



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Better Homes for People in Wales

A National Housing Strategy for Wales

Action Plan

(Updated: October 2006)



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Introduction

'Better Homes for the People of Wales' – the first National Housing Strategy for Wales – was initially approved by the National Assembly for Wales on 12 July 2001.

In presenting the strategy to the National Assembly for approval, the then Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, Mrs Edwina Hart MBE AM, said that it was:

“the result of perhaps the most ambitious and wide-ranging process of policy development undertaken in Wales. It demonstrates how the National Assembly, working closely with our partners, can develop policies which reflect Welsh needs.”

The national housing strategy is the product of a collaborative approach to policy development, in which some 80 cross-sector organisations contributed to its formulation. Its subsequent development has seen the continuation of this collaborative and partnership working.

This partnership approach was born out of the National Assembly's intention to adopt a more open and inclusive approach to policy-making. It has fostered closer relations among a wide range of partners and a better understanding of the parameters within which each must operate.

While we will never secure complete agreement on all aspects of housing policy; the Welsh Assembly Government firmly believes that the approach taken means that all those involved in housing in Wales should feel some sense of ownership of the strategy and, as a result, will wish to see it successfully implemented.

Purpose of the Action Plan

The main purpose of the Plan is to:

- provide a summary of the aims, objectives and planned target outcomes set out in 'Better Homes for People in Wales'. Where targets and/or timescales were not specified in 'Better Homes for People in Wales', these are being developed over time;
- record progress towards delivering the aims and objectives of the national strategy;
- serve as the main vehicle for monitoring progress in conjunction with the National Assembly's Social Justice and Regeneration Committee and the National Consultative Forum on Housing in Wales; and
- record the addition of new policies, programmes and targets developed in response to the evolving housing market since publication of 'Better Homes'.

For ease of reference, the sections of the Plan are arranged in the same order as they appear in 'Better Homes for People in Wales'.

Copies are provided to the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru, the Welsh Local Government Association and Community Housing Cymru. Additional sources for broadcasting updates of the action plan continue to be reviewed and suggestions welcomed.

Review of the Action Plan

The plan is under constant review and formally updated at regular intervals, currently half yearly. Progress will be reviewed with the National Consultative Forum on Housing in Wales at least annually. An annual report will also be presented to the National Assembly's Social Justice and Regeneration Committee.

On-going Development of the National Housing Strategy

The Strategy is a dynamic set of policies that will continue to evolve to reflect changing market conditions and other factors affecting housing in Wales. It is our intention to reflect this in the format of the strategy document, by converting it into an on-line collection of the Welsh Assembly Government's housing policies

In linking to other strategies the Action Plan will respond to policy developments such as the recent Beecham report 'Beyond Boundaries', which encouraged regional partnership working. The Action Plan seeks to support local authority strategy teams and RSL partners to develop regional partnerships for procurement and service delivery. The Rural Housing Networks and the South-East Wales Regional Housing Forum (SEWRHF) are examples of regional approaches. We aim to use and roll-out such examples where appropriate across Wales.

Format

The Action Plan is set out in a tabular fashion adhering to the themes of the *Better Homes* document. Outcomes and progress are also aligned to the targets and aims set out in *Better Homes* with the addition of new and subsequent material. Named contacts are provided for follow-up enquiries.

Our Vision for Housing in Wales

This section summarises the key aims and commitments contained in our vision for housing in Wales.

“We want everyone in Wales to have the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable, housing; to be able to choose where they live and decide whether buying or renting is best for them and their families.”

1. Quality

We want homes that are in good condition in safe neighbourhoods. We want better housing services and a greater choice for people over the types of housing and the location of where they live.

We will support initiatives to tackle problems of anti-social behaviour and neighbour nuisance.

House Condition

All households should have the opportunity to live in good quality homes, ie homes that are:

- in a good state of repair;
- safe and secure;
- adequately heated, fuel efficient and well insulated;
- contain up-to-date kitchens and bathrooms;
- well managed (for rented housing);
- located in attractive and safe environments; and
- as far as possible suit the specific requirements of the household (e.g. specific disabilities).

The above are defined clearly in the new ‘Welsh Housing Quality Standard’.

Housing Tenure

We want people to have a real choice whether they rent or buy, with no significant variations in quality.

Social Housing

All existing social housing should meet the ‘Welsh Housing Quality Standard’ within 10 years (ie by 2012).

We will promote efficient and effective social housing management and higher levels of tenant involvement.

We are committed to ensuring that new social housing provision to meet future needs is sustainable.

We will promote the principles of the Egan Report 'Rethinking Construction' within the construction of new social housing.

Owner Occupation

We support sustainable home ownership. We will:

- Introduce a framework that helps low income and vulnerable owner- occupiers to maintain and repair their homes over the longer term;
- Explore ways in which people have the option to convert to renting where this would provide a better solution.

Private Rented Sector

We will improve the overall quality of the private rented stock and its management, and stimulate increased investment in the sector.

We will implement Government legislation to license houses in multiple-occupation and for discretionary powers to enable local authorities to selectively licence other properties in the private rented sector, where appropriate.

As a development of 'Better Homes' we will implement legislation establishing Tenancy Deposit Schemes. One or more Schemes will be secured to safeguard tenancy deposits paid by tenants who have assured shorthold tenancies and to facilitate the resolution of disputes arising in connection with such deposits.

Sustainability - Housing and Sustainable Development

The planning, design, construction and maintenance of housing provide significant opportunities to contribute towards sustainable development. Well built, safe and environmentally friendly housing is fundamental to our individual and community well-being. The investment in new housing, refurbishment and maintenance provides opportunities for social and economic benefits to the local community and to the local economy.

The 1.3 million homes in Wales contribute a significant part of the total impact on our local and global environment, particularly in carbon emissions and waste. Improving the environmental and energy performance of housing construction, occupation and maintenance is a key element in a sustainable future for Wales. It can also help to meet Wales' targets for energy use and the promotion of microgeneration and renewable energy technologies in housing.

Housing is important to sustainable development because:

- The location, planning, layout and design of housing make an important contribution to the long term vitality and identity of communities;

- Well-designed, constructed and maintained housing is essential to supporting sustainable communities that reflect diversity and social inclusion;
- The quality, cost and availability of housing are key factors in the quality of life of local communities and their residents;
- Good housing contributes to health and well-being, educational attainment and access to employment;
- Housing can reduce major environmental impacts through its siting, its construction, its use of resources such as energy and water and its demands on transportation;
- Housing can play an important part in alleviating poverty, in supporting people and generating employment; and
- The location, cost and availability of housing are key factors in the safeguarding of Welsh speaking communities.

2. Affordability and Choice

We will promote diversity of housing supply by giving people better access and more choice over affordable housing that meets their needs.

Housing Supply

Since we published *Better Homes* the issues of housing supply and affordability have become an increasing concern. We have therefore provided a framework for collaboration between local authorities and their partners in establishing housing requirements and developing robust housing strategies to focus on the delivery of what is required. We have also issued revised complementary planning guidance and the Affordable Housing Toolkit to ensure that authorities have the tools and policy framework to maximise the delivery of affordable housing.

We are also considering how we can use land owned by the Assembly and Assembly sponsored public bodies to boost provision of affordable housing and contribute to our sustainable development objectives. We will issue a detailed protocol to put this into practice and will encourage local authorities to take a similar approach with their own surplus land.

Affordability

We are aware of the housing market changes that have recently seen a sustained trend in house prices rises outstripping those of average wages. Coupled with a growth in household numbers and in-migration in some areas this has led to difficulties for people being able to afford the properties they wish to purchase, this situation is particularly difficult for first time buyers. Local Authorities are asked, through the Local Housing Strategy guidance to undertake Housing Market Assessments jointly with neighbouring authorities to have an accurate picture of housing need in their areas (including affordable housing). Local Authorities are encouraged, where possible, to begin addressing housing need through the planning system, through bidding for Social Housing Grant for Housing

Associations and to make full use of the provisions available, as set out in the Affordable Housing Toolkit (issued June 2006).

Joint work with Planning

During 2005-06 Planning Division worked extensively with stakeholders to revise the Technical Advice Notes (TANs) 1 and 2 to support the delivery of affordable housing at a local level. Among other changes the revised TANs and the related Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement (MIPPS) 01/2006:

- encourages local authorities to take action where an insufficient supply of land for housing is identified;
- requires local planning authorities to set an affordable housing target in their development plans (based on the local housing market assessment);
- requires local authorities to monitor the provision of affordable housing against the target and, where necessary, to take action to ensure that the target is met.

Implementation of the TANs rely on housing and planning officers working closely at the local level.

Wales Spatial Plan

The Assembly adopted *People, Places Futures*, the *Wales Spatial Plan* in November 2004. The Statutory basis for the Plan is set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The content of the plan is a material consideration when preparing Local Development Plans and when making decisions on individual planning applications. It can be obtained from the Assembly's website at: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/spatial/sppublications/walesspatial?lang=en>

The Plan sets out the spatial priorities that support the Welsh Assembly Government's policies. Its role is to ensure that the Welsh Assembly Government, its partners and agencies take account of different challenges and opportunities in different parts of Wales.

The plan is being implemented at the local level via regional spatial plan groups, which have been established in each of the six spatial plan areas. The groups represent a partnership between the Welsh Assembly Government, local authorities, business, voluntary, environmental and equality organisations. The groups are currently identifying long term spatial issues, priorities and interventions for each area.

