

## **Housing with Support Strategy**

### **Summary for Consultation – people with physical and sensory impairments 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 people with physical and sensory impairments.

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?**

There are few affordable accommodation options specifically for people with physical and sensory impairments to live independently, this is predominantly due to a lack of suitable or adapted accommodation.

The numbers of people with physical and sensory impairments who would benefit from accommodation with support are hard to quantify as the needs of this group are many and varied.

The lack of data regarding the demand for this type of provision reduces the appetite of the market for its development. The small numbers of people with specific housing and support needs reduces the viability of any scheme.

Providing high levels of support to one individual in the community can be an inefficient use of resources but individual choice might preclude living alongside others with similar needs.

In this time of increasing austerity it is necessary to ensure that council expenditure represents best value 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.

There is no residential accommodation in North Somerset designed specifically for people with physical or sensory impairments. As a result people who need high levels of support can be placed in such accommodation in another county which can be costly and detrimental to the individual.

### **What we will do?**

- Develop systems for recording and monitoring the needs of this group so that an accurate picture of demand can be shared with providers.
- Work with provider partners to increase number and range of appropriate accommodation in North Somerset.
- Ensure needs are understood by all so that plans to increase provision are supported at every stage.
- Work with people with PSI to ensure that models developed will both meet need, offer value for money and be attractive to potential residents.
- Work with other local authorities, e.g. across BNSSG (Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire) to consider a facility that meets needs across a wider region.

### **Questions**

1. Do you think that there should be supported living accommodation specifically people with PSI who need high levels of support?
2. Do you think that a service for people with complex needs should be commissioned across local areas?
3. What other accommodation do you think should be considered?
4. How do you think that we can work with people with PSI to develop new models for housing and support?
5. Are there any other comments or suggestions you have regarding this chapter?

