



## Together We Rise Recovery Housing

**Scottish Charity Number: SC054408**

### Activity and Progress Update

Together We Rise Recovery Housing is a newly established Scottish charity created to develop safe, stable and recovery-focused accommodation for people experiencing homelessness or housing instability who are seeking to establish and sustain recovery from alcohol and/or other drug use.

Our proposed model is aimed particularly at people in the early to middle stages of their recovery journey who would benefit from living in a safe, supportive and abstinence-based environment.

The charity remains in its development phase. Although progress towards opening our first homes has been slower than originally anticipated, considerable work has continued behind the scenes to establish the accommodation, governance, funding and operational arrangements necessary to develop the service responsibly and sustainably.

### An Unexpected Delay

When Together We Rise was established, our initial development plans included anticipated investment from an individual who strongly supported what the charity was seeking to achieve and intended to assist with the costs of establishing our first recovery homes.

Sadly, that individual died unexpectedly before those arrangements could be concluded.

The individual's estate is aware of his intentions in relation to Together We Rise. However, the administration of an estate understandably takes time and there remains uncertainty around the timescale and what, ultimately, may be available to the charity.

For a newly established organisation, the loss of certainty around anticipated start-up investment at such an early stage inevitably affected our original timetable.

The trustees have been conscious, however, that the charity cannot simply wait for the administration of the estate to be concluded.

We have therefore continued to push forward, seeking other opportunities to fund, grow and develop Together We Rise while maintaining appropriate contact regarding the original investor's wishes.

Our approach has been to remain hopeful that those wishes may ultimately provide support to the charity, while ensuring that the future of Together We Rise is not dependent upon that outcome.

## Accommodation Development

A major focus throughout the period has been identifying and negotiating opportunities to secure the charity's first recovery housing tenancies.

Discussions have taken place regarding potential accommodation and the arrangements through which Together We Rise could begin establishing its first homes.

This work has included considering the suitability and sustainability of proposed accommodation, anticipated housing costs and the practical and financial arrangements required before residents can safely be accepted.

Our immediate objective remains to secure the first tenancies and begin providing homes for people experiencing homelessness or housing instability who want to live within an abstinence-based recovery environment.

The trustees have deliberately avoided entering into commitments simply to demonstrate activity. Recovery housing involves responsibility for people's homes and wellbeing, and we believe that the financial and operational arrangements supporting those homes must be sustainable from the outset.

## Property and Acquisition Opportunities

Alongside negotiations concerning individual tenancies, the charity has explored opportunities for longer-term development of its housing provision.

This has included discussions around local authority acquisition funding and other mechanisms through which suitable properties could potentially be secured for recovery housing.

These discussions form part of our wider ambition to develop a sustainable model rather than establishing a small number of homes without considering how the service can subsequently grow.

Where appropriate opportunities arise, the trustees will continue to explore partnerships, acquisition arrangements and other routes which could increase the number of homes available through Together We Rise.

## Development of the Recovery Housing Model

Considerable work has also been undertaken to develop how Together We Rise will operate once accommodation becomes available.

Our intention is not simply to provide a roof over someone's head.

Together We Rise aims to create homes in which people can establish and strengthen their recovery within a safe, supportive and abstinence-based community.

Development work has therefore included consideration of:

- eligibility, referral and assessment arrangements;
- the needs of people in the early to middle stages of recovery;
- expectations associated with abstinence-based communal living;
- resident rights and responsibilities;
- safeguarding and risk management;
- management of shared accommodation;
- recovery planning and personal development;
- links with treatment, recovery and community services;
- development of independent living skills;
- building individual recovery capital; and
- progression towards sustainable independent living.

This development work is intended to ensure that the charity has a clear and consistent operating model before accepting residents.

## Policies, Procedures and Governance

A significant part of the work undertaken during this development period has involved preparing the policies, procedures and governance arrangements necessary to operate recovery housing safely and responsibly.

The trustees believe these foundations should be established before residents move into accommodation rather than developed retrospectively once the service is operating.

This work is therefore an important part of preparing Together We Rise for service delivery and protecting future residents, the charity and those involved in its operation.

Policies and procedures will continue to develop and will be reviewed as the charity moves into operation and gains practical experience.

## Funding and Financial Sustainability

Following the unexpected death of the proposed initial investor, developing alternative sources of finance became an even greater priority.

The charity has researched potential funding opportunities and progressed funding applications to assist with establishing the service.

We have also continued to explore other opportunities for financial and practical support and have considered the longer-term financial model required to sustain accommodation once residents begin moving in.

The trustees recognise that securing sufficient funding to open a property is only the beginning. The greater responsibility is ensuring that the charity can continue meeting its commitments once someone's home depends upon it.

For that reason, our work has focused on both start-up funding and longer-term sustainability.

## Partnership Development

The charity has undertaken discussions with relevant organisations and potential partners regarding the development of Together We Rise and the opportunities which may exist to work collaboratively.

Recovery housing cannot operate effectively in isolation. Future residents may have contact with homelessness, housing, treatment, health, recovery and wider community services.

Developing appropriate relationships and future referral pathways is therefore an important part of preparing the service for operation.

We will continue seeking opportunities to work alongside organisations whose objectives complement those of Together We Rise.

## Marketing and Awareness

Initial marketing and awareness-raising activity has also taken place, although this has intentionally remained at a relatively low level.

The trustees do not believe it would be appropriate to undertake significant promotion or actively generate referrals for accommodation which is not yet available.

Our initial activity has therefore concentrated on establishing awareness of Together We Rise, developing our identity and beginning to explain the recovery housing model to potential partners, supporters and funders.

This activity will increase as our first accommodation moves closer to becoming operational.

## Current Position

Together We Rise Recovery Housing remains in its start-up and development phase and has not yet commenced providing residential accommodation or accepted residents into the proposed service.

We believe it is important to be completely transparent about that position.

The charity has developed more slowly than originally intended because of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances surrounding the death of an individual whose proposed investment formed an important part of our original start-up plans.

His estate is aware of his wishes, and we remain respectful of the time required for that process to take its course and the uncertainty which necessarily remains.

At the same time, Together We Rise cannot build its future around an uncertain outcome.

The trustees have therefore continued progressing the charity independently by negotiating accommodation, developing policies and procedures, exploring local authority acquisition opportunities, seeking funding, submitting funding applications, developing partnerships and undertaking initial awareness-raising activity.

This has allowed us to continue moving towards our charitable objectives despite the setback.

## Looking Forward

Our priority is now to turn the development work undertaken to date into our first operational recovery homes.

We will continue to pursue every realistic opportunity which can help Together We Rise grow and develop.

Our immediate priorities are to:

- secure our first recovery housing tenancies;
- obtain the start-up funding necessary to establish and prepare those homes;
- continue exploring acquisition and longer-term property opportunities;
- complete the operational policy and procedure framework;
- establish appropriate referral and assessment arrangements;

- strengthen relationships with homelessness, recovery, treatment and community services;
- continue submitting appropriate funding applications;
- develop fundraising and public awareness activity; and
- welcome our first residents when the appropriate accommodation, funding and safeguards are in place.

We are deliberately starting from a manageable base. Our objective is to establish the first homes successfully, demonstrate that the model is sustainable and use that foundation to grow the charity responsibly.

The unexpected circumstances surrounding our original investor have delayed that journey, but they have not changed our purpose or ambition.

Together We Rise will continue seeking opportunities, developing partnerships and pursuing the resources required to establish a sustainable recovery housing service.

Our aim remains to provide people experiencing homelessness and housing instability with something fundamental to sustaining recovery:

**A home. A community. A future.**