

Housing with Support Strategy

Summary for Consultation – Older People Chapter

What is it?

This strategy is about accommodation which has some level of support attached to it. The strategy covers various types of housing for people with different kinds of needs. There are 5 main chapters, each one is about the housing needs of a particular group:

- older people
- people with learning difficulties
- people with mental health difficulties
- people with physical or sensory impairments
- young people including those leaving care

Some people have more than one kind of need but broadly speaking housing is arranged around needs in these categories.

The strategy aims to determine what housing with support needs there are in North Somerset now and in future. The council wants to work with health and housing partners to plan what kinds of housing and support are developed in order to ensure they meet the identified needs.

What are we asking you?

We want to know if we are planning the right types of housing for older people.

We want to know if we are planning the right types of support.

We will describe what we want to do and then ask some questions to find out what you think.

What does the strategy say?

The number of older people in North Somerset is increasing and the number needing support is also increasing accordingly.

Whilst most people would wish to stay in their own home for as long as possible this is not always achievable.

Difficulties in providing care at home include whether there is sufficient home care provision in the area and the cost of providing care at home in some instances.

Nationally there is a lack of people engaging in care work which results in a reduction in capacity in the care market which impacts on available provision.

In this time of increasing austerity it is necessary to ensure that council expenditure represents best value and is sustainable in every instance.

Going forward each case will be scrutinised to ensure that it meets the individual's needs in a manner that is as cost effective as possible as well as appropriate.

The picture of residential and nursing care in North Somerset has changed in that there is no longer an oversupply of places.

There is evidence that by moving to specialist accommodation, such as extra care housing where there is provision for care and support on-site, older people can enjoy higher levels of independence for longer.

Accommodation that meets the needs of its residents (whether specialised or not) can play a preventative role and ensure an individual's wellbeing. Likewise inappropriate accommodation can result in a deterioration of health and wellbeing.

Accommodation options for older people include staying where they are, sheltered housing, moving into retirement focussed accommodation and extra care schemes.

For people who have care needs Extra care schemes can offer a positive move as they can support people to live in their own home for longer and can provide increasing levels of care as required.

There is not as much extra care housing in North Somerset as we need.

What we will do?

- Focus on ensuring older people have the information they need to plan any potential move to accommodation that will support them in the long term.
- Work with housing and support providers to develop more extra care housing (ECH), including 2 more schemes in the next 5 years, one in Yatton, one in Weston. Plan to develop a further 2 schemes in the following 5 years.
- Ensure ECH is accessible to more people including those who will fund their own care.
- Develop schemes that are suitable for people with dementia and can support people with that condition for longer than is possible in the wider community.
- Ensure that assistive technology is available for all to help people stay independent.
- Ensure that extra care schemes can meet the needs of people for as long as possible and in the most efficient way.
- Ensure that providers of housing and support are aware of the needs of the older population in North Somerset.

Questions

1. Do you think we should focus on helping older people to plan ahead?
2. Do you think we should develop more extra care housing?
3. Where is more extra care housing needed?

4. What would encourage you to consider age specific housing?
5. Are there other housing models we need to develop?
6. Are there any other comments or suggestions you have regarding this chapter?