

Accessible Housing – Elected Member Toolkit

Summary and Recommendations

This paper provides Board Members with information on the publication from the Scottish Equality and Human Rights Commission 'Housing and disabled people: Scotland's hidden crisis' and the Elected Member Toolkit which aims to support elected members to consider housing for disabled people in their strategies and plans and to promote more meaningful involvement of disabled people.

This paper invites the Community Wellbeing Board to:

- i. Note the publication and content of the 'Housing and disabled people: Scotland's hidden crisis'
- ii. Note a representative from the Scottish Equality and Human Rights Commission will be attending the meeting to introduce the toolkit and to take comments on same
- iii. Bring the toolkit to the attention of Elected Members across their Councils.

References

- NONE

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Purpose

1. To provide Board Members with information on the publication from the Scottish Equality and Human Right Commission ‘Housing and Disabled People: Scotland's Hidden Crisis’ and the Elected Member Toolkit which aims to support elected members to consider housing for disabled people in their strategies and plans and to promote more meaningful involvement of disabled people.

Current COSLA Position

2. As Board Members are aware, COSLA Leaders agreed, to support, in principle, the Scottish Government’s Affordable Housing Supply target the commitment to build 50,000 affordable homes by the end of this Parliament – 35,000 of which will be for social rent. As part of this work Councils and our partners across the housing sector build seek to build houses which cater for the needs of all of those across our communities who require them. This includes building accessible housing and houses for those of varying need.

What is Changing?

3. The Scottish Equality and Human Right Commission’s housing inquiry looked at the current provision of accessible and adaptable housing for disabled people provided by local authorities and registered landlords. This report, published in May 2018 - [Housing and disabled people: Scotland's hidden crisis](#)’ sets out the [challenges faced by disabled people in Scotland](#) and contains recommendations for the Scottish Government. The report highlighted the rights of disabled people to independent living and seeks to find out how well this right was being fulfilled in the context of housing.
4. The report found that:
 - disabled people are too often demoralised and frustrated by the housing system
 - there is a significant shortage of accessible homes
 - installing home adaptations involves unacceptable bureaucracy and delay
 - disabled people are not getting the support that they need to live independently
5. COSLA officials have met with representatives of Scottish Equality and Human Right Commission since the publication of the report and have supported their efforts in pulling together an Elected Member Toolkit Appendix 1. Helen Miller from Scottish Equality and Human Right Commission Note a representative from the Scottish Equality and Human Rights Commission will provide a sort input to the meeting and introduce the toolkit.

Proposed COSLA Position

6. Board members are asked to disseminate the Elected Members toolkit to Elected Members in their own Council areas. COSLA Officials have also highlighted the toolkit to the Improvement Service who have committed to ensuring the toolkit is included in their ongoing suite of training to support new and existing Elected Members.

Next Steps

7. Following on for our earlier discussion on housing supply beyond 2021 it is clear that the needs of disabled people need to be considered both nationally and locally as we consider our current and future house building program. COSLA officials will ensure the important

local government places on getting it right for everyone across our communities – including those living with a disability are clear as discussions progress.

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Appendix 1