

# HOUSING AND HEALTH

## A GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR NHS WALES DEVELOPED VIA A BEVAN COMMISSION EXEMPLAR

SHORT VERSION

INTENDED TO BE ENACTED DURING 2022 IN PREPERATION  
FOR ANTICIPATED WINTER PRESSURES

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT HEALTH BOARDS ACROSS WALES UNDERTAKE A BASELINE  
EXERCISE ON THE LINKS BETWEEN HOUSING & HEALTH AS OFFERED IN THIS DOCUMENT



# **HOUSING AND HEALTH**

## **BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN THE SECTORS : SHORT VERSION**

**Housing and health are intimately linked and the evidence-base that is both compelling and extensive. Cold and damp homes can adversely affect health, especially during the winter in patients with underlying health conditions. In addition, factors in the home environment can either increase or decrease both hospital admission and discharge. For example, a patient who falls at home may require admission for hip fracture. As for discharge, patients may require housing adaptation on leaving a hospital, for example if they have had a stroke.**

**This document is a short version of a much longer report that is available on request. The longer report provides a summary of the evidence-base as well as tools to assess progress on building bridges between housing and health. Yet the core message is the same. Health Boards are encouraged to baseline their links with housing partners using the self-assessment checklist overleaf. Whilst this offers a scoring system, the only intention of this is to stimulate thinking and planning rather than to claim that it is an objective measurement system.**

**This short version provides a focussed approach to building bridges between housing and health. The timing is important, given the anticipations of fuel crises that will leave many individuals and communities struggling to pay their energy costs. This will lead to direct health impacts, such as cold homes, as well as the ripple effects of this including potential 'heat or eat' choices and stress that compromises mental health. This short version has been developed through the work of an all-Wales Community of Practice via a Bevan Exemplar.**

**Thank you for taking the time to consider this guide.**

**Dr Gareth Morgan.**

**Hywel Dda University Health Board.**

**Bevan Exemplar lead. Contact : Gareth.Morgan5@wales.nhs.uk**

## Housing and Health Collaboration Checklist

### How well are we working together? A self-assessment tool

**Self-assessment scoring system to be completed every year starting October 2022**

**1-3 respectively indicate little or no progress and highlighted red**

**4-7 respectively indicate some or substantial progress and highlighted amber**

**8-10 respectively indicate completion or near completion and highlighted green**

	CHECKLIST FOR LOCAL HEALTH BOARD COLLEAGUES – please date the review * Scoring system based on previous National Service Frameworks	√
1.	<p><b>Strategic Overview</b> : Please identify how the Health Board recognises the significant contribution that the housing sector brings e.g:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">                     Improving patient outcomes                      Reducing health service usage                      Supporting earlier hospital discharge                      Enabling patients to stay in their home                      Protecting health and preventing ill-health                      Enabling significant cost savings to be made                 </p>	Score 1-10
	Comments:	
2.	<p><b>Partnerships</b> : Please show how the Health Board ensures that a focus on housing and health, to include both social and private sectors, is developed as part of regional and local statutory partnership working arrangements. Please demonstrate any joint initiatives with health and housing partners, both social and private, being included in health and well-being plans at both a regional and local level as appropriate</p>	Score 1-10
	Comments:	
3.	<p><b>Health and Housing Pathways</b></p> <p>Please describe how has the Health Board has worked with partners to implement and improve referral pathways between Health and Housing Professionals, using local partnerships with services.</p> <p>There might be a focus upon how these supports the most vulnerable e.g Cancer patients, Dementia, Older People and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, children and asthma, fuel poverty schemes, risk of house fire. There might also be consideration of Health Board encouraging take-up of national housing schemes which would benefit local residents e.g. NEST, Care &amp; Repair, Citizen’s Advice. For example <a href="https://hduhb.nhs.wales/healthcare/services-and-teams/community-support-housing-and-health/">https://hduhb.nhs.wales/healthcare/services-and-teams/community-support-housing-and-health/</a></p>	Score 1-10
	Comments:	

4.	<b>Excess Winter Deaths</b> : Please evidence how much has ‘NICE Guidance and pathways on Excess Winter Deaths’ been implemented. This would also have links with the Cold Weather Resilience Plan in Wales. Source : <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG6">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG6</a> <a href="https://gov.wales/cold-weather-resilience-plan">https://gov.wales/cold-weather-resilience-plan</a>	Score 1-10
	Please provide examples to highlight good practice in implementation	
	Comments:	
5.	<b>Falls Prevention</b> : Please confirm if the Health Board reviews and improve multi-agency falls prevention programmes ensuring there is join up between falls prevention initiatives in health, local authority and third sector settings. Please attach any relevant strategies.	Score 1-10
	Comments:	
6.	<b>Primary Care</b> : Please show if the Health Board ensures housing is a priority in GP Cluster Plans, demonstrating and including links with local housing organisations, and establishing referral pathways between primary care and the housing sector. Please provide examples from any Cluster plans where these exist as evidence.	Score 1-10
	Comments:	
7.	<b>Enhanced Discharge</b> : Please provide examples of how the Health Board works with housing organisations to find suitable solutions including working with those patients with complex health and social needs to enhance discharge from hospital at the appropriate time	Score 1-10
	Comments:	
8.	<b>Networking and Information</b> : Please show opportunities maximised for integrating housing within information portals and improving data linkage between health, care and housing. Please provide examples	Score 1-10
	Comments:	
9.	<b>Research and Development</b> : Please evidence how does the Health Board encourage evidenced based health and housing research.	Score 1-10
	Comments:	
10.	<b>Sharing and receiving experience</b> : Please evidence if you have sought external feedback on your work or offered feedback on other areas	Score 1-10
	Comments:	

Self-assessment score = %.

Please feel welcome to join an all-Wales community of practice by emailing the Chair Dr Gareth Morgan at Hywel Dda University Health Board: [Gareth.Morgan5@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Gareth.Morgan5@wales.nhs.uk)

*NOTE : THIS SCORING SYSTEM IS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE NATIONAL SERVICE FRAMEWORK FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN WALES WHICH FOR SEVERAL YEARS USED SUCH A PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT. THE CHECKLIST HAS BUILT ON WORK UNDERTAKEN BY PUBLIC HEALTH WALES COLLEAGUES*

**Summary diagram of checklist : Please mark scores in each circle**