Part of the work includes planning strategically for future housing provision. Many of the spatial plan groups are working together with established regional planning and housing forums, or have set up their own sub groups. Projects include developing joint Housing Market Assessments and/or developing common policies on affordable housing. This is adding real value to the work already progressed by the Welsh Assembly Government in relation to its review of TANs 1 and 2 and the housing chapter of Planning Policy Wales, publication of the Local Housing Market Assessment Guide and the Affordable Housing Toolkit. Progress on the findings of

these projects will be reported in March 2007, with a formal refresh of the plan anticipated for consultation in Autumn 2007.

Fairer Social Housing Rents

We want an equitable rent structure for social housing that reflects the overriding principle that tenants should pay comparable rents for comparable homes and services, thus providing increased opportunity for tenants in selecting where they want to live.

Sustainable Home Ownership

We will continue to review and develop existing low cost home ownership schemes to make them more relevant to local housing strategies.

We will ensure that homeowners are given good information and advice, to reduce risks for people who could be considered marginal homeowners.

Allocating Social Housing

We want allocations policies that take more account of the preference of tenants and prospective tenants

3. Homelessness

We will eliminate the need for rough sleeping in Wales.

Everyone should have access to free high-quality housing advice and promotion of access to specialist housing advice where this is needed.

4. Meeting the Housing Requirements of Disadvantaged People

Accessibility

We will promote faster assessment and processing of grant claims, specialist advice and 'lifetime homes' that better meet the needs of people with a disability.

We will promote better access to quality housing support for people with housing related support needs, through 'Supporting People' and multi-service initiatives for street homeless people.

We will undertake a joint service review of services for older people, including housing, health and social services.

People Threatened by Domestic Abuse

We will review our housing policies to see how they are complementing activities aimed at addressing the problem of domestic abuse, so that support is provided in innovative ways and, as far as possible, we will work to support women to remain in their own homes. We will contribute to ensuring that the All Wales Domestic Abuse Strategy shapes services.

Equality, Diversity and focus on Black, Minority Ethnic Households (BME)

We are committed to embracing the Welsh Assembly Government's Mainstreaming Equality Scheme and the wider equality agenda, including Disability and Gender Equality issues, particularly in light of changes in equality legislation and the establishment of the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights in 2007.

The commitment to mainstreaming equality issues is also reflected in all newly published guidance where all BME housing matters are mainstreamed to ensure equality of opportunity and the empowerment of all people in Wales. The accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, Refugees and Migrant workers are newer elements of the strategy reflecting housing market changes and the onset of new legislative provisions.

Fuel Poverty

We are committed to eradicating fuel poverty amongst vulnerable homes by 2010 and to seek to end fuel poverty in non-vulnerable homes by 2012.

We will develop a Welsh Fuel Poverty Strategy under the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000.

In partnership with other interested groups we will work, as far as is reasonably practical, to ensure that no household in Wales should live in fuel poverty beyond 2018.

Environment

Policies will seek to provide a good environment and quality of life for households. Access to green space, safety, biodiversity and play, for example, are to be embedded in policy development. Energy, eco-efficiency and environmental quality means that materials and broader factors such as recycling and access to green environment are factored into development, refurbishment and replacement programmes.

Section A: A National Strategy to Guide Local Action

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
Local Housing Strategies					
Develop an effective local housing strategy process	p.20, A.2	Issue revised guidance for local authorities to develop their second round of local housing strategies.	October 2006	Draft guidance on preparing local housing strategies consulted upon April – August 2006. Revised guidance issued November 2006.	Judith Askew (HSSU)
	New	Establish a housing strategy officer's network to support the local housing strategy process and the strategic housing function.	Summer 2006	Network launched July 2006, meetings bi-monthly.	Steve Palmer (HSSU)
	New	Issue local housing market assessment guide.	Achieved	Local Housing Market Assessment Guide issued March 2006 following consultation.	Steve Palmer (HSSU)
	New	Use the Wales Spatial Plan area groups to provide a mechanism to work collaboratively across local authority boundaries on housing market assessments	Ongoing		Abigail Phillips (SF)
	New	Local housing market assessments to provide evidence base for local housing strategies, affordable housing need and Development Plan.	2007 onwards		Judith Askew (HSSU), Julian Anderson (SHRU)
	New	2007 Local housing strategies to be submitted to WAG.	April 2007		Neil Hemmington (Planning)
	New	An assessment to be made of the national picture of key issues and priorities in Wales drawn from the local housing strategies and the work being undertaken on housing in the Wales Spatial plan areas. See also Section B – strategic housing role	Onwards to 2008		Judith Askew (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Evidence Based Policy Making					
Integrate housing strategy findings within Wales Spatial Plan		Through analysis of Local Housing Market assessments prepared by local authorities in collaboration with adjoining authorities.	Ongoing		Judith Askew (HSSU)/Abigail Phillips (Sustainable Futures)
Strengthen our capacity for research and development and make better use of sound evidence to support and improve policy making, through new arrangements to co-ordinate research activity.		The SJR research programme can be located on the research link from: www.wales.gov.uk/socialjusticeandregeneration			Mike Harmer (RIU)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'.
TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number. 2. See Annex for key.

Section B: Strategic Role of the Local Authority

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Strategic Housing Role					
<p>Develop a rigorous and structured planning regime for investment in local authority housing stock.</p> <p>Develop and support the Local Authority Strategic Housing Role</p>	New	<p>Continue to work with local authorities to ensure that the strategic housing function and local housing strategies are implemented, including authorities where stock transfer has taken place.</p> <p>Work with Local Government Policy division to ensure housing is adequately reflected in Community Strategies and counterpart guidance.</p> <p>Eight 'Fit for Purpose' training modules conducted with CIH Cymru on the strategic housing function.</p> <p>Seek to support local authorities in having the key mechanisms in place to negotiate for and to increase the supply of affordable housing, through the use of LHMA's, the affordable Housing Toolkit, Section 106 agreements and other mechanisms.</p> <p>See Local Housing Strategy section A above for additional support.</p>	<p>Continuous</p> <p>2008</p> <p>End Nov. 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Guidance issued.</p>	Judith Askew (HSSU)
To support the development of regional frameworks.	New	To assist in establishing more regional studies and initiatives in procurement and in response to housing need e.g. joint emergency control centres and housing market studies (As promulgated by the Beecham report 'Beyond Boundaries').	Ongoing		Judith Askew (HSSU)
	p.25, B.4	Produce guidance (after consultation with local authorities) on the preparation of local authority housing stock business plans.	October 2002 action complete	Financial model available (May 2002) Guidance produced November 2002.	Harry Lloyd (SHRIU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p. 25, B4	Continued development and support for Business Plans	April 2006	<p>Some local authorities have demonstrated that the WHQS can be achieved within current resources. They have resolved to retain their housing stock. WAG officials will undertake annual review/evaluations to ascertain if agreed milestones for achieving the standard are being met.</p> <p>A number of local authorities have resolved to ballot their tenants on stock transfer proposals. A few local authorities have not submitted firm proposals or dates for achieving the standard. Discussions are ongoing where clarification is required.</p>	Harry Lloyd (SHRIU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Community Housing Agreements					
Promote effective joint working between local authorities and registered social landlords.	p.26, B.5	Issue good practice guidance on the operation and benefits of Community Housing Agreements.	deferred to late 2006	A review has been completed and a final report received in September 2006. The report's suggestions on the future of CHAs are being considered.	Mike Harmer (RIU)
	p.26, B.5	All local authorities to put in place Community Housing Agreements with local registered social landlords.	2006-7	Decisions on whether to issue guidance will depend on the findings of above review.	Mike Harmer (RIU)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'. TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number.
2. See Annex for key.

