

## SERVICE DESCRIPTION FORM

<b>Department: Environmental Services – Housing and Property</b>	
<b>Service: Planning and Development</b>	
<b>Income:</b>	<b>£000's</b>
Government Grants	464
Fees/Charges	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>465</b>
<b>Description:</b>	
<p>The Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 requires that local authorities produce a Scheme of Assistance (SofA) setting out how they will provide advice, information and assistance to private home owners when carrying out work on their home. The SofA also incorporates the use of enforcement powers available to local authorities to deal with sub-standard housing. It is a statutory requirement of the Local Housing Strategy to demonstrate how the Council's policies on enforcement and assistance will improve private housing conditions.</p> <p>Services to private owners provided under SofA are delivered by the Home Improvement Team (HIT) and include the provision of statutory mandatory grants to older and disabled private sector households to enable them to carry out adaptations to their homes. These adaptations are based on assessments of need carried out by the Occupational Therapy service. The HIT also provides Care &amp; Repair services to support older and disabled households through the complex process of securing adaptations to their home. Services provided to older people under SoFA contribute to the aim of the Scottish Government's Older People's Strategy to reduce the cost of care by enabling older people to remain in their homes for as long as possible.</p> <p>As well as mandatory grants, the Council also provides discretionary grants to owner-occupiers to assist them with cost of carrying out necessary repairs to their property. Under SoFA, the HIT provides a broad range of property-related services to private sector households, including information and advice on procuring and arranging repairs and improvements, advice on installing energy efficiency and support to tackle fuel poverty. The Scottish Government is committed to eradicating fuel poverty in Scotland by 2016.</p> <p>The HIT has played a key role in delivering the Scottish Government's Universal Home Insulation Scheme in Moray and it is expected that this role will extend to delivering the Green Deal due to commence in late 2012. The Green Deal will enable home owners to access funding to carry out energy efficiency measures to their property and will enable the Council to contribute to the carbon emission reduction targets set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.</p>	
<b>Outcomes / impacts:</b>	

The services provided under SoFA contribute to the following Single Outcome (SOA) priorities:

- Caring for elderly and vulnerable people
- Increasing the proportion of people needing care or support who are able to sustain an independent quality of life as part of the community.
- Increasing the volume and quality of housing throughout Moray
- Reducing energy usage/carbon emissions
- Reducing the level of fuel poverty experienced by households

At a national level, SoFA contributes to the following Scottish Government outcomes:

- National Outcome 6 – “We live longer and healthier lives”  
National Outcome 7 – “We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society”  
National Outcome 10 – “We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need”.

The services provided under SoFA contribute to the following Local Housing Strategy outcomes in relation to private sector housing :

- There is an adequate supply of appropriately designed, or adapted, housing for people with particular needs
- There is an adequate supply of appropriate housing for older people
- There is an adequate supply of appropriate housing for people with disabilities
- People live in energy efficient housing that minimises greenhouse gas emissions
- People live in housing that they can afford to heat