Housing with Support Strategy

Summary for Consultation – Learning Disability 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 and support for people with a learning disability.

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

What does the strategy say?

- Systems for predicting demand for supported living in North Somerset have been limited and providers have not always had a clear understanding of the council’s commissioning intentions.
- Changes to housing benefit have caused uncertainty in the market and housing providers are less confident about developing supported living as a result.
- Some existing shared supporting living arrangements have become uneconomic where people have left and voids cannot be filled.
The most effective supported living arrangement seems to be those schemes where there are a number of individual flats in one place so every resident has their own home but some of the care hours are shared. This arrangement is commonly referred to as “core and cluster”.

There are very few core and cluster schemes in North Somerset.

A small number of placements are required for individuals with very complex or specific needs. It can be difficult to identify properties or sites for this group.

Alternatives to supported living for this group can be the most costly, e.g. out of county residential or hospital placement.

Supported living for this group can provide a cost effective solution that allows the person the most independence but only when set up as a “core and cluster” – individual arrangements are not always sustainable.

People with LD and their families do not always know what there is to support them at home or what alternatives are available when the time comes to leave home.

What we will do?

- Develop accurate systems for predicting demand and share commissioning intentions with market regularly.
- Develop a strategic partnership with housing and care providers interested in developing supported living.
- Aim to deliver 20 units in south and 20 in the north of the county in the next 5 years and 8 every 2 years thereafter.
- Ensure strategic partnership includes planning for complex individuals, whether in specialised schemes or as part of larger schemes.
- Develop 2 schemes of 4 units over next 5 years.
- Consider alternative models and funding streams to ensure long term viability. For example ownership options such as HOLD scheme.
- Develop systems to match demand and supply regarding leasehold properties from planning to opening. Work with providers to develop achievable models.
- Consider long term needs of every individual so that placements do not become unsustainable.
- Create a dedicated post in social care to support and promote the use of assistive technology to ensure that it becomes a part of most care packages as well as being more readily available to the general public.
- Avoid shared model where possible for future developments. Review current provision and consider recommissioning any reduced units including this demand in new development.
- Develop a partnership with individuals and families to develop new schemes. Ensure any proposals are assessed for viability at an early stage.
- Develop promotion plan to ensure information is available in a number of formats and through various means and reaches all target audiences.

Questions
1. Do you think that we should focus on core and cluster models of supported living in future?
2. Do you think that there are other types of housing that are needed in North Somerset?
3. Do you think that there should be the option to buy flats in supported living schemes?
4. Do you think that there is enough residential provision for people with a learning disability in North Somerset?
5. Do you think that planning future provision should involve future residents and their families?
6. If so do you have any suggestions as to how this could be done?
7. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about housing and support for people with a learning disability in North Somerset?
8. If you are interested in working on future plans for supported living schemes please contact...