

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide an update to members regarding the Older Persons Strategy Action Plan progress.

Introduction

The Strategy and Action Plan were agreed by Housing Committee in April 2019. The following outlines progress with the action plan.

- 1.1 Understanding of residents not supportive of external groups in lounges**
Following refurbishment that has taken place at Sherborne, Concord and George Pearce House (GPH), tenants have been accepting of the changes with regard to external partners/agencies using communal spaces within the schemes. Interested tenants have been identified and focus groups set up to gather intelligence to shape the service further.

- 1.5 Explore options for funding additional services**
Meetings have taken place with Barnwood Trust and Stroud Valleys to understand criteria for additional funding. Looking at outside/green space i.e. Men's Sheds, gardening projects, growing and selling produce etc, with HUB participants.

- 3.2 Re-brand from Sheltered Housing to Independent Living – identifying Hubs etc.**
Terminology will be altered slightly from 're-branding' to 're-naming' as there is no change in service delivery. Internal communications are currently being worked on, this will then roll out to the wider audience via leaflets and information sheets, websites, signage, data cleansing and job titles. The original timeline of July 2020 will be affected by Covid-19 as tenant consultation will also be included.

- 3.5 Activities within hubs arranged and advertised**
Visits to external agencies such as the Churn Project in Cirencester and GL11 to enable good practice sharing have taken place. Officers also attend the monthly 'Know your Patch' meetings which is a networking event for partners (on hold due to Covid-19) linking in with advertising and promotion.

- 6.2 Explore partnership working with NHS**
Several meetings with the NHS clinical commissioner have taken place linking into the wider Health & Wellbeing strategy which will enable outreach surgeries in HUBS. This has led to several other partnership meetings such as Mental Health, Managing Memory and Carers Hubs enabling our residents from all housing tenures to remain as independent as possible whilst maintaining their health, well-being and home.

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Additionally, we are recruiting for a new 22-hour post (Activities and Support Officer), to support the Community Hub Facilitator, providing a consistent liaison point for older people. This role will link directly into the Health and Wellbeing agenda, exploring various preventative actions. Social inclusion for all older people in the schemes and the wider community will be treated as priority. The new role will include studying demographics carrying out profiling which will assist in shaping a tailored service to all older people in the area.

A further focus group has been identified through interested residents investigating what they would like to see at the Community HUBS. This group consists of interested parties of all ages and housing tenure, also looking at people's aspirations for future need. This will take place either via social media platforms or socially distanced meetings.

Summary

Clearly lockdown has had a significant impact on delivery and as such a number of work streams such as open days, awareness sessions and tours of the HUBS have been suspended during the pandemic. As life slowly returns to some form of normality and work streams are re-introduced, this action plan will be addressed and refreshed. A further update will be provided in December 2020.