Section C: Regenerating Our Communities/Tackling Social Disadvantage

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
Combating Poverty and Social Disadvantage					
Ensure that all our policies and programmes focus on social inclusion issues, particularly in the more deprived areas of Wales.	p.29, C.2	Allocate funds for preparatory and capacity building activities within Communities First areas.	Ongoing	Since inception of the programme £135 million of Communities First funds have been paid to support Communities First activities in the 142 most deprived areas.	Mary Davies (CD)
	p.29, C.2	Issue updated Generic Communities First Guidance	January 2007	Progressing.	Chris Gittins (CD)
	p.30, C.3	Update and improve the information contained on the Assembly's web-site on social disadvantage.	Ongoing	Link to Social Justice and Regeneration Department website. Information regularly updated.	Anne Stephenson (CD)
	p.31, C.4	Provide £132 million from the Communities Purposes Budget from 2003-2007 to support the 'Communities First' programme.	Ongoing	Between April 2003 to October 2006, £101 million has been paid towards the implementation of the programme in the 142 regions.	Mary Davies (CD)
	TG1 r3	Encourage registered social landlords to use available powers to undertake non-housing community regeneration.	Ongoing	Included in the introduction of consortium working arrangements during 2005-06	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
	New	<p>To support the Heads of the Valley Housing forum to foster partnership working in regenerating the Heads of the Valley area.</p> <p>Principal aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle empty homes • Supply information on WHQS to tenants • Encourage private sector housing investment. 	Ongoing	i2i (Heads of the Valley forum) established in Autumn 2006.	Judith Askew (HSSU)
Reviving Our Rural Communities					
Support long term sustainability of rural areas.	p.31, C.5	Introduce greater flexibility within the Homebuy scheme in rural areas, through a new 50 per cent equity threshold.	Achieved – action completed	Introduced January 2001.	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)
	p.32, C.5	Commission research on the distribution and land use implications of second homes in rural areas.	July 2002 Completed Oct. 2002	Project undertaken as part of the Wales Planning Research Programme. Report and Welsh Assembly Government response published in October 2002.	Rosemary Thomas(PD)
	New	Issue enhanced guidance on assessing local housing markets, consolidating existing guidance and forming part of comprehensive package of updated policy measures.	2006	Guidance on local housing market assessments issued March 2006.	Judith Askew (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	New	To initially fund and support a “Rural Housing Enabler” project (covering North Monmouthshire and South Powys) for potential roll out. The most important roles of the enabler post will be to assist local social landlords and communities to: identify and measure rural housing need, identify sites suitable for affordable housing development, to develop and support effective partnership working, and to tackle some of the barriers to affordable housing provision.	Ongoing	<p>“Rural Housing Enabler” appointed in Summer 2003.</p> <p>Project outcomes presented at seminar for stakeholders in October 2006. Stakeholders have agreed to provide funding to sustain and extend the coverage provided by this post.</p> <p>Funding also provided towards a similar project in Gwynedd.</p>	Julian Anderson (SHRIU)
	New	Issue Affordable Housing Toolkit and complementary planning policy and guidance to help increase supply of affordable housing.	Spring/Summer 2006	Comprehensive package issued June 2006, with strong focus on policy tools and delivery mechanisms appropriate to rural areas	Julian Anderson (SHRIU) and Neil Hemmington (Planning 2a)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
The Welsh Language					
Ensure Welsh language is taken into account in the development of effective local housing strategies and planning new housing provision and services.			Autumn 2005 - completed December 2005	The Assembly Government participated in collaborative research with local planning authorities (led by Snowdonia National Park) and the Welsh Language Board into the impact of development on the Welsh language. 'Planning and the Welsh language - the way ahead' was published in December 2005 and will inform the review of Assembly Government planning policy and TAN 20 to start in 2007.	Rosemary Thomas (PD)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Community Regeneration					
Promote a customer-centred approach to the letting of social housing, as well as taking account of housing need. Social housing to be provided within mixed, settled communities which are socially inclusive.	p.34, C.6	Provide up to date guidance on lettings for social landlords.	end 2006	A further review of the Code of guidance for Local Authorities on allocations and homelessness is underway – draft version to be consulted on by end 2006. Guidance for housing associations to be developed.	Maureen Haire (HSSU)
	New	Undertake a research project to evaluate choice in lettings schemes in Wales.	Revised to end 2006	To be issued by end of Nov 2006	Maureen Haire (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Health					
Develop policies that better reflect the range of influences affecting the health and well being of the people of Wales.	p.36, C.8	Promote effective strategic partnerships for the planning and delivery of local services across the range of health and local government functions.	Ongoing	<p>Contributes to promote the uptake of the Health Act 1999. Flexibilities, aimed at improving service planning and delivery. The joint working special grant 2006-2008 has built upon the work completed under the special grant between 2002 and 2006. As part of the allocation £2.2m is ringfenced and must be used for Local authorities participation in Local health boards, this includes the development of the health and well being strategies in each area. The grant currently supports over 200 projects between local Government, the NHS and the voluntary and independent sectors.</p> <p>The grant for 2006-08 follows the recommendations contained within the Wanless review, the HSSC review on the interface between Health and Social Care.</p>	Christopher Jones (HSC -OPLTCP)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.36, C.8	Increase awareness of health impact assessment and use it as a way of developing strategies, policies and programmes that take account of the potential effects on peoples' health and well being.	Ongoing A final version is scheduled to issue in March 2007.	The Welsh Assembly Government established the Health Impact Assessment Support Unit in 2001. The Unit is based within Cardiff Univ, and works in partnership with the Wales Centre for Health and the National Public Health Service. The Unit can be contacted on: Tel: 029 2087 9138 or via http://www.whiasu.cardiff.ac.uk/index.html	Beth Jones (PHSD)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
		<p>Health impact assessment is not a statutory process, but Local Authorities are encouraged to use it as a way of assessing the wider determinants that affect health and well-being. Housing is a significant determinant.</p> <p>The draft 'Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement on Planning, Health and Well-being', which supports the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to delivering tougher public health assessments for new developments, issued for consultation in August 2007.</p>	<p>Nov. 2004 Achieved – action complete</p> <p>June 05 – Achieved - action completed</p> <p>November 06</p>	<p>Guidance on health impact assessment was published in 2004: http://www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/health-impact/improving-health-e.pdf</p> <p>The Unit supports local authorities in the use of health impact assessment.</p> <p>WHIASU supporting HIA on Canolfan Dewi Sant (Denbighshire Housing Strategy).</p> <p>WHIASU to support HIA of 'Yma I Helpu' scheme (home efficiency scheme) - with Gwynedd County Council's housing department.</p>	<p>Beth Jones (PHSD)</p>

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
<p><i>Designed for Life</i> Vision 2015 aims where possible to eliminate inequalities in health and to develop the role of local communities in creating and sustaining health. Throughout the Strategy there is a clear commitment to changing the pattern of services to fulfil the wish of people to remain in or return to their own homes wherever possible. The Assembly is committed to integrated policies and programmes to tackle the causes of poor health, disability and poor quality of life.</p>	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of a two year jointly funded Health & Homeless Facilitator secondment post from 2006 to improve the health needs of homeless people. • The Welsh Assembly Government 'Service Development and Commissioning Guidance' for Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts to address the health needs of selected minority groups including the homeless was disseminated in summer 2006. 	2006	Implemented	Whiteman, Janet (DHSS - CPCHSD)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	TG4 r65	Consider resource allocation models that develop methods for reflecting non-residentially based elements of authority populations.	Under continual review	Townsend resource allocation model is subject to continual review and refinement to ensure it appropriately reflects the health needs of the whole population. Heavy reliance of the formula on the Welsh Health Survey means exclusion of the homeless and those in institutional care from the formula. These are major consultation issues. Advisory Group on future refinement of the formula has been established. Health needs of non-residential population will form part of the Group's future work programme.	Steve Elliot (NHS – HSC – RD)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	New	To support "housing and health" partnerships and joint working through Social Housing Management Grant Programme funding.	Ongoing	Funding allocated for 3 projects in April 2005. 2 projects to provide full reports in October 2006 and an interim project report on the third. End of project reports are currently being chased for dissemination purposes.	Kerry Charles (HSSU)
Education					
	TG1 r51	Practical advice on accessing suitable accommodation; household management should be integrated into the national curriculum and available through training and employment support. Subsumes TG4 r71. Ways to increase housing information and advice to young people to be reviewed and developed.	Ongoing	16 projects now in place in a continuation funding framework. The network of independent housing advice services is in place across all local authority areas. Also support Shelter's "homeworks" and "Housemate" projects. We have funded a Homelessness and Education conference held in Nov. 2006 to promote good practise and are funding Shelter Cymru to provide a good practise database in this regard.	Paul Webb (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	TG1 r52	Local authority led youth strategies to address housing needs among the needs of young people based upon youth support provisions of the Learning and Skills Act 2000.	Ongoing	Each multi-agency Young People's Partnership (YPP) in Wales has a statutory responsibility to provide or secure youth support services under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 for every young person aged 11-25 in their area. Priority areas for YPPs to action have continued to be set on an annual basis since 2002. Housing features among the priorities for the first time in 2006-07 or 2007-08.	Suzanne Chisholm (DfTE – YAPP)
Sustainability					
	New	<p>Under its 'Sustainable Development Action Plan 2004-2007', we are supporting a WLGA project that will lead to the development of a Sustainable Development (SD) Framework for Local Government.</p> <p>The Framework will provide a practical guide about different SD. The framework will be subject to regular updating. The hope is that the interactive process of preparation will ensure the creation of a learning network with 'SD champions' at both local authority member and officer level.</p> <p>The specific guidance on housing should be available in time to inform Local Housing Strategies adopted by April 2007.</p>	2007	This is a three year project, currently entering its second year.	Judith Askew (HSSU) and Simon Bilsborough (Sustainable Futures)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'.
TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number.
2. See Annex for key.

