Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations (GWSF) is the leading membership and campaigning body for local community-controlled housing associations and co-operatives (CCHAs) in the west of Scotland. The Forum represents 70 members who together own around 80,000 homes. As well as providing decent, affordable housing for nearly 80,000 households in west central Scotland CCHAs also deliver factoring services to around 20,000 owners in mixed tenure housing blocks. We have 44 members in Glasgow. For almost forty years CCHAs have been at the vanguard of strategies which have helped to improve the environmental, social and economic well-being of their communities.

The Forum's key objectives are: to promote the values and achievements of the community-controlled housing movement; and to make the case for housing and regeneration policies that support our members' work in their communities.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019. Our response has been developed by members of the Forum and reflects their experiences of working alongside local people in their communities for the past four decades.

We provide detailed comments on the key sections of the plan later on in our response however we would like to begin with some initial overall comments.

- We believe that health and social care integration in Glasgow offers unique opportunities to put in place innovative and progressive approaches to ensure that home and neighbourhood take their central place in improving health and wellbeing.
- We want the housing sector to play a central role in the integration process and in these new approaches. Therefore we are delighted that under the Accommodation Based Strategy strand of Glasgow's Integrated Care Fund this has been recognized with funding for: Community Connectors; Housing Options for Older People; and Care and Repair.
- We understand that within the parameters of the Strategic Plan there is not the scope to go into detail about individual projects which have been funded through all the strands of the ICF. Nonetheless, inclusion of a few brief examples along with their overall aims would strengthen the Strategic Plan by highlighting the innovative and inclusive projects that Glasgow is testing out to try and truly shift the balance of care.
- Whilst we recognize the immense challenges of integrating two huge organisations and we commend the overall ambitions of the Strategic Plan we do feel that the opportunity to capture the potential contribution of the housing sector in helping to achieve these

ambitions has been missed. Most crucially, in relation to Outcome Two¹ of the National Health and Well-being Outcomes.

- We acknowledge that a detailed Housing Contribution Statement will follow and we are pleased to have input into shaping this, alongside other representatives of the housing sector, as members of the Housing, Health and Social Care Group. Nonetheless, we feel that, at this stage, and within the body of the Strategic Plan, it is important that the role of the housing sector is acknowledged. Furthermore, we think it is crucial that the Housing Contribution Statement is referenced in the body of the strategic plan.

The Vision

- Although the overall vision is to be commended we think that it could be improved by:
 - Including a bullet point which links the vision to the priorities.
 - Including a bullet point which links the vision to the overarching framework for integration, the nine National Health and Well-being Outcomes.
- Indeed we think that there needs to be a section early on in this section of the Plan which sets out the nine outcomes and relates them to the IJB's vision.
- We believe that the 'About Glasgow' section on p.9 which notes that the 'physical enhancement of our city has been dramatic' should be expanded to acknowledge the role of the housing sector. This could be done by including two additional points. Firstly, by acknowledging the vital role of the housing association movement in helping to bring about this 'physical enhancement' (and interlinked social enhancements) in communities across Glasgow. Secondly, by highlighting the positive health and well-being impacts of this transformation as evidenced in research like the GoWell study.²
- In this section we would also like to see some data on housing demographics including: tenure breakdown; household composition etc. Recent research we carried out with our members revealed that around 30% of CCHAs' tenants are aged over 65. Furthermore, we estimate that CCHAs house and support between 20% and 25% of older people in Glasgow. We think these figures underline the imperative for the CCHA sector to be involved in integration, and in particular in prevention and early intervention activities.
- The geography of deprivation in Glasgow is closely matched to the neighbourhoods managed by social landlords. CCHAs own housing in all 21 of Glasgow's electoral wards and Glasgow's CCHAs own housing in the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland, based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. It is clear that CCHAs sit at the interface of health and place so partnership working with all of the city's social landlords

¹ "People, including those with disabilities, 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."

² GoWell which commenced in 2006 is a planned ten-year research and learning programme that aims to investigate the impact of investment in housing, regeneration and neighbourhood renewal on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. The programme aims to establish the nature and extent of these impacts, to learn about the relative effectiveness of different approaches, and to inform policy and practice in Scotland and beyond.

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/urbanstudies/research/researchprojects/gowellproject/>

is vital if we are to sustain our poorer neighbourhoods and tackle the root causes of poverty, poor health and inequality.

- In the 'Key Opportunities' section we would like to see expansion of bullet point 4 so that it explicitly refers to who the 'range of non-health agencies' might be.
- We very much welcome the section which focuses on equalities in the Plan and the commitment to work with equalities networks.

Working Together

- Overall, we think that this section needs to be more explicit in describing the range of partners and sectors that the IJB will work with in order to deliver its vision.
- In our introductory comments we expressed disappointment that there was not any recognition in the plan of the role of the housing in helping to support people to live in their homes and communities for as long as possible. We think that the 'working together' section offers a real opportunity to include this information. This could be achieved by referencing the work that housing associations *already* do including: the provision of mainstream and adapted housing; and the range of support services they provide to older people. A case study example could effectively illustrate this.
- Earlier on we described CCHAs as sitting at 'the interface of health and place'. We believe that this position affords them a real 'reach' into their communities and we would like to see a statement about the holistic nature of the IJB approach, connecting primary and acute care with preventative measures delivered at home and in the community, in conjunction with a wide range of partners.

Partnership Key Priorities

- Overall, we agree with the key priorities, although as we previously stated we think these should be linked more closely and earlier on in the document with the vision.
- As we have stated throughout the housing sector already makes a real and tangible difference to people's health and well-being through a range of activities which enable them to stay at home and in their communities for as long as possible.
- The potential savings to public sector budgets of the early prevention and intervention activities which Community Controlled Housing Associations are involved in are huge. Our model is based on *real* community empowerment which has stood the test of time over the last 40 years.
- Well-rehearsed discourses over the last few decades have placed increased emphasis on the impacts of neighbourhoods and communities on a person's life chances. These impacts cover a range of spheres, including social, economic and health outcomes and embrace aspects of the *physical, social/cultural* and *service environments* within communities.

- All of the above are closely interconnected and cannot be understood out-with the structural economic and social processes which sustain them. It is clear to us that any approaches which seek to tackle these issues must also be 'joined-up' in order to effect real, long-term change. The key priorities in the Plan can only be realized this way.

Locality planning

- The inclusion of data which provides background context to the three locality areas is worthwhile. However, we strongly believe that since the Strategic Plan operates at macro-level and provides an overview and a vision for going forward, micro-level actions and activities as referenced in the 'initial priorities' for each area seem out of place. We would argue that these should be developed over time and evolve organically out of the vision of the Strategic Plan. From our perspective it seems incongruous to be 'shoe-horning' these in at this stage.

Delivery of the Plan within Care Groups

- We appreciate that a lot of work has gone into the care group plans and we also recognise the merit of taking this thematic approach going forward.
- We would caution that the actions and activities in the plans need to feed directly into the priorities, be shaped by the national outcomes, and seem achievable. At present they feel a bit disconnected, although we do realize that this is just the start of an ongoing process.