

Local Housing Strategy 2011/12 – 2015/16

Background Paper 2 - Draft

Reshaping Care for Older People and the Change Fund

1. Background

The principal policy goal for the Government's Reshaping Care for Older people programme is to optimise independence and wellbeing for older people at home or in a homely setting. To support this programme, the Government has established a Change Fund to enable health and social care partners to make better use of combined resources for older people's services. Initially £70M has been made available for 2011/12, with an intention that a total £300M being allocated over the four years to 2014/15¹. The Reshaping Care Programme itself has set itself a 10 year period to effect significant shifts in the balance of care from institutional to community settings.

West Dunbartonshire has been given an indicative allocation of £1.209M for 2011/12 with an expectation of a similar sum each year to 2014/15.

2. Population Trends

Some population trends worth noting²:

- Scotland's 75+ population is projected to rise by 23% by 2018
- By 2033, the 75% group will have increased by 84%.

What this means:

- A new 600 bed hospital every three years for 20 years
- A new 50 bed care home every two weeks for 20 years
- £2.8M investment needed in sheltered housing to stand still.

Local Housing Strategy Background Paper 1 gives more information on the national and local policy objectives together with details of the current position within West Dunbartonshire.³

¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/reshaping>

² Wider Planning for An Ageing Population: Housing and Communities - Stephen Sandham, Head of Homelessness, Housing Support, Advice and Standards, Presentation to SHBVN 08/02/02

³Local Housing Strategy 2011/12 – 2015/16
Background Paper: West Dunbartonshire Council
Older People's Households

3. Housing's Role

A housing briefing from the Scottish Government Joint Improvement Team suggests that housing performs three roles in relation to older people:

- **Development of New and Refurbished Housing:** This is the housing sector's role in ensuring that housing is available, which is fit for purpose and meeting current and future needs either through new building or refurbishment/upgrading of existing housing stock (and occasionally conversion of buildings currently in non residential uses).
- **Services at Points of Transition:** Local authorities and RSLs provide a range of services to meet people's housing needs at key points of transition, when needs change.
- **Preventative Interventions and Supports:** Local authorities commission and provide, and RSLs provide, various services which are preventative in their focus⁴.

The briefing highlights the need for local partnerships to ensure that any housing implications of their plans are addressed. It notes that there will be housing implications if the plan

"... will *either* increase the number of older people living in housing rather than care homes or hospitals *or* result in older people with greater frailties living in housing."

Some suggested questions are provided to help identify potential housing issues.

4. The Scottish Government's Desired Outcomes

The key outcomes which the government wishes to achieve are:

- A clear strategic leadership in place at national and local levels
- Older people are better assisted to remain in and make best use of existing housing
- Investment in new housing across all sectors meets future housing needs
- Low level preventative support needs are met
- Information and advice needed by older people is provided⁵.

⁴ Amanda Britain, Craigforth <http://www.jitscotland.org.uk/downloads/1296045915-Change%20Fund%20and%20Housing%20AB%20Dec%202010.doc>

⁵ Stephen Sandham op cit

5. Homes Fit for the 21st Century – Independent Living

The Government's new housing policy paper was published on 4th February 2011.⁶ The paper makes a commitment to build on the foundations laid by *Wider Planning for an Ageing Population*, in particular by

- Publishing a national strategy on housing for older people in 2011
- Developing a national register of accessible housing for disabled people
- Simplifying arrangements for the public and housing providers to access funding for adaptations
- Ensuring the needs of disabled and older people are better reflected within national and local planning and housing investment processes
- Building on the introduction of the £70M Change Fund and working with local authorities and the NHS to ensure that housing, health and social care needs of individuals are addressed holistically.

6. The West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership Response to the Change Fund

The CHCP is drawing up its proposals for the Change Fund which require to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 28th February 2011. Housing elements currently being looked at include additional respite provision and increased levels of extra care housing.

Discussions have commenced over the engagement of housing in these considerations and how best to integrate with the development of the LHS.

6. Some Key Discussion Points for the LHS

- The projected rise in the number of older people and more people with long term conditions and mobility issues
- Aligning housing, health and social care outcomes and redesigning services
- Shortage of funding to provide the new accommodation needed
- Re provisioning requirements for existing sheltered housing and care homes
- Meeting future needs across all tenures through planning and building standards means
- How will information and advice be provided?
- Making best use of existing housing resources through management measures or aids/adaptations and telecare.

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⁶ Homes Fit for the 21st Century – The Scottish Government's Strategy and Action Plan for Housing in the Next Decade: 2011 -2020 February 2011