Section D: Meeting Housing Need and Demand

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
The Role of the Planning System					
Enable appropriate decisions to be taken on proposals for housing and other development.	p.40, D.1	Implement Wales Spatial Plan across six spatial plan areas. Support Spatial Plan Unit and housing representatives on preparing housing narratives and housing market work.	Ongoing	Plan is being implemented locally via Regional Spatial Plan Groups. The groups are currently identifying long term spatial issues, priorities and interventions for each area.	Abigail Phillips (SF)/ Judith Askew (HSSU)
	New	Detailed training of local authority Development Control and housing officers to be delivered	2007		Judith Askew (HSSU) Neil Hemmington (PD)
	TG1 r4	Use of section 106 agreements to encourage the provision of affordable housing on new developments.	Ongoing	Issue addressed in revised Technical Advice Note 2, 'Planning and Affordable Housing', which issued in June 2006.	Neil Hemmington (PD)
	TG1 r5	Financial contributions from developers in lieu of affordable housing used to regenerate the existing stock as an alternative to new affordable housing.	Ongoing	Improvements to the planning obligations system are being considered and will be influenced by the UK Government's Planning-gain Supplement proposal.	Neil Hemmington (PD)
	TG1 r13	Greater integration of planning for economic growth with that for housing provision through Spatial Plan.	Ongoing		Judith Askew (HSSU)/Abigail Phillips(SF)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
		Support local authorities to develop section 106 agreements, by: Working with local authority social housing officers to implement the provisions within the Affordable Housing Toolkit	Ongoing	Joint Housing and Planning Officers Workshops on the MIPPS 01/2006 and Tan2 planned for Spring/Summer 2007.	Judith Askew (HSSU)/Jonathan Fudge (Planning)
	TG2 r14	Application of planning credits set against S.106 requirements for developers designing out maintenance costs and improving efficiency.	Ongoing	As r5 above.	Neil Hemmington (PD)
	New	Issue Affordable Housing Toolkit alongside revised planning policy and guidance to improve focus on delivery of affordable housing	Spring/Summer 2006	Comprehensive package issued June 2006	Julian Anderson (SHRIU) and Neil Hemmington (Planning 2a)
The Assessment of Housing Needs at National Level					
Undertake a national "Housing Audit".	p.41, D.3	Initiate a regular 'Welsh Household Interview Survey' and associated stock condition survey.	Commenced April 2003.	'Living in Wales' survey 2004-06 involves a series of household interview surveys in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and a linked stock survey 2004. Results for 2004 have been published, 2005 results will be published in late 2006. Further household surveys are planned for 2007 and 2008, with a linked stock survey in 2008.	Mike Harmer (RIU)
Assessing Local Housing Needs					
Encourage local authorities to carry out detailed local housing need assessments.	New	See Local Housing Strategy section A for the new approach to local housing market assessments	April 2007	Guidance issued March 2006 for undertaking assessments	Steve Palmer (HSSU)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'.
TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number.
2. See Annex for key.

Section E: Sustainable Homeownership

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Homeownership					
<p>We support sustainable home ownership. We are committed to a framework that helps low income and vulnerable owner-occupiers to maintain and repair their homes over the longer term, but we will explore ways in which people have the option to convert to renting where this would provide a better solution</p>	<p>p.51, E.3.6</p>	<p>We will review existing procedures and grant schemes to remove obstacles to the more flexible use of Homebuy to facilitate "tenure neutral" housing and to allow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. social landlords to offer existing tenants the option to purchase their existing dwellings; 2. social landlords to offer a prospective tenant the option to purchase the offered dwelling; 3. Homebuy owners to move between buying and renting; and 4. registered social landlords to repurchase properties sold under Homebuy. <p>We will work with stakeholders to develop understanding and address practical difficulties.</p>	<p>April 2003</p> <p>April 2006</p>	<p>Draft procedures in place in respect of 1, 2 and 3. Re-draft of General Consent Order in hand to give effect to 4 by April 2007</p> <p>Introduction of repurchasing covenants announced in Affordable Housing Toolkit (June 2006). General Consent Order to be amended (subject to consultation with Community Housing Cymru) to require imposition of covenants on all RSL disposals. Consultation to take place Winter 2006/7.</p> <p>Workshop delivered at WFHA development and Maintenance Conference 2006. Presentation to RHAN/RHAG planned for November 2006</p>	<p>Chris Hobday (SHRIU)</p> <p>Chris Hobday (SHRIU)</p>

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
Private Sector Renewal					
We will work in partnership with local authorities to put in place private sector renewal strategies to help low income and the most vulnerable households to improve their homes.	p.51, E.4	Continue to reduce the number of Welsh homes in a state of serious disrepair.	2008	Target figure may need quantifying and refining from that set in Better Homes. Dependent on priority accorded to private sector renewal by local authorities. New private sector renewal arrangements introduced in July 2002 gives local authorities more flexibility to improve the condition of the stock. Data from the 'Living in Wales' survey published in 2006 suggests that unfit in the private sector has further reduced to 4.6%. However, due to the full implementation of the Housing, Health and Safety Rating System in June 2006 fitness and unfit in no longer exist on statute.	Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)
	TG2 r4	Consult on the effectiveness of existing mortgage rescue arrangements and opportunities for improvement.	Done		Chris Hobday (SHRIU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
	TG2 r3	<p>Consideration of the implications of the Consumer Credit Act on equity release.</p> <p>Review of operation of Loans Pilot Schemes.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>January 2008</p>	<p>Regulatory Reform Order made in July 2002 and fully effective from July 2003. Local authorities now have flexibility to provide loans (including equity loans). The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration launched publicity material on equity release commissioned by Care & Repair Cymru in April 2006. A North Wales loans pilot scheme was set up in December 2005 in partnership with the Home Improvement Trust. A consortia of South Wales authorities are also currently working on setting up a scheme in South Wales in partnership with ART Homes.</p>	Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Develop and improve the current private sector renewal arrangements to provide greater opportunities for people to maintain and repair their homes, by introducing new arrangements that are less prescriptive and widening the range of assistance available to include both grants and loans.	New	<p>Review of Regulatory Reform Order to evaluate effect of deregulation of private sector renewal arrangements.</p> <p>Review of policy on Renewal Areas to evaluate progress and effect of funding in Wales.</p>	<p>2007-08</p> <p>2006-07</p>	<p>To be commissioned</p> <p>Currently being considered by the Minister.</p>	Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)
Responsibility for Privately Owned Homes					
Encourage local authorities to make use of their powers to grant and indemnify mortgages.	p.52, E.5			Completed	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)
Commonhold and Leasehold					
Further improvement for leaseholders	New	Introduce a range of reforms to help leaseholders implement remaining provisions from the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002.	Ongoing	Most of the provisions of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 are in force.	Rita Bolus (PSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Residential Park (Mobile) Homes Further improvement for owners of residential park homes	New	Implement the provisions contained in the Housing Act 2004, including improvements to the requirements of the written statement between the occupier and the site owner, increased protection against eviction and amendment of the implied terms of an agreement	Spring 2007	Provisions on the face of the Act in force; draft subordinate legislation prepared and timetabled for progress through Assembly procedures	Rita Bolus (PSU)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'.
TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number.
2. See Annex for key.

Section F: A Thriving Private Rented Sector

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation/Landlord Accreditation Schemes/Access to Bond Schemes					
Development of a healthy, vibrant, well managed private rented sector with homes in good condition. A flourishing private rented sector should enhance choice and labour mobility.	p.58, F.1	Give local authorities greater powers through the introduction of mandatory licensing of high risk houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and selective licensing of the remainder of the private sector to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve significant improvements in stock condition and management standards in this sector; and • raise levels of long term investment. 	Ongoing	Included in Housing Act 2004. Introduced in November 2004. Regulations introducing HMO licensing and the Housing Health and Safety Rating System in place 30 June 2006. Regulations covering Selective Licensing and Empty Dwelling Management Orders in place October 2006.	Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)
	New	Seminars on effects of HMO licensing and HHSRS to disseminate good practice in partnership with all-Wales Technical Panel	Summer 2007	To be arranged	Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)
Empty Homes					
	New	Assist all local authorities with the development of robust empty homes strategies.	By 2008		Brendon Hilbourne (PSU) Judith Askew (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Introduce Tenancy Deposit Schemes.	New	Included in Housing Act 2004. Introduced in November 2004. One or more Schemes will be secured to safeguard tenancy deposits paid by tenants who have assured shorthold tenancies. On coming into force the provisions will apply to all new tenancy deposits and as the vast majority of tenants in the private rented sector are assured shorthold tenants will therefore be entitled to the protection offered by a TDS. Schemes will have two main purposes: i) to safeguard tenancy deposits paid in connection with assured shorthold tenancies and, ii) to facilitate the resolution of disputes arising in connection with such deposits.	6 April 2007	Joint legislation with DCLG on target to come into force 6/4/07. Membership of Project Board; Advisory Group and Communications Sub-Group. Contracts for Scheme Providers expected to be awarded before end 2006. Publicity campaign progressing.	Alyn Williams (PSU)
Via sponsorship role, ensure Residential property Tribunal is able to provide an effective service in order to undertake its jurisdictions	New	Recruit additional members Implement recommendations of policy and management review	1/2/07 ongoing	Recruitment exercise currently underway Many recommendations implemented; IT issues under consideration	Alyn Williams (PSU) Alyn Williams (PSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.60, F.3	<p>Consider the potential of landlord accreditation schemes in Wales in light of ODPM research.</p> <p>All-Wales Accreditation Scheme in place Summer 2007</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>2007</p>	<p>The Assembly has endorsed the need for accreditation. ODPM research disseminated to all Welsh local authorities. Accreditation schemes currently being considered by various local authorities in Wales. All-Wales Accreditation Scheme currently being considered by Welsh local authorities in partnership with Accreditation UK.</p>	<p>Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)</p>

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'. TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number.
2. See Annex for key.

