

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS)

INQUIRY INTO OLDER PEOPLE'S HOUSING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 It is projected that the proportion of the Leeds population that is aged 55 years or more will increase significantly over the next fifteen to twenty years. The expectations and aspirations of older people are evolving and the Council will need to ensure that service delivery is reconfigured so that it responds to these changing needs.
- 1.2 In particular, housing services will play a critical role in delivering the wider social care agenda around promoting the capacity of older people to live independently and to exercise greater choice and control over the lives.
- 1.3 The local government white paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' partly redefines the strategic housing function. There is now a greater emphasis on moving beyond achieving housing related outcomes, towards delivering against a range of social and environmental objectives, such as promoting community cohesion, improving the voice and choice local communities have in the services they receive, improving educational attainment and reducing health inequalities.
- 1.4 With regard to the local delivery and development of housing services for older people, the Leeds Strategic Plan includes a strategic outcome relating to improving the quality of life experienced by vulnerable people by promoting their capacity to live independently. The Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate is currently in the process of reviewing and updating the existing Leeds Housing Strategy to ensure that it effectively reflects and responds to the relevant strategic outcomes and improvement priorities included within the Leeds Strategic Plan and Leeds Local Area Agreement.
- 1.5 The development of housing related services for older people also needs to be rooted in the evolving national 'personalisation' agenda: that recipients of social care services should play an integral role in shaping or choosing the services they use, so that they can be empowered to live independently and to exercise choice and control over their lives.
- 1.6 At its meeting on 24th July 2008, Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) resolved to undertake an Inquiry into Older People's Housing. In acknowledging the significant role of Adult Social Care in this area of work, Members of the Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Care) have also been invited to contribute to this Scrutiny Inquiry.

2.0 Scope of the inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
- Links between the national ‘personalisation agenda’ and the future development of flexible and bespoke housing related services for older people;
 - Implications of the increasing older people population on housing related services and the identification of future planning needs;
 - The current review of the Leeds Housing Strategy and its need to respond to the relevant strategic outcomes and priorities within the Leeds Strategic Plan and Leeds Local Agreement;
 - The Leeds Older People’s Housing Strategy and accompanying action plan;
 - The condition of sheltered housing stock in Leeds and proposals for improvement, with particular reference to the Supporting People Programme and PFI bid proposals for modernising housing provision for older people;
 - Issues surrounding affordable housing for older people;
 - Ensuring that older people have a safe and secure environment to live in, with a sense of belonging to and participating in communities;
 - The role and development of Assistive Technology, Telecare and Telehealth services in promoting the capacity of older people to live independently;
 - Methods of addressing social isolation when promoting the capacity of older people to live independently;
 - Problems relating to fuel poverty and older people.

3.0 Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member

- 3.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.4 the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member have been sought and have been incorporated where appropriate into these Terms of Reference. Full details are available on request to the Scrutiny Support Unit.

4.0 Timetable for the inquiry

- 4.1 The Inquiry will take place over a number of sessions. These sessions will involve working group meetings and site visits which will provide flexibility for the Board to gather and consider evidence that will aid the discussions during the public Board meetings.
- 4.2 The length of the Inquiry is subject to change.

5.0 Submission of evidence

- 5.1 Working group meetings and any site visits will be held prior to session one and during the interim period between session one and two. Dates for the working group meetings and site visits are to be arranged.

5.2 Session one – Scrutiny Board Meeting (8th December 2008)

To consider evidence in relation to the following areas:

- Links between the national 'personalisation agenda' and the future development of flexible and bespoke housing related services for older people;
- Implications of the increasing older people population on housing related services and the identification of future planning needs;
- The current review of the Leeds Housing Strategy and its need to respond to the relevant strategic outcomes and priorities within the Leeds Strategic Plan and Leeds Local Agreement;
- The Leeds Older People's Housing Strategy and accompanying action plan;
- The condition of sheltered housing stock in Leeds and proposals for improvement, with particular reference to the Supporting People Programme and PFI bid proposals for modernising housing provision for older people.

5.3 Session two – Scrutiny Board Meeting (9th February 2009)

To consider evidence in relation to the following areas:

- Issues surrounding affordable housing for older people;
- Ensuring that older people have a safe and secure environment to live in, with a sense of belonging to and participating in communities;
- The role and development of Assistive Technology, Telecare and Telehealth services in promoting the capacity of older people to live independently;
- Methods of addressing social isolation when promoting the capacity of older people to live independently;
- Problems relating to fuel poverty and older people.

5.4 Session three – Scrutiny Board Meeting (20th April 2009)

- To agree final report

6.0 Witnesses

6.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, Leeds City Council
- Director of Adult Social Care, Leeds City Council
- Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Housing
- Executive Member for Adult Health and Social Care
- Chief Housing Services Officer, Leeds City Council
- Chief Officer for Commissioning, Adult Social Care, Leeds City Council
- Chief Strategy and Policy Officer, Leeds City Council
- Head of Strategic Partnerships and Development (Older People and Disabled People), Leeds City Council
- Area Committees
- Older People's Forum
- Older People's Reference Group
- Chief Executive of Unity Housing
- Other non-for-profit providers (such as Anchor Trust and Connect Housing)

7.0 Post inquiry report monitoring arrangements

7.1 Following the completion of the Scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.

7.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for how the implementation of recommendations will be monitored.

8.0 Measures of success

8.1 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if their inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.