

Overview and Scrutiny Review – Sheltered Housing and Housing Options for Older People

Equality Impact Assessment – screening.

Name of Strategy/Policy: Overview and Scrutiny Review: Sheltered Housing and Housing Options for Older People

Date of Assessment: **22 October 2009**

Is this a new or updated Policy? New Updated

How is the Strategy/Policy finalised/adopted: Cabinet/Board Delegated

Lead Officer conducting the assessment: **Tracy Tiff** Job Title: **Scrutiny Officer**

Service area: Overview and Scrutiny **Contact details: 01604 837408 ttiff@northampton.gov.uk**

Others involved in the assessment (*this could include service users, front line officers, people with specialist knowledge or interest*):

Chris Murray, Independent Living Manager

Councillor Christopher Malpas, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Housing and Environment)

Identify what the activity is trying to achieve – why is the Policy/activity¹ required (*is there a statutory duty, how was the issue identified, who was the originator of the activity, etc*).

A Task and Finish Group of the parent Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Housing and Environment) is looking into: -

- establishing whether the Sheltered Housing Service provides a value for money service and how it can be improved.
- establishing residents' satisfaction levels and understanding of Sheltered Housing and Housing Options for Older People
- determining a better understanding of the complex nature of Sheltered Housing

As part of its evidence gathering the Task and Finish Group will consult with a wide range of individuals and organisations including: -

- Tenants of Sheltered Housing Accommodation within the borough

¹ Policy/activity in this context includes policies, services, strategies, functions, projects, plans, restructures, major events, etc

- Age Concern
- CITRA
- Supporting People
- Adult Social Care – Northamptonshire County Council
- Internal officers – including Sheltered Housing Co Ordinators, Independent Living Team Leader, Head of Housing Needs and Support
- Portfolio Holder (Housing)
- Internal Officers
- Representatives from the Council's Community Forums
- Northants Health

The Task and Finish Group will take into consideration the six equality strands (age, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, disabilities and ethnic origin).

Details of Sheltered Housing and housing options for older people could affect many residents of Northampton in some way.

As part of this piece of scrutiny work, the Task and Finish Group will look at the Borough's processes and policies in relation to sheltered housing to ascertain whether it is consistent with best practice. Short research has indicated that at the present time there does not appear to have been an Equality Impact Assessment undertaken for this Sheltered Housing accommodation. However, it is noted that it is intended that a full EIA will be produced and this will indicate that issues have been investigated at regional level.

As an Equality Impact Assessment for Sheltered Housing within the borough has not as yet been undertaken, within the Committee's report it could suggest that any impact on the six equality strands be taken into account.

Purpose of the Policy/activity. *(What does the activity entail? Consider how the activity relates to the council's equality and diversity duties and strategic priorities, etc).*

The purpose of the Review is:

- To establish whether the Sheltered Housing Service provides a value for money service and how it can be improved.
- To establish residents' satisfaction levels and understanding of Sheltered Housing and Housing Options for Older People
- To determine a better understanding of the complex nature of Sheltered Housing

Identify the main beneficiaries or people affected by the issue *(who benefits or is affected - local residents and users of area, community at large, visitors to the town, contractors working in the area, people delivering the service etc).*

Tenants of Sheltered Housing Accommodation within the borough and older people requiring housing options could be affected. The outcomes of the

Review could also affect future tenants of Sheltered Housing Accommodation and those that may require information relating to and housing option provisions in the future.

What information exists already?

- Previous survey with Sheltered Housing tenants
- Example of another Local Authority's Scrutiny Review into this issue
- Details of all NBC's Sheltered Housing Accommodation
- Criteria for becoming a tenant of Sheltered Housing
- Various definitions and terminology in respect of Sheltered Housing Help the Aged report *No one is listening*
- NBC's model of Housing Related Support
- Quality Framework
- Details of floating support

Could a particular sector of the community be disadvantaged by the strategy/policy.

Yes No *(give details of any evidence you may have)*

This Review could have adverse and positive impact on the six equality strands. However, as no Equality Impact Assessment has been completed yet, its impact on these groups has not been subject to a detailed level of scrutiny. The Task and Finish Group will be mindful of the six strands when undertaking its Scrutiny Review so that any recommendations that it makes can identify potential positive and negative impacts on any particular sector of the community. In terms of the working of the Task and Finish and its impact on the equality strands, paper copies of the agenda for the meetings of this Committee were issued to all Members of the Council, relevant officers and anyone else who is on the distribution list. As Task and Finish Group meetings are not held in public electronic versions of the agenda were not issued to a wider circulation including, the local press and radio. However the Task and Finish Group will, as part of its evidence gathering, meet with representatives of the Council's forums and sheltered housing tenants. The meetings will be held in easily accessible rooms and provision will be made for transport for those who require it. Provision has been made for attendees who have a disability, e.g. the documents are written in 12scale font for those who may suffer from a visual impairment, the blind have access to 'talking' documents, those whose first language is not English have access to translation services and the building in which the meetings will occur contain hearing loops and are accessible by those with severe mobility issues, such as wheel chair users.

The meeting with the Council's Forums was set at a time that is known to be suitable to those who will be attending. The meeting with the Sheltered Housing tenants has been set for 6pm in the evening, but transport will be provided to those requiring it. Provision will be made for those not able to attend this meeting to send in their views or to provide them over the telephone.

If no, then have this confirmed by the Corporate Equalities Steering Group representative for your area and signed off by your Service Head / Corporate Director/ Board. In the event of any queries, check with a member of the Policy team.

Action points (*please make this SMART-state what/who/how/when See action plan below*)

1. The data gathered would be reviewed and appropriate recommendations made.
2. If it is found that it is difficult to obtain evidence due to a lack of data, it may be necessary to consider monitoring to improve data intelligence. If required this will be undertaken using the principles set out in the EIA Toolkit.
3. It is possible that some groups could be disadvantaged from some of the recommendations contained in the final report.

I agree that this policy/activity should not proceed to a full Impact Assessment (If appropriate, date equality impact assessment will commence)

Confirmed by:

Signed by:

Please attach a copy of this screening to the document it relates

✓

Copy to be sent to Policy Team Leader at policy@northampton.gov.uk

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