

Report to Housing Scrutiny Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 30 July 2009

**Subject: Supporting People's Older Peoples' Strategic Review –
Response to Consultation**



Officer contact for further information: Roger Wilson, Assistant Director of Housing Services (Operations) (01992 56 4419)

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry (01992 56 4246)

Recommendation:

The Housing Scrutiny Panel are asked to consider the Older Peoples' Strategic Review Draft Recommendations Report produced by Essex County Council's Supporting People Team, and the Officer response, and pass on any additional comments to the Housing Portfolio Holder prior to the Council's full response being submitted.

Report:

Background Report:

1. Supporting People is a major Government initiative, which introduced a new policy, and funding framework for housing related support which includes services delivered by Scheme Managers. As a result, all housing related support provided by the Scheme Managers is funded by Essex County Council through the Supporting People Team, with the Council being under contract to provide the service.
2. The Supporting People Team has undertaken a consultation exercise on their Older Peoples' Strategic Review Draft Recommendations Report which is attached as an appendix to the report. The Review covers Extra Care, very sheltered housing, sheltered housing and services specifically for older people with mental health problems. Under the Strategic Review, the following changes to the way in which the Scheme Manager service is provided are being recommended:
 - The Scheme Manager service will be provided to sheltered housing residents by the preferred "Hub and Spoke" Model with the sheltered scheme being the hub, with the support reaching out to older people in the community like the spokes of a wheel. Support will be provided to users based on a needs assessment, with some sheltered housing residents potentially not receiving a service. The remainder of the Scheme Manager's time will be spent providing the service to older people in the community. The amount of time spent at the scheme and in the community will depend on the levels of support needed as determined through the services users' needs and risk assessments.
 - The service provided in the community will be delivered on a tenure neutral basis.
 - All service users will be assessed through the existing floating support gateway, with many moving in and out of service provision as their needs change.
 - Service users in existing schemes can chose to opt out of receiving support and opt back in if their needs change.

3. The Council's Scheme Managers have been visiting properties outside of sheltered housing schemes for many years, although not on a tenure neutral basis. The way in which the service is currently provided is set out in the officer response.

4. As the consultation deadline closed prior to the meeting of the Housing Scrutiny Panel, an officer response has been submitted. It has been explained to the Supporting People Team, that the Panel will be considering the matter at this meeting after which the Council's full response will be submitted.

5. The Supporting People Team's Senior Review Officer will be in attendance at the meeting to assist with the item.

6. The Housing Scrutiny Panel are therefore asked to consider the Older People's Strategic Review Draft Recommendations Report, and the officer response, and pass its comments to the Housing Portfolio Holder, prior to the Council's full response being submitted.

7. The Tenants and Leaseholder's Federation have considered the report at their meeting on 14 July 2009, and they support the officer response to the consultation.