

HOUSING & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday, 14 December 2017 at 1pm in the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Darren Sanders (in the Chair)
Leo Madden
Steve Wemyss

19. Apologies for absence. (AI 1)

Councillor Gemma New sent her apologies.

20. Declarations of Members' Interests. (AI 2)

No interests were declared.

21. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017. (AI 3)

These will be considered at the next meeting.

22. Review into models of supported accommodation for people with learning difficulties and whether similar provision can be extended to others with a support need. (AI 4)

Alison Cloutman Supported Housing Business Partner circulated an application form for the adult learning disability (LD) panel for the supported housing and gave a presentation; both have been published here <http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MId=3905&Ver=4>

In response to questions from the panel, she clarified the following points:

If a person with a LD is happy with their current living arrangements, there is no need for their case to come to the Housing Panel. The service user, their family or the supported worker may suggest a move. However it is the service user who requests the type of accommodation they require with help from their named worker.

The LD team is the only integrated team within ASC. A named worker can be either a Social Worker or a Health Visitor, the allocation of the named worker is dictated by the clients need.

Some accommodation is for men or women only. There is no house exclusively for tenants who have autism. It is important to get the right cohort of people living together.

Once the application form has been submitted, the housing panel will ask questions to the named worker, who will have presented their client to the panel and try to identify the appropriate pathway for the individual. This may take more than one meeting to allow for further information to be considered or for the service user to visit different properties. It is an important decision

and the service user can take their time. These visits take place at different times of the day and with the other tenants if it is shared housing.

The housing panel meets fortnightly to consider new applications and review the progress made on previous ones. If their needs change or they have acquired the necessary skills for independent living a service user can return to the panel for a new move.

The 48 addresses (which encompasses 90 front doors) used are not all owned by the council. The team aims to have 100% occupancy rate but there are some vacancies at the moment. Sometimes accommodation is held vacant whilst an issue is resolved.

The council is the largest provider of housing for people with LDs and can be more flexible to their needs than housing associations e.g. by offering easy read tenancy agreements or waiving the need for tenants to give notice when leaving their property.

Some people decide to stay in shared housing rather than move into independent accommodation. The wait for independent living can vary. The tenants in the 20 flats for single occupancy that the council uses do not tend to move on. More accessible accommodation for independent living is required.

There are 8 homes at Moorings Way, providing homes for 22 people of which 12 rooms have hoists and adapted baths. The total build cost £2.4 million. There is always a high demand for this type of accommodation. The council is land-rich but has many small pockets of land. Supported accommodation tends to have a very big footprint. It is normally not possible to adapt standard terraced houses. Money is an issue and finding the land to build accommodation that is large enough.

It might be useful to include a target in the council's planning policies specifying a minimum number of supported accommodation that should be built.

There will always be demand for supported accommodation for many types of service users including people with LDs, mental health issues, continuing health care needs or for looked after children.

A bid via the Care & Specialist Supported Housing Fund (CaSSH) has recently been submitted to the Department of Health, this bid supports the financial appraisal for Oakdene, which will be the council first move into providing supported housing for adults with mental health issues.

The council supports 53 people to live outside the city. The aim is not to send people outside anymore. There is no pressure put on these people to move back, as some have lived there for 30 years or more. The council would not currently be able to accommodate all of these people if they wanted to return to Portsmouth.

One residential care home owner gave the council five weeks' notice to rehouse all 20 of their residents and the council rehoused them all in time.

When looking at future numbers for housing, the council knows about children with LDs supported by schools or the nursing team and so plans can be put in place for their transition to adult support services.

Some parents care for adult children with LDs with minimal or no support. At any point, the parents or their children may request that the council find supported accommodation for them. The council cannot plan for this unexpected demand.

A freedom of information request could be made to GPs in the city requesting the number of patients they have with LDs. However, they cover a wider area than the city and their interpretations of LD may vary.

During the discussion, the panel commented that:

- The costs may decrease due to a service being provided differently.
- Efficiency savings may defer costs elsewhere. E.g. build something and avoid the cost of people using respite care. It is difficult to quantify these savings.
- Approximately £4 million is spent on the 53 people placed outside the city. It would be useful to see how much is spent on the people housed in Portsmouth.

Actions

The panel requested that the following information be brought to the next meeting:

1. A graph showing the past number of service users with LDs and also predicted demand for supported accommodation and an outline of how that need might be met.
2. The cost of support for adult service users with a LD placed outside and within the city.

RESOLVED that the scoping document be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 2pm.

Councillor Darren Sanders
Chair