

Overview of Community Hubs in Sheltered Housing

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide an update to members regarding Community Hubs within Sheltered Housing in line with the Older People's Housing Strategy 2019.

As we approach the renaming of Sheltered Housing to Independent Living and following the initiation of the Modernisation Project, there are currently four Community Hubs across the district. The support team will be led by the Community Hub Facilitator, Katherine Allen concentrating on Social Inclusion, initiating and setting up a varied and appropriate programme of activities which will assist with improving physical and mental wellbeing for Stroud District residents in identified communal spaces within the schemes.

Sadly, due to Covid-19 all communal areas are currently in lockdown however as soon as possible; in a Covid safe environment, work will begin to gradually open the Hubs and communal spaces in all of our schemes. We are monitoring County Council Hub providers who are also in complete lockdown at this time.

The Hubs will be available to all residents in and surrounding areas. They will be advertised and promoted locally. Working with many external partners across the district, we will be looking to engage with tenants and residents, consulting, recruiting and supporting volunteers to bring the community together, addressing social isolation, develop skills and potential positive changes to lives and wellbeing.

The Hubs will extend into all Independent Living schemes with communal areas offering social activities where appropriate following consultation.

We will be exploring a number of intergenerational events, including (but not limited to) outside gardening clubs, Men's sheds, Macular Degeneration Club, Managing Memory, Digital Inclusion training whilst applying for funding and grants for sustainability. Some events will carry a small charge whilst others will be free.

Coffee/Tea and light snack self-serve bars will be available in some areas allowing visitors to 'pop in for coffee and a chat' in a café style environment

In addition, there are several very archaic 'guest rooms' being investigated for the feasibility of converting them into resource rooms which can be hired out to NHS, Hospice, Practice Clinical staff etc., which would allow 1-2-1 meeting rooms, baby weigh clinics, vaccination and diabetic clinics, rehabilitation rooms (this list is not exhaustive). Remaining guest rooms with en-suite will provide an income stream with the introduction of a daily charge for all users.

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