



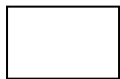
Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 9th February 2009

Subject: Inquiry into Older People's Housing

Electoral Wards Affected: All



Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of today's meeting is to consider evidence in line with session two of the Board's Inquiry. This session focuses on 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.

1.2 A number of background papers/reports have been prepared for today's meeting and are attached as follows:

Appendix A – Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods on the updated Housing Strategy

Appendix B – Briefing paper from Adult Social Services on promoting safe and secure environments;

Appendix C - Report of the Director of Adult Social Services on Community Equipment Telecare and Telehealth Services to Support Older People in the Community;

Appendix D – Extract from the Home Energy Conservation Act, Twelfth Progress Report (2008) relating to Fuel Poverty Statistical Information.

Appendix E – Health through Warmth report – Quarter 3 2008/09

- 1.3 Officers from Environment and Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Services will be attending today's meeting to contribute to the Board's discussion on the areas covered in session two of the inquiry.

2.0 Work on addressing social isolation

- 2.1 Leeds City Council Adult Social Care has commissioned Leeds Older People's Forum to lead the delivery of a multi-agency programme of work to tackle social isolation as part of delivering the city's Older Better Strategy. Representatives from the Leeds Older People's Forum will be attending today's meeting and will be able to explain further about the work being carried out. Briefly, action delivered this year includes:

- Delivery of a social isolation learning conference to 100 frontline workers including housing staff;
- Ongoing support to the social isolation peer support group, which includes housing staff;
- Published a conference report including a practical action plan for this annual year, and a proposed action plan for next year which has been presented to the assistant Director of Adult Social Care to ask for support in delivering it;
- Setting up a pilot befriending scheme in care homes;
- Promoting the Infostore to older people;
- Delivering training on social isolation to front line staff including ALMO sheltered housing staff;
- Promoting lifelong learning opportunities to all older people and coordinating the Gladys Roberts life long learners award;
- A second edition of the Social Isolation resource pack has been printed and 700 copies have been disseminated;
- The library service has developed a reminiscence pack and are delivering reminiscence sessions.

In addition, staff from West North West Homes Leeds and Aire Valley Homes Leeds have become proactive members of the citywide Health and Active Life Group for Older People. WNW Homes have developed a work plan for promoting a health and active life for all older people using their sheltered housing services, Aire Valley Homes have welcomed input from a Healthy and Active Life perspective on their independent support plans and all 3 ALMOs staff have been trained up in social isolation issues for older people.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to consider the evidence provided in line with session two of its inquiry into Older People's Housing.

Background Papers

Home Energy Conservation Act, Twelfth Progress Report (2008). 1 April 2007 To 31 March 2008