Section G: Quality Rented Homes for the 21st Century

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
Investing in Our Council Housing					
Work in partnership with local authorities and others to ensure that all council estates are places where people wish to live and are able to do so in good, well-built and affordable homes.	p.66, G.4	Support authorities wishing to establish arms length companies within existing funding levels.	On-going	No approaches received to date.	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)
	TG3 r 11	Introduce a tariff system for Social Housing Grant.	Pilot in 2006-7	Consultation in new grant procedures completed Spring 2002. Implementation of Tariff system subject to further discussions with WFHA/ WAG working party.	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Transfer of Council Stock to a New Landlord					
Maximise the benefits of accessing private sector funding in empowering tenants and ensuring that communities receive the economic benefits that derive from large-scale investment.	p.69, G.5.2 New	Continued provision of more detail, support and guidance on proposals for community mutual model for stock transfer. An Assembly sponsored initiative in the Heads of the Valleys area has been developed to work with LA's and tenant organizations to ensure that tenants are provided with factual information on the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) as part of the 'Right to Know' commitment from WAG. It is intended that this initiative will be rolled out across Wales. The initiative will draw upon a package of guidance and training modules for local authorities that is being developed by WAG to involve tenants in planning to meet the WHQS.	Ongoing Publication date Dec. 2006	Indications are that other local authorities have resolved to transfer their housing stock to a full CHMM.	Harry Lloyd/Cathryn Evans (SHRIU)
Best Value in Housing					
Application of Best Value principles across all social housing in Wales.	p.72, G.7	Consult on proposed changes to the regulation of registered social landlords, including the assessment of compliance with Best Value.	action complete	Revised Code published April 2006.	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.72, G.7	Best Value in Housing Working Group to consider issues about Best Value Performance Indicators raised in consultation.	Ongoing	LGDU review started summer 2003. Consultation with RSLs on 2007/2008 indicators commenced October 2006. Research into the effectiveness on Assembly Government BV guidance completed Nov 06 and currently under consideration	Linda Whittaker Director Housing
	p.72, G.7	Encourage improvements in customer service standards, by promoting good practice in customer care.	Dec 2006/Early 2007	Draft Resident Participation Strategy has been issued for wide consultation ending Dec 2006. Final strategy to be issued in early 2007.	Maureen Haire (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
			Summer 2006	<p>Task & Finish Group has been formed to take forward the recommendations of this research which will involved development of a National Resident Participation Strategy which will be launched in summer 2006.</p> <p>Research into customer satisfaction with social landlords scheduled to begin in 2004 has failed to progress to date. Best Value guidance advocates seeking Charter Mark.</p> <p>See above - Customer Care has been taken forward under the regulation regime – this action point is not a policy priority for HSSU at present. Complaints procedure has been reviewed. Complaints are now dealt with by the Ombudsman.</p> <p>Research into customer satisfaction with social landlords scheduled to begin early 2004. Best Value guidance advocates seeking Charter Mark.</p>	Cherry Capel (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
Tenant Participation					
<p>Improve the contribution and widen the involvement of tenants to complement and reinforce the application of Best Value to housing.</p>	<p>p.73, G.8</p>	<p>Introduce a Tenant Empowerment Grants Scheme through which tenants groups can apply for grants to carry out options studies to examine the range of ways in which they can be involved in the running of their housing and community services, including their legal 'Right to Manage'.</p> <p>The aim of the grant funding continues to enable tenants groups to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> obtain independent advice and support, <input type="checkbox"/> to explore opportunities for greater involvement in decisions about their homes and communities, <input type="checkbox"/> to develop the skills and knowledge to get more involved; and <input type="checkbox"/> To develop exciting new ways of participating fully in their communities. Due to the success of the programme it has recently been relaunched in North and South Wales and will run for a further three years with an increased level of funding. 	<p>2002 achieved & ongoing</p>	<p>The scheme was originally launched in July 2002 and has proved such a significant success that the Programme has been approved for a further three years with effect from April 2005 with an increased level of funding. The Minister has also agreed to a proposal that the Programme could be extended for a further three years operated by CIH Cymru.</p>	<p>Kerry Charles (HSSU)</p>
<p>Deliver more efficient housing services with better quality decisions and sustainable improvements in council and registered social landlord performance.</p>	<p>p.73, G.8</p>	<p>Continue funding, via the Communities Resource Centre (NCRC), for tenants to attend capacity building courses and, where appropriate, receive follow-up, pump-priming grants to deliver small projects in their neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NCRC continues to be funded through the SHMG programme based upon the number of tenants from Wales taking up places on courses at the Centre. NCRC are continually raising awareness of the availability of the training at relevant conferences and events.</p>	<p>Kerry Charles (HSSU)</p>

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Place tenants at the heart of the management of housing services in the future.	p.74, G.8	Monitor the effectiveness of Tenant Participation Compacts.	Summer 2006 (for National Resident Participation Strategy)	A Task & Finish Group is taking forward the recommendations made by this research.	Cherry Capel (HSSU)
	p.74, G.8	Work with the Wales Audit Office Housing Inspectorate to check compliance with guidance.	Ongoing	Compliance with Guidance is included in the Regulatory Code and is therefore part of WAO inspection	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)
Ensure that all our policies and programmes focus on social inclusion issues, particularly in the more deprived areas of Wales.		Ensuring a working group to “inform and advise the Assembly Government on how to build residents’ capacity to contribute to the management and development of their homes and wider communities, especially their role in stock transfers.”	Completed.	Good Practice Guidance and training modules on “Resident Capacity Building and stock transfer” in draft with projected issue date by end of 2005 subject to Minister’s approval. Publication of bilingual version in December 2006.	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)
Tenure in Social Housing					
Everyone should have access to housing which is reasonably secure in occupancy. We wish to promote fairness and consistency of principle between secure and assured tenants.	p.75, G.9	Participate in DTLR/Law Commission project to consider how housing tenure law may be simplified and modernised, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examining landlord and tenant issues in both the social and private rented sectors; producing a simpler and less complex framework for housing tenure law. 	Ongoing	Active involvement in project by Assembly officials. Delay of Draft Bill in Westminster has lead to current active consideration of Wales only legislation.	Cherry Capel (HSSU)
	p.75, G.9	UK Government draft Parliamentary Bill	Revised to November 2005	Current legisalative timetable does not include UK Parliamentary Bill.	Cherry Capel (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Social Housing Lettings					
Provide social housing within mixed, settled communities that are socially inclusive.	p.76, G.11	Formulate, as a priority, a national lettings policy framework:	Ongoing Revised To early 2007	The Code of Guidance for LAs issued in 2003 is being reviewed in 2006. Developing complementary guidance for HA's by March 2007.	Maureen Haire (HSSU)
Minimise barriers to social housing, developing fair lettings policies that take account of local needs and conditions.		Use social housing movement and other organisations as a Sounding Board to provide views on policy proposals focusing on how, and in what circumstances, choice, need and the creation of settled communities can be accommodated and better integrated.	Dec 2006	An evaluation of choice in local authority and housing association allocation schemes to be published in late 2006 together with good practice guidance.	Maureen Haire (HSSU)
Promote customer-centred approach to the letting of social housing.		Consider good practice and innovation in social housing lettings, including grant support for pilot projects that reflect approaches in-keeping with these policy proposals.	Ongoing	A research project to evaluate choice in lettings schemes in Wales is to be completed by the end of 2006.	Maureen Haire (HSSU)
		Consider the wider context of the changing demand for housing, including social housing. Integrating with the use of local housing market assessments and wider context of housing market areas.	Ongoing		Paul Webb (HSSU)/ Chris Hobday (SHRIU)
		Development of section 106 agreements – consider the need for further detailed guidance on the mechanisms for achieving s.106 affordable housing.	2007		Chris Hobday/Julian Anderson (SHRIU)/Judith Askew (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.76, G.11	Encourage local authorities and registered social landlords to collaborate over the establishment of common housing registers.	Nothing proposed for 2006/07.	Common Housing Registers are a theme of the 2007/08 SHMG programme.	Maureen Haire (HSSU)
Low Demand Social Housing					
	p.77, G.12	Develop a long-term target, in light of changes to market conditions and policies, in order to reduce long-term voids in this sector.	Revised to 2006	No plans to develop target but voids being tackled through: guidance, promotion of good practice, regulation. LGDU PI review for LAs / RSL's to be completed in 2006. Principal action dropped	Paul Webb/Chris Hobday (HSSU)
	p.77, G.12	Promote and publish good practice guidance on the marketing of social housing.	Ongoing	A key theme within the Social Housing Management Grant programme 2005/2006. Cureently funding Welsh Housing Quarterly to publish good practice information in this regard.	Paul Webb (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Social Housing Rents and Affordability					
<p>Work in partnership with local authorities to achieve fair and transparent rent systems that deliver affordable rents.</p> <p>Continue to regulate registered social landlords' rents to achieve levels which are affordable, whilst enabling registered social landlords to be financially viable and deliver a good standard of service.</p>	p.80, G.13.	<p>To achieve progress towards convergence of rent levels (between local authority and registered social landlord sectors), we propose to review the data we collect on rents, and to openly publish the analysis of that data.</p>	Ongoing	<p>"Social Housing Rents in Wales" research report published March 2005.</p>	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)
<p>Compare and seek to address unjustifiable differences between the rent levels of local authorities and registered social landlords.</p>	p.80, G.13. 5	<p>Produce guidance on social housing service charges, in light of findings of proposed social housing rent research project.</p>	Ongoing	<p>"Social Housing Rents in Wales" research report published March 2005.</p>	Chris Hobday (SHRIU)
<p>Ensure that where anomalies are identified, a restructuring process is agreed with the landlord that achieves an equitable structure within a timescale that is not to the detriment of the majority of its tenants.</p>	New	<p>Commission study to make recommendations on social rent restructuring to address anomalies identified by "Social Housing rents in Wales"</p>	<p>Initiate December 2006 with a view to implement in April 2008</p>		Chris Hobday (SHRIU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Housing Training and Development					
Continue to encourage local housing providers to enable housing professionals to access the education and training that they require.	p.80, G.14	To ensure that housing organisations and tenants have easy access to high standard housing training and development, we will provide funding in support of training and development initiatives, for example:	Ongoing	See below.	Kerry Charles (HSSU)
Promote the value of training for local authority and registered social landlord members and tenants		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bursaries for housing professionals on academic housing management courses; 	Ongoing	Funding for bursaries for housing students continues to be made available through SHMG on a demand basis (7 as at November 2006)	Kerry Charles (HSSU)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support (through tenant empowerment grants and funding for the National Tenants Resource Centre) to enable tenants to attend capacity building courses and to take a more active role in the management of their homes and their estates; and 		See "Tenant Participation" above, re. Better Homes ref. p.73, G8	Kerry Charles (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Social Housing Management Grant Programme will support organisations and projects that provide housing management education training opportunities. 	Ongoing	<p>Bids are currently being assessed for new projects for 2007/2008 based upon a "Back to Basics" approach.</p> <p>Additionally the Social Housing Management Programme will continue to meet the core funding costs of TPAS Cymru and the Welsh Tenants Federation. (These organisations provide and promote training for local authority and registered social landlord members and tenants in the field of tenant participation).</p>	Kerry Charles (HSSU)

