



HILLINGDON

LONDON

Social Services, Health & Housing Policy Overview Committee

Wednesday 22nd November 2006
7.00 p.m.

Committee Room 6, Civic Centre, Uxbridge

Committee Membership:

Councillors	Catherine Dann (Chairman)	John Major
	Sidharath Garg	Michael White
	Pat Jackson	Kay Willmott-Denbeigh
	Peter Kemp	

Contact Officer:

David Coombs
Democratic Services
Civic Centre
High Street
Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

Telephone: 01895 250 833
Facsimile: 01895 277 373
E-mail: dcoombs@hillington.gov.uk

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Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussion in
Part 1 of the Agenda.

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http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/central/democracy/comm_reports/index.php

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DESPATCH DATE: 14th November 2006

David Brough
Head of Democratic Services
London Borough of Hillingdon,
Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW
www.hillingdon.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Policy Overview

About this Committee

This Policy Overview Committee (POC) will undertake policy reviews in the areas of Social Services, Health & Housing and can establish a working party (with another POC if desired) to undertake reviews if, for example, a topic is cross-cutting.

This Policy Overview Committee will consider performance reports and comment on budget and service plan proposals for the Council's Social Services and Housing Department.

The Cabinet Forward Plan is a standing item on the Committee's agenda.

The Committee will not consider call-ins of Executive decisions or investigate individual complaints about the Council's services.

**SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH & HOUSING
POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

22.11.06 AGENDA

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

- i.) Apologies for absence and to report the presence of any substitute members
- ii.) Declarations of Interest in matters coming before this meeting
- iii.) Notes of the previous meetings (26th October 2006)
- iv.) Exclusion of Press and Public - To confirm that all items marked Part 1 will be considered in public and that any items marked Part 2 will be considered in private

1.	Housing Support for Vulnerable People Major Review: Second Witness Session	Page 1
2.	Cabinet Forward Plan	Page 15
3.	Work Programme 2006/7	Page 17

PART 2 – PRIVATE, MEMBERS ONLY

- i.) Any Business transferred from Part 1

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Terms of Reference

To perform the following policy overview role:

1. conduct reviews of policy, services or aspects of service which have either been referred by Cabinet, relate to the Cabinet Forward Plan, or have been chosen by the Committee according to the agreed criteria for selecting such reviews;
2. monitor the performance of the Council services within their remit (including the management of finances and risk);
3. comment on the proposed annual service and budget plans for the Council services within their remit before final approval by Cabinet and Council;
4. consider the Forward Plan and comment as appropriate to the decision-maker on Key Decisions which relate to services within their remit (before they are taken by the Cabinet);

In relation to the following services:

1. social care services for elderly people, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health problems and people with learning difficulties;
2. provision of meals to vulnerable and elderly members of the community;
3. Healthy Hillingdon and any other health promotion work undertaken by the Council and partners to improve the health and well-being of Hillingdon residents;
4. asylum seekers;
5. the Council's Housing functions including: landlord services (currently provided by Hillingdon Homes), private sector housing, the 'Supporting People' programme, benefits, housing needs, tenancy allocations and homelessness and to recommend to the Cabinet any conditions to be placed on the exercise of the delegations by Hillingdon Homes.

Policy Overview Committees will not investigate individual complaints.

