

Decision Maker: **Adult and Community Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio Holder**

Date: **For Pre-decision Scrutiny by A&C PDS - 14th June 201**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: **HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE - TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

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Chief Officer: Terry Rich - Director - Adult and Community Services

Ward: Borough-wide

1. Reason for report

This report advises Members of the developments since the report to PDS in November 2009 and the work undertaken in relation to the transition away from block accommodation based contracts for sheltered housing in favour of targeted floating support for those older clients with an assessed need for housing related support.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

PDS Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the transitional arrangements put in place for accommodation based support for older people and the approaches to minimise the impact on individuals.
- ii. Support the establishment of a needs based approach delivered through floating support.

The Portfolio Holder is recommended to:

- i. Consider comments from the PDS Committee.
- ii. Approve the expansion of the existing floating support service in 2011/12 to cover the requirements in sheltered housing and to inform the demands of future commissioning.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Supporting Independence.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated cost £279,671 in 2011/12
 2. Ongoing costs: <please select>.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Supporting People
 4. Total current budget for this head: £1.026m
 5. Source of funding: Supporting People Grant
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: No statutory requirement or Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Approx 65
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Until March 31st 2011, the Council had contracts with 19 providers for 56 sheltered housing schemes on the basis of 'block contracts' with a total value of £1.026m per annum to deliver housing related support in sheltered accommodation.
- 3.2 Following reports to A+C Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee and Council Executive in November & December 2009 interim contracts were negotiated with all existing providers for one year up until April 2010, with the option to extend for up to a further year, to allow time for a review of sheltered housing to be undertaken in order to establish a more flexible and targeted approach.
- 3.3 The funding for the service has historically come from the Supporting People Grant, which until recently was a ring fenced specific grant. It is now included in the Formula Grant and not identified separately. This, coupled with the changes in the Local Government financial settlement, means that it is crucial to consider housing related support within the overall priorities of meeting the highest level of needs, directing support at those who would otherwise fall into critical or substantial eligibility criteria for services.
- 3.4 Based upon the work undertaken it was agreed not to enter into any new agreements for universal accommodation based support, but instead to commission a service which offers a floating housing related support service, directed at those older people who have been assessed as requiring this type of support, including tenants of sheltered housing.
- 3.5 The main rationale for this decision, as previously detailed in the report to PDS of November 2009, is as follows:
- Accommodation based support is currently provided as a "universal" service to people living in sheltered accommodation regardless of any assessed need of the tenant
 - Surveys show that many people moving into sheltered housing have low or no support needs. More than 50% of new tenants are under 65 years old. Most were in low housing needs bands.
 - Current schemes vary greatly in terms of cost and quality. Some schemes are unpopular providing outmoded accommodation
 - Research suggests there are alternative effective ways of providing housing related support to older people – through targeted "floating support" schemes which serve to promote independence and are flexible in responding to changing needs
 - In times of financial constraint funding for care and support needs to be directed towards people with the highest needs.
- 3.6 Between December 2010 and March 2011, Council officers met formally with each of the nineteen sheltered housing providers to discuss the ending of contracts for the delivery of accommodation based support and the options which may be available once the contract ends.
- 3.7 Within these discussions, all providers were encouraged to consider a full range of options and consult with their tenants so that their chosen response reflects the tenant's preferred option
- 3.8 Providers have also been encouraged to ensure that their tenants are receiving their full entitlement to benefits so that any financial impacts of changes upon individuals are minimised.

- 3.9 Responses ranged from:
- The intention to provide only basic housing management, with any support needs to be met by floating support,
 - through a remodelling of the service to establish an enhanced housing management/concierge service with costs transferable to Housing Benefit plus various levels of support provision with costs being either absorbed by the provider or passed on to the tenants
 - to a stated intention not to change, with all support costs being transferred to tenants.
- 3.10 It was recognised that in some cases full implementation of any proposed changes would not be possible by the end of March 2011. As such, transitional arrangements were discussed with providers where there was a clearly established need for additional time in order to consult properly and implement any changes.
- 3.11 Transitional arrangements are within the allocated budget and have been facilitated via short-term extensions to existing contracts.
- 3.12 The existing floating support contract with Affinity Sutton enables us to respond promptly and flexibly to the emerging demand, which is anticipated to fluctuate significantly in the early month, rather than commissioning a completely new provider at this stage.
- 3.13 Where substantial change is proposed, tenants are identified as having high support needs, or it is requested for specific reasons, individual assessments of future support needs are being carried out by care managers in order to ensure floating support is targeted towards greatest needs. It also ensures that there are no unmet care needs that should best be delivered through a package of care.
- 3.14 The spreadsheet contained in Appendix A summarises the providers' proposals and future service provision, together with any agreed transitional arrangements.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Housing related support services are designed to meet the Council's objective to support independence, particularly for vulnerable people, and to avoid people having to move into residential care.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The 2011/12 budget for sheltered housing services is £1,026m.
- 5.2 Tendering the service to move away from universal accommodation based support to a floating housing related support service has delivered savings in 2011/12 of £746,000 broken down as follows:-

	Budget 2011/12 £'000	Full Year 2012/13 £'000
Floating Support *	65	150
Assessments	15	0
Transitional Arrangements	200	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	280	150
Less 2011/12 Budget	1,026	1,026
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Net Saving	-746	-876

* The cost for floating support in 11/12 is a part year cost. The ongoing cost in future years will be dependent on the level of assessed need and the number of support hours required. Provision has therefore been estimated for 12/13.

5.3 A saving of £500,000 was assumed in the 2011/12 budget for sheltered housing increasing to £800,000 from 2012/13 onwards. The savings identified above will ensure that the full year savings of £800,000 p.a. will all be delivered and potentially generate additional £76k.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	A&CS PDS report of 17 th November 2009: Review of housing and support for older people progress report. Executive report of 9 th December 2009: Housing & Support for Older People