Section H: Providing Quality New Homes

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
Stock Condition Surveys					
Encourage detailed local authority housing stock condition surveys, undertaken to a common standard and level of detail.	p.82, H.1	All local authorities to have a detailed knowledge of the condition of their housing stock that will enable them to develop strategies for tackling the backlog of repairs and plan future improvements.	2006	Annual Local Authority housing stock business plans include detailed assessments of the condition of their housing stock.	Francois Samuel (CDEU)
Health and Safety Rating System					
Introduce a measure for the condition of homes that is sensitive to health and safety issues, providing a standard that meets the needs of the 21 st century.	p.83, H.2	Introduce a new Housing Health and Safety Rating System when there is a legislative opportunity	Achieved 30 June 2006	Included in Housing Act 2004. Implementation in Wales early 2006.	Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)
		Seminar on effect of HHSRS to disseminate goodpractice in partnership with all-Wales Technical Panel..	Summer 2007		
	p.83, H.2	Use Assembly's proposed secondary legislative powers to ensure that the system is sensitive to the particular circumstances and needs of Wales.	Achieved 30 June 2006	As above.	Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)
Tackling Fuel Poverty					
Eradicate fuel poverty in Wales	p.84, H.3	Work with our partners, through initiatives such as the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme, to eradicate fuel poverty in Wales.	2010	Ongoing	Francois Samuel (CDEU)
Defining Standards/Development Quality Requirements					
Develop standards that will ensure that the new and existing registered social landlord housing stock will be good quality, energy efficient and adaptable to changing household needs.		Future developments proposed for Development Quality Requirements in 2007 will include developing standards to reduce waste in the building industry, setting higher energy efficiency targets and supplementing ECO Homes with standards from the Code for Sustainable Homes.	2007		Francois Samuel (CDEU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
Design and Construction – ‘Rethinking Construction’					
<p>Create a sustainable economy in which the design and construction of housing has a large part to play. Promote the principles of the Egan Report ‘Rethinking Construction’ within the construction of new social housing to achieve continuous improvement in the quality of its design and construction.</p>	New	Establish detailed criteria for RSL consortia procurement.	April 2007		Francois Samuel (CDEU)
		Support the development of Constructing Excellence Benchmarking clubs	Ongoing		
		Monitor constructing Excellence demonstration project programme	Ongoing		
		Develop procurement and process elements of Assembly Government Sustainable Buildings action plan	April 2007		Francois Samuel (CDEU)
	p.86, H.5	Maintain ad-hoc working groups to assist in the formulation of policies for implementing ‘Rethinking Construction’ procurement methods in National Assembly funded, and other public sector, construction activities	Ongoing	Continuing through work of Constructing Excellence in Wales and Public Sector Client Forums	Francois Samuel (CDEU)
	p.86, H.5	In partnership with Constructing Excellence Wales continue to promote a programme of best practice events.	2006-2008	Best practice workshops continue to be sponsored by Assembly.	Francois Samuel (CDEU)
	p.86, H.5	Co-operate with partners in the construction industry to deliver awareness raising of, and training in, the principles of ‘Rethinking Construction’.	On-going	Liaison and consultation continues with Centre for Constructing Excellence in Wales and member organisations.	Francois Samuel (CDEU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
	TG1 r28	Liaise with industry training bodies over training and skill capacity of the industry.	On-going	Liasing with Sector Skills Councils (SSC).	Francois Samuel (CDEU)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'.
- TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number.
2. See Annex for key.

Section I: Meeting the Needs of Specific Groups

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Equality of Opportunity					
Ensure equality of opportunity in access to housing.	p.91, l.1	Ensure that all vulnerable households have access to specialist housing advice and any support and adaptations they may need to remain in their own homes.	Continuous	See specific proposals in following sections.	David Warren (HSSU)
'Supporting People'					
Develop an integrated approach to accommodation based support for vulnerable people ('Supporting People').	Since Better Homes Doc	Redraft and update SPRG Grant conditions	March 2007	Originally published 2003	Simon Prothero (HSSU)
	New	Undertake visits to local authorities in order to:- Promote best practice in service commissioning Inform decision on handover of SPRG,.	September 2007		Simon Prothero (HSSU)
	New	Develop formula for national distribution of Supporting People funds.	March 2008	Following original distribution through transitional housing benefit	Simon Prothero (HSSU)
	New	Redraft guidance for local authorities.	March 2007	To replace that issued in March 2003.	Simon Prothero/Paul Webb (HSSU)
	Since Better Homes Doc	Redraft Guidance 'Accreditation of Support Providers'	November 2007		Cherry Capel (HSSU)
Black, Minority Ethnic Groups (BME)					

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Ensure that race equality is promoted as part of the wider agenda to combat racism, and to provide equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities within a stakeholder society.	New	Review of BME Housing Action Plan for Wales and social landlords' implementation.	April 2005	In progress. A working group of the BME Housing Review Group was set up in April 2006 to assess whether a review of the BME Housing Action Plan was needed. The group reported back in September 2006 with their proposals for a new BME Housing Action Plan which will develop actions based on contemporary housing issues.	David Warren (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.92, I.3	<p>Fund a BME Housing Project to assist implementation of the BME Housing Strategy Action Plan for Wales. The main elements of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To undertake a feasibility study on establishing a black-led housing organisation for Wales; • Promoting good practice on BME housing to social landlords; and • To facilitate enhanced minority representation in housing organisations. 	2001-2004 completed	<p>A minority ethnic-led housing organisation for Wales (Tai Pawb) in place as a stand-alone charitable organisation. It is currently core-funded by the Assembly. In time, it should be funded partially by the Assembly and by membership fees.</p> <p>The Race and Housing Training Resource was launched and disseminated throughout Wales.</p> <p>In 2006, Tai Pawb, Community Housing Cymru and TPAS will launch its 'Come on Board' programme to encourage more BME representation on RSL boards.</p>	David Warren (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	New	Gypsies & Travellers – accommodation needs.	Ongoing	<p>Report into the 'Accommodation needs of gypsy-Travellers in Wales' undertaken by Birmingham University submitted and response to its findings launched September 2006. Gypsy Count Survey reinstated in Wales from July 2006. Substantive guidance to local authorities on undertaking assessments of Gypsy & Travellers accommodation needs included in Local Housing Market Assessment guidance (March 2006) and refined guidance on producing 2007 local housing strategies (November 2006) require mainstreaming of Gypsies & Travellers' accommodation needs.</p>	Paul Webb (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.93, I.3	Review registered social landlord Board composition.	Ongoing	<p>Community Housing Cymru is working in partnership with Tai Pawb on a scheme to increase diversity on Boards of housing associations. This aims to promote new and existing good practice in recruitment methods of Board Members and will build up a database of individuals who are interested in becoming Board Members.</p> <p>In 2006, Tai Pawb, Community Housing Cymru and TPAS will launch its 'Come on Board' programme to encourage more BME representation on RSL boards.</p>	David Warren (HSSU)
	p.93, I.3	Where necessary, liaise with the registered social landlord movement to work towards a board composition that reflects the numbers and profile of the BME populations served.	Ongoing	Redefined to: Identify best practice which encourages and supports BME representation on RSL boards; and issue good practice guidance. See above.	David Warren (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
People with Disabilities					
Promote and support local action to address the needs of people with physical disabilities.	p.93, I.4.1	Encourage local authorities to adopt information systems that enable them to identify accessible and adapted properties, and match them with the needs and choices of people with a disability.	<p>Achieved 30 June 2006</p> <p>November 2006.</p> <p>December 2006.</p>	<p>Included in revised guidance on DFGs</p> <p>DFG Review Report recommendations currently being implemented. Most recommendations in place.</p> <p>Revised guidance on DFGs issued to all local authorities.</p>	Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)
	p.93, I.4.1	Work with HOMES (Housing Organisations Mobility and Exchange Services) to overcome barriers for people with a disability who wish to move home.	Ongoing	Issued raised at DTLR-led project group on HOMES. 'Move UK' launched in April 2005. Rejected by project board as part of core business activity	Paul Webb (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.93, I.4.1	Consult on information and advice services for people with a disability, and how we can enable better access to housing services for them. (Subsumes TG4 r23 to develop a Disabled Persons Housing Service.)	Revised to August 2006	Funding agreed for 3 years to fund 'Space for People' a disabled persons housing service, assisting disabled people to gain independence, integration and inclusion by developing an accessible housing sector. The service is jointly funded by the Assembly, Charter, Seren, Newport, Monmouth & Torfaen.	Paul Webb/David Warren(HSSU)
	p.93, I.4.1	Examine the current funding arrangements for the provision of physical adaptations operating in the private and public sectors.	Autumn 2005 December 2006.	Housing Adaptations and DFG Review completed in March 2005. Report Recommendations currently being implemented. Revised guidance issued to all local authorities.	Brendon Hilbourne (PSU)
A comprehensive range of residential accommodation with appropriate levels of support to meet the needs of those suffering with mental health problems should be available throughout Wales.		Publish an 'Adult Mental Health Services Strategy', including recommendation that models of funding and good practice are devised and piloted in Wales as a matter of priority, using the mechanisms in 'Partnerships for Improvement'.		Achieved	John Sweeney (CPCHSD)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Promote and support local action to address the needs of people with physical disabilities		Fund a feasibility study on establishing a Disabled Persons Housing Advice Service for southeast Wales.	Ongoing	Project funding now in place under SHMG to March 2008	Paul Webb (HSSU)
Care and Repair					
Ensure that older and disabled people have access to the help they need to remain in their own homes.	p.95, I.6	Consolidate Care and Repair service and support the agencies to continue to develop more innovative approaches to tackling the problems faced by older people and people with a disability.	Achieved	All Wales coverage secured and enhanced funding achieved 2003.	Jeff Childs (PSU)
	p.95, I.6	Proposed changes to private sector renewal arrangements will offer Care and Repair further opportunities and scope to extend the help and advice they provide, particularly with the increasing availability of loans alongside grants.	Ongoing	Regulatory Reform Order made in July 2002. Care and Repair continuing working with local authorities to consider scope of further involvement with private sector renewal.	Jeff Childs (PSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.95, I.6	Care and Repair will also work with other public sector agencies including social services, health authorities/trusts and voluntary agencies, to help provide a more co-ordinated approach to assistance for older people.	On-going	Already part of Care and Repair's core activities. The Rapid Response Adaptations Programme launched 1 July 2002 is a further example of this. Health, Social Care and Housing Officials Group established January 2005. National Housing Debate on Housing and Service needs of older people conducted May 2005 with Care & Repair Cymru centrally involved.	Jeff Childs (PSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Lifetime Homes					
<p>Ensure that all communities, including individual homes of all tenures and the general environment in which they are situated, are accessible by everyone.</p> <p>Provides residents with the opportunity of staying in their homes longer, by making their houses capable of adaptation to meet changing household needs.</p>	p.96, I.7	All social housing providers to develop and maintain a database of disability adaptations to their stock.	Ongoing	As yet incomplete data maintained and no comprehensive advice issued. Recommendation 29 of the review of adaptations and DFGs reminds LA's of the benefits of adapted housing registers and matching schemes in relation to their own housing stock and requires the inclusion in their plans of such schemes within their local housing strategy and private sector renewal strategy.	Housing Directorate
Royal Commission on Long Term Care					
Implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care, as they relate to the National Assembly's devolved powers.	p.96, I.8	Everyone who needs nursing care will have it paid for by the National Health Service.	October 2001 for self-funders. April 2003 for LA supported residents Completed	NHS funded nursing care introduced from 3 December 2001 for self funders and 1 April 2004 for local authority funded residents in Care Homes with Nursing. Currently £111 per week (2006-7).	Margaret Jenkins (OPLTCPD)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.96, I.8	<p>New regulations introduced to ease the pressures on those entering care to sell their homes to pay care costs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new disregard of the value of the home for 3 months following admission to a residential setting – allowing more time for life changing decisions on care arrangements to be taken; • councils able to make available loans to meet care costs to avoid the need for house sales during the older person's life; and • capital limits for means testing and personal allowances for individuals have been increased. <p>Abolition of the Residential Allowance and Part III rate to income support – transfer of resources to local authorities.</p>			Teresa Davies (OPLTCPD3)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new disregard of the value of the home for 3 months following admission to a residential setting – allowing more time for life changing decisions on care arrangements to be taken; 	April 2001	Implemented from April 2001	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • councils able to make available loans to meet care costs to avoid the need for house sales during the older person's life; and 	April 2003	Implemented from April 2003.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capital limits for means testing and personal allowances for individuals have been increased. 	April 2001 and annually thereafter	Implemented, to come into effect each April . Undertaking to regularly review and keep in line with inflation.	
		Abolition of the Residential Allowance and Part III rate to income support – transfer of resources to local authorities.	October 2003 – achieved & complete	Achieved October 2003	

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
A Comprehensive Strategy for Older People/Care Standards Act 2000					
Encourage the improvement of quality in the social care sector and publish information to the public.	p.97, I.9	Establish Care Council for Wales, to regulate and train the social care workforce.	October 2001 – achieved & complete	Achieved. The Assembly has introduced Protection of Title of social workers from 1st April 2005. From that time it is an offence for individuals to call themselves a social worker unless they are registered with the Council. Registration of other care staff is planned to start in the winter of 2005.	Pat Vogt/Margaret Provis (SSIW – DU)
	p.98, I.9	To consider and advise on the future direction and shape of the next phase of the 'Strategy for Older People' (2008/9 – 2012/13) in collaboration with partners.	March 2007	Task and Finish Group being implemented. Meetings set up.	Steve Vincent (OPLTCPD)
	p.98, I.9	Commission a project, in conjunction with local government, to examine the demand for elderly person housing, particularly sheltered accommodation and the need to develop other forms, such as frail elderly schemes. The project will take into account the impact which specially designed housing for the elderly can have on residential and nursing home provision.	Commenced Spring 2002	Follow-up study commissioned focussing on extra-care provision. Final report received September 2006.	Mike Harmer (RIU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Domestic Abuse					
Tackle domestic violence and help people to overcome violence, and the fear of it, in the home.	p.100, l.11	Develop an inter-departmental and agency approach to domestic violence, which will incorporate housing elements.	Initially Spring 2002 achieved & ongoing implementation	All Wales Group on Domestic Abuse was set up in 2002. "Tackling Domestic Abuse – The All Wales National Strategy" was launched on 30 March 2005 by the Minister. The Strategy's primary objective is to establish an effective network of services for all victims of domestic abuse across the whole of Wales. The delivery of the Strategy will be monitored by the Work Group on Domestic Abuse. The Assembly has supported the appointment of a Domestic Abuse co-ordinator with each Community Safety Partnerships to ensure the Strategy is put fully into practice.	Paul Webb (HSSU) Peter Jones (CSU)
	p.100, l.11	Consider how social housing letting practices can better enable women to move on from, or avoid the need for, refuge accommodation.	2002-3 initiated & ongoing	Domestic Abuse working group produced All Wales Strategy published April 2005	Paul Webb (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.100, l.11	Work with Welsh Women's Aid to develop new community-based approaches to helping women at risk of violence or abuse.	Ongoing	Welsh Women's Aid has been awarded £350k core funding in 2005/06. In addition they have been awarded a 3 year grant, between 2003-04 and 2005-06, totalling some £685k, to provide a telephone helpline for victims of domestic abuse in Wales. The Assembly will fully evaluate this project in 2005/06.	Peter Jones (CSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Asylum Seekers and Refugees					
<p>Enable housing providers to implement effectively UK Government policy on the provision of housing and support for persons seeking asylum.</p> <p>Encourage good practice in the resettlement of refugees.</p>	p.100, l.12	Develop, consult on and issue good practice guidance on the provision of housing services to asylum seekers and refugees.	Summer 2002	<p>Guidance completed and issued March 2005. Housing Sub Group of the All – Wales Refugee Policy Forum established summer 2003. The Refugee Housing Action Plan was published in July 2005.</p> <p>Funding for the refugee integration partnership programme 'Accommodate' was awarded in August 2006. Bids are currently being assessed by the Housing Associations Charitable Trust (HACT). The successful partnership will be funded to explore innovative ways of promoting refugee intergration and sharing good practice.</p>	David Warren (HSSU)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'.
 TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number. 2. See Annex for key.

