

From: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
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To: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee –
23 November 2017

Subject: **KENT'S SOCIAL CARE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY – BETTER HOMES: GREATER CHOICE – ANNUAL UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: N/A

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: All

Summary: To update the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee of the ongoing development and implementation of Kent's Accommodation Strategy. The Strategy was launched on 2 July 2014 and has been refreshed annually. A presentation will be made; this report is to provide some background to the Strategy.

Recommendation(s): The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** the content of the report and discuss as necessary the contents of the presentation.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Kent County Council, the seven Kent Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the District and Borough Councils launched an integrated strategy for developing accommodation services for vulnerable people. This Strategy was formally launched on 2 July 2014 and has been reviewed and refreshed annually.
- 1.2 The Accommodation Strategy is required to provide strategic direction to the market who are developing various care services, all that potentially attract the Council revenue funding if the person is eligible for care. It is the Council's over-arching Market Position Statement for Social Care Accommodation for all client groups. Prior to the completion of the Strategy, the Council was unable to provide any definitive support regarding need or service type in particular locations and this Strategy provides that direction and management to a growing care market and to the local Planning Authorities.
- 1.3 The Strategy is designed to be a dynamic document available on-line. The Evidence Base was commissioned by an organisation called the Health and

Housing Partnership who reviewed the population forecasts, prevalence of need, supply and demand on services and placement patterns based on locality. The Strategy was co-ordinated by the Partnership Manager for Kent Housing Group who engaged with the District Council housing and planning departments in its development. The conclusion shows a need to shift from care home accommodation for most client categories (with the exception of nursing and dementia care for older people) to suitable housing and, without having the statutory duty for delivering housing, the Council needed to ensure that the document was owned and understood by the District Councils sensitively, which was achieved.

- 1.4 A presentation will be delivered to the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee which accompanies this report and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The Strategy identifies that by delivering Extra Care Housing as a direct replacement to residential care for Older People, it can be more cost effective for the Council and provides better outcomes for people.
- 2.2 The initial launch of the Strategy in 2014 included the forecasted need to 2021 for Older Persons accommodation. The strategy has since been developed to forecast the accommodation needs for this client group and, more recently, the forecasts for people with Mental Health needs have been produced. The importance of having people in the right accommodation at the right time with options for people to move through services, or begin their care pathway in accommodation is critical for achieving efficient and effective services.
- 2.3 The Accommodation Strategy forms an important part of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). As a result, opportunities are being scoped to look at how large scale intervention and investment can be achieved to unlock some of the obstacles in getting the care services needed in particular areas.
- 2.4 The work undertaken with the market since the launch has identified areas where direct intervention is needed in some areas of the county and work is underway (although stalled) to address the gaps in service on the Isle of Sheppey, namely Extra Care Housing and Nursing Care Home provision.
- 2.5 Consideration should be made to the Kent economy given the drive for capital projects either through re-modelling or new build.
- 2.6 The Housing and Planning Act 2016 and the changes needed for Welfare Reform has resulted in a stalling of developments across the county. The Council has been actively lobbying government to identify solutions to the issues faced as a result of these changes (for supported accommodation these are the 1% rent reduction and the cap on Local Housing Allowance). The Council, Kent Developers Group and Kent Housing Group are working together and have raised the issue with a variety of MPs. Recent articles suggest that an outcome to recent consultations on the cap on Local Housing Allowance will be published "very soon".

3. Policy Framework

3.1 There are a number of strategies and frameworks within Kent that this Accommodation Strategy will have links with, form the evidence base for and support, these include the following:

- 'Your life, your well-being' - vision and strategy for adult social care
- Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes
- Kent and Medway Housing Strategy – Better Homes: localism, aspirations and choice
- Kent Telecare Strategy
- Better Homes: Housing for the Third Age Protocol
- Better Homes: Accessible Housing Protocol
- Supporting People Commissioning Plan 2014-2017
- KCC's 16 – 24 Vulnerable Young People Strategy
- Care leavers strategy
- Valuing People Now
- Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Plan

3.2 It is likely that there will be a future requirement to formally consult on changing or varying services managed by the Council, however this will be undertaken carefully once any proposal is defined.

4. Engagement from other agencies

4.1 The Council does not have the statutory duty to provide housing and has a long standing relationship with the District and Borough Councils in successfully delivering housing with care and support schemes either individually or through the large PFI schemes. Kent Housing Group fully endorses the Strategy which is invaluable in progressing specific developments and conversations.

4.2 Working much more closely with Health towards health and social care integration means that the provision of intermediate care and continuing health care must be taken into account. The review of the community hospitals that provide beds to Older People and the commissioning intentions on use of the private and voluntary sector is a consideration and therefore as the STP develops and the CCG's Estates Strategies are clearer there may be additional opportunities to integrate and jointly commission services.

5. Conclusions of the Strategy

5.1 The conclusions are broadly to:

- Increase the provision of Nursing Care Home accommodation, particularly for those with Dementia
- Increase the provision of Extra Care Housing
- Reduce the provision of general frailty residential care
- Remodel services to be better geared up to accommodating People with Dementia
- Integrate the findings of bed utilisation reviews for intermediate care

- Increase supported accommodation for People with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health needs.

5.2 Analysis of the size of a care home has shown some areas of concern in the county. The average size of a care home registering with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) was 57 beds and de-registering was 27 beds. The average size of a care home in Kent is 39 beds (43 in West Kent and 36 in East Kent). This raises questions regarding ongoing sustainability of homes; the average size closing in Kent is 25. Furthermore, there is a question over the design and physical fabric of some care homes. The Council will be welcoming new developments of larger care homes meaning to a certain extent the market should eventually adjust itself.

6. Next Steps

6.1 The presentation details the scale of adjustment needed in order to fully implement the Accommodation Strategy. It further shows areas that require focus in current Older Persons' accommodation. With the impending announcement on the Future Funding of Supported Housing (cap on local housing allowance), this will determine what actions are needed, including the re-commencement of building Extra Care Housing across the County.

6.2 Work is also underway to understand how the Council can influence the unblocking of the emerging barriers and the issues relating to workforce and the quality of service provision across the county. This impacts on the availability and accessibility of services for all client groups.

6.3 The annual refresh of the Strategy document is underway. It is likely that the amendments will require further approval or endorsement.

7. Equalities and Health Impact Assessments

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken and identified no discrimination to any groups. Individual assessments are undertaken for each local development project where needed.

7.2 Public Health commissioned a Health Impact Assessment on the Accommodation Strategy which sought to identify potential health issues and gaps, investigate potential distributions and magnitude of outcomes and provide evidenced based recommendations. The final report confirmed that there is no need to progress to a full Health Impact Assessment. Equalities were also considered in the Impact Assessment and the initial findings confirmed that the Strategy does not discriminate.

8. Recommendation(s)

8.1 Recommendation(s): The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** the content of this report and discuss as necessary the contents of the presentation.

9. Background Documents

Accommodation Strategy for Adult Social Care

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/adult-social-care-policies/accommodation-strategy-for-adult-social-care>

Housing our Ageing Population: Panel for Innovation (HAPPI)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-our-ageing-population-panel-for-innovation>

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