

Logan Together Foundation Roadmap –Project scoping

Project title: Develop a Family Housing Strategy to address the short and long term need for affordable appropriate family housing

Strategic or Chapter-based project: Housing and Homelessness Chapter

Short description: Develop a family housing strategy to address the long term housing needs of Logan families and better organise integrated support for families living in social housing. Aspects of the strategy to include:

- Develop a demand and supply study to inform provision of social, affordable and low-cost private market housing for families
- Prioritise stable accommodation for families in allocations and support of social and affordable housing
- Develop family-centred long term support plans for all families with children under 8 in social housing which focus on long term achievement of employment, training, child development and community participation goals as well as short term challenges.
- Agree system-wide performance benchmarks about time taken to achieve a pathway to secure housing for families
- Implement a “no-child sleeping rough” guarantee

What results does it help Logan Together to achieve?

Foundation Roadmap scoreboard outcome (life stage)

This project is seen as an underpinning project relevant across the life course and is important to the achievement of all Logan Together life stage goals.

Target

Further analysis by the project group will be required to set correct targets for this project. However long term targets around reductions in numbers of households in mortgage or rental stress, targets around the time taken to place families on secure housing pathways and the number of children sleeping rough are likely to be the focus.

Indicators (how do we know the outcome is being achieved)

Refer commentary on targets above.

Why will it help achieve those results?

Secure affordable housing is universally acknowledged as a fundamental prerequisite for the achievement of other family goals. Further, mortgage or rental stress (typically defined as 30% or more of household income required to service accommodation costs) is known to contribute to relationship stressors and is correlated with higher rates of family violence and alcohol and substance misuse, which in turn directly impacts on child wellbeing.

The proposed Family Housing strategy will examine the long term supply issues of affordable housing – both private market and social housing – and compare this with demand forecasts – as well as address short term availability and service integration issues.

Project details:

The Family Housing strategy is a set of related subprojects that examine the short and long term issues around the supply of and access to safe and appropriate housing for Logan children and their families. The strategy should address all housing types across both the private and social housing sectors.

The more immediate projects will examine service integration with housing and the efficacy of the local housing system to ensure:

- that well joined up housing + support packages are offered to households with extra needs
- long term plans exist for families in social housing that address social and emotional wellbeing, employment and education needs as well as longer term housing pathways
- there is effective coordination across crisis, transitional and long term housing and the family violence sector to avoid children sleeping rough.
- In the long term, an understanding of affordable and social housing supply and its relationship to demand is important to anticipate and address future supply and demand issues.

These projects may be undertaken concurrently.

Data and scale:

The project group will need to establish a data framework for this project, but should consider reliable measures for:

- Families in housing stress
- Families in insecure housing or homelessness
- Capability and metrics associated with same-day housing response for children and their families who are sleeping rough
- Families in social housing with long-term holistic support plans with relevant personal goals.

Partners:

Logan City Community Housing, the existing Logan Housing and Homelessness network, planning officers from the Department of Housing, Logan City Council social planners, QShelter and other housing stakeholders will be important partners in this project.

Co-design:

Social and affordable housing tenants and families in the affordable end of the private market will be important co-design partners, as are women and children who have faced

housing insecurity due to domestic violence and families who have experienced homelessness.

Quick wins:

Service integration work to support an industry benchmark for response times on the following two important metrics should be achievable in 2016:

- Same day response for children rough sleeping (no child rough sleeping guarantee)
- New industry benchmark for time taken to place families on secure housing pathway (i.e. time taken to establish a secure pathway from crisis or transitional housing to long term housing)

An initial demand and supply study should be able to be completed in 2016.