Section J: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
Homelessness and Local Homelessness Strategies					
Implement National Homelessness Strategy 2006-8	New	Produce annual review report for SJR Committee, including progress on targets within the Strategy	March 2007	Progress report has been presented to HSWG	Geoff Marlow (HSSU)
	p.104, J.3	Monitor the development of local homelessness strategies and promote good practice in prevention and individual housing solution planning to improve targeting of resources and services to homeless people.	Ongoing	Supporting through grant funding 2001-02 to 2003-04. All local homelessness strategies are in place and have been reviewed by WAG. Progress visits have been completed for 17 local authorities, the remainder to be completed by January 07.	Geoff Marlow (HSSU)
	p.104, J.3	Increase funding under s180 to provide for an additional 30 projects to help eliminate rough sleeping.	Ongoing	Achieved. Complete. Target now exceeded with homelessness grants budget of £6.44M for 2007/2008.	Geoff Marlow/Kerry Charles (HSSU)
	New	Introduce new review process for Homelessness Grant Programme projects to ensure they perform effectively against National Homelessness Strategy objectives.	Ongoing	The new review process is being developed.	Geoff Marlow/Kerry Charles (HSSU)
	p.104, J.3	Issue for consultation a revised Code of Guidance on Allocations and Homelessness.	Ongoing	Draft guidance with Legal Department Code of Guidance has been reviewed and will be published by end of 2006	Geoff Marlow (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	New	Undertake research into the most appropriate forms of accommodation for vulnerable young people.	Summer – 2007	Research consultants have been commissioned and begun preparatory work.	Mike Harmer (RIU)
	p.105, J.3	Ensure that levels of homelessness are measured in all local authority areas and addressed through local housing strategies.	Achieved	Statistics are discussed with local authorities on progress visits.	Geoff Marlow (HSSU)
	New	Introduce nationwide counts of rough sleepers and monitor outcomes.	Initially March 2007	Guidance for the counts has been issued, consultant employed to support authorities and grants to LA's have been agreed.	Geoff Marlow (HSSU)
	New	Improve access to health services for homeless people.	Ongoing	Appointment of Health and Homelessness Facilitator has been approved. To be advertised December 2006.	Geoff Marlow (HSSU)
	TG4 r4	Undertake research into the extent, causes and responses to rural homelessness.	2006-07	Research project carried out through Wales Rural Observatory programme. Final report delivered September 2006.	Mike Harmer (RIU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Housing Advice and Information Services					
Everyone to have access to free high quality housing advice.	p.106, J.4	Ensure that all people in Wales continue to have access to free high quality housing advice and promote access to specialist housing advice where this is needed, in all local authority areas.	Initially April 2003 & Ongoing	Services established in all areas. Continue to support improvement of services through s180 funding and in partnership with LSC. New contractual arrangements to be reviewed with LSC early 2007.	Geoff Marlow (HSSU)
Housing and Employment/Training					
Promote housing services and strategies that are complementary to training and employment strategies, thus supporting sustainable development.	p.106, J.5	Work with DELLS, the Employment Service and local authorities to promote access to appropriate training and employment opportunities for people in supported housing, through funding of those services and implementation of 'Supporting People' programme.	Commence ment 2002-03 & Ongoing	DELLS funded pilots under Community Learning Accounts now underway.	Paul Webb (HSSU)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'.
TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number.
2. See Annex for key.

Section K: Housing Benefit

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Housing Benefit Administration and Single Room Rent Restriction					
Ensure that the implications of Housing Benefit policy proposals impacting on Wales are brought to the attention of the UK Government.		Regular meetings with Welsh local authorities to assess impacts. Quarterly meetings with DWP	On-going On-going		Alyn Williams (PSU)
New Forms of Housing Support					
Help deliver effective Housing Benefit Reform in Wales		Ensure Rent Officer Service is adequately resourced to deliver new functions. Regular meetings with DWP, other devolved Administrations and Rent Officer Service in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland to share best practices etc	1 April 2008 Meet at least twice a year	Ongoing	Alyn Williams (PSU) Alyn Williams (PSU)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'.
TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number.
2. See Annex for key.

Section L: Housing and Community Safety

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Promoting Safe Communities					
Promote a cross-cutting approach to policy-making to help people live in communities that are free from crime and are non-threatening.	p.114, L.1	Promote high standards of safety in new social housing with housing located in non-threatening environments, and developments designed in ways that reduce opportunities for crime.	On-going	Requirement for Secured by Design approval of SHG funded Schemes.	Francois Samuel (CDEU)
	p.114, L.1	Reduce the distress caused by problems like neighbourhood nuisance and anti-social behavior by finding effective, value-for-money solutions.	On going.	ASB Co-ordinators now established in each of the 22 Community Safety Partnerships supported by Home Office funding. Training has been provided by the Assembly to promote a unified approach to the problems of ASB. The Assembly Safer Communities Fund worth £8m over 2003-06 will fund locally determined projects across Wales; which can include action on ASB. The Assembly is to fund 4 ASB Action Area Pilot Projects in 2006 worth £45,000 each which will be evaluated to establish best practice.	Joanna Jordan (CSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	<p>TG1 r38</p> <p>New</p>	<p>Preparation of Local Transport plans (LTPs) to account for housing needs and development; accounting for access and equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Preparation of Regional Transport Plans will take account of housing plans and strategies. They will contribute to improving access to services.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Five year LTPs submitted to Assembly Government in 2000. Annual Progress Reports submitted in June each year.</p> <p>Regional Transport Plans will replace Local Transport Plans from 2008. Preliminary work on these has begun.</p>	Cath Mullin Policy & Strategy Group (DEIN)
Partnership					
Realise our vision through effective partnerships at all levels.	p.114, L.2	Future policy development informed by experience of statutory Community Safety Partnerships.	On-going	New strategies for 2005-08.	Joanna Jordan (CSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
	p.114, L.2	Create new partnerships, such as the Community Fire Safety Working Group (CFSWG), to inform new policy and initiatives.	On-going.	To build on the work of the Community Fire Safety Working Group (CFSWG) through the Community Fire Safety Committee (CFSC). This has now been fully established, with its third meeting held in September 2006. The committee is progressing the Wales Arson Reduction Strategy as well as considering the outcomes of the recommendations of the two CFSWG reports "Up in Flames" and "Wired for Safety"	Kingsley Rees (FSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹ .	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ² .
	New	Improve fire safety through the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) order 2005	April 2006	Task completed. The National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of functions) Order came into force on the 7 th June 2006 and the delegation of those functions from the National Assembly for Wales to the First Minister/Minister for SJ&R/ WAG staff came into effect on the 20 th September 2006.	Kingsley Rees (FSU)
Community Safety in New Housing ('Secured by Design')					
Reduce levels of crime and fear of crime through design.	p.115' L.3	<p>Promote, in conjunction with the police, 'Secured by Design' as best practice in all new housing developments and raise awareness of the benefits amongst registered social landlords and local planning authorities.</p> <p>Consider the role of Secured by Design in relation to the DCLG code for Sustainable Homes and its implementation in Wales</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>April 2007</p>	Continue to work with Police Forces to promote Designing out Crime and SBD.	Francois Samuel (CDEU)
Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Nuisance – the Landlord Role					
Support landlords in utilising the full range of measures available to tackle anti-social behaviour.	p.116, L.4	Encourage social landlords to develop strategies for preventing, tackling and responding to anti-social behaviour.	Ongoing	Also developing a Wales Housing Management Standard for anti-social behaviour which will be widely consulted on at end of 2006.	Maureen Haire (HSSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Neighbourhood Wardens, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and Other Measures					
Support neighbourhood warden schemes.	p.117, L.6	Consider funding neighbourhood warden schemes.	Achieved	Programme implemented. Supported through Welsh Assembly and Home Office programme funding there are a number of Neighbourhood / Community Safety Warden projects in Wales. These have been used to deter anti –social behaviour, reduce fear of crime through increased high visibility patrolling and improve the physical appearance of communities. Evidence suggests that schemes are implemented to varying degrees of success.	Joanna Jordan (CSU)/ Jason Lintern (HOCT)
	p.117, L.6	Disseminate best practice from existing schemes across Wales.	On-going	Seminars/training and support.	Joanna Jordan (CSU)

Aim/Commitment	Ref ¹	Actions/Target Outcomes	Target Date	Progress/Results	Lead Official/Unit ²
Support provision of CCTV in public places.	p.117, L.7	Provide funding for CCTV in areas of high crime, or lower crime areas where there is evidence of a high fear of crime.	2003 Achieved	Achieved	Joanna Jordan (CSU)
Integrate crime prevention issues into policy development.	p.117, L.8	Provide funding for basic crime prevention measures through new Home Energy Efficiency Scheme.	On-going	Assembly funding this element and extended eligibility to all areas of Wales through HEES scheme.	Francois Samuel (CDEU)

Notes:

1. Page and section from 'Better Homes for People in Wales – A National Housing Strategy for Wales'.
TG – Task Group number and r- recommendation number.
2. See Annex for key.

Annex National Housing Strategy Action Plan

Key

Housing Directorate Units

SHRIU	Social Housing Regulation and Investment Unit
CDEU	Construction and Domestic Energy Unit
FRU	Fire and Rescue Unit
PSU	Private Sector Unit
HSSU	Housing Strategy and Services Unit

Others

RIU	Research and Information Unit, Social Justice and Regeneration Department
SJ&R BU	Social Justice and Regeneration Business Unit
CD	Communities Directorate
CSU	Community Safety Unit
CHSCD	Children's Health and Social Care Directorate
CSD	Children's Strategy Division
CSIW	Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales
DEIN	Department for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks
DfTE - YPP	Training and Education Department - Youth and Pupil Participation
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
HOCT	Home Office Crime Team
HSC	Health and Social Care:
HSC-RD	Health & Social Care – Resources Directorate
OPLTCPD	Older People and Long Term Care Policy Directorate
CPCHSD	Community, Primary Care and Health Service Policy Directorate
PD	Planning Division
PPT – SPU	Policy Projects Team, Strategic Policy Unit
PHSD	Public Health Strategy Division

SF (SPU)	Sustainable Futures (Spatial Plan Unit)
TSCPD	Training, Skills and Careers Policy Division
SSIW – ADU	Social Services Inspectorate for Wales – Adults Development Unit