

Renaming of Sheltered Housing Update

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide an update to members regarding the work taking place to finalise the renaming of Sheltered Housing to Independent Living.

All Sheltered Housing schemes will be renamed **Independent Living** from 1 April 2021.

The renaming was initiated as part of the Older Peoples Strategy Action Plan agreed by Housing Committee in April 2019.

New external signage is being erected to sites week commencing 8 March. The signs display SDC logo stating (for example) Welcome to Hazelwood Independent Living.

Working in collaboration with the Communications Team, internal communications both verbal and written have commenced, this includes messages on the HUB, Tenant Services monthly huddle, attendance at service team briefs.

External communications will be carried out with partners via our website, email and social media. This will include Parish Councils, Health Providers, Tenants Newsletters, Social Care Providers etc.

All correspondence and information points will be amended to reflect the changes.

Renaming Sheltered Housing schemes to Independent Living schemes will:

- Alleviate historic assumptions of a 'Warden' on site and available 24 hours per day
- Reflect the current service offer – brief outline below
- Support future aspirations

As soon as guidelines allow, the communal areas will reopen on a phased and managed schedule allowing work to commence on the HUBS, Social Inclusion and loneliness.

What is an Independent Living scheme?

Stroud District Council has 28 (soon to be) Independent Living schemes across the district.

We recognise the important role our schemes can play in terms of assisting Health and Wellbeing. We can support people to live safe and independent lives whilst providing opportunities for ongoing social activities with peers. Staff are focussed on ensuring that communal facilities are well used.

Communal lounges, where available can be used for creating Community Hubs which can support a neighbourhood focussed, community-led approach to addressing things that matter most as well as providing activities and surgeries, social inclusion and a sense of belonging. A dedicated Community Hub Facilitator will work alongside residents from the scheme and the wider community to contribute to community life by working with residents to support, develop and co-ordinate services and activities.

As people age, support may be needed with practical issues to maintain Health and Wellbeing as well as managing a tenancy. Our housing related Support Coordinators can offer short term support, help and advice on achieving, increasing and maintaining independence. They will support tenants to find solutions, make referrals on their behalf and carry out a needs based assessment if requested.

The Support team cannot give medical advice or provide social or domestic care.

A team of Site Officers maintain Health and Safety within the schemes, carrying out essential compliance tests and checks on a regular basis. They are also responsible for the day-to-day management of schemes, ensuring they provide a clean, safe living environment. The team also carry out all areas of grounds maintenance including grass and hedge cutting. Our gardens are there for all to enjoy, the team will work with tenants to create borders and wild flower gardens.

Most of these schemes currently have shared living space which include a communal lounge, kitchen and laundry. Some of the schemes have visitor rooms available for rent on a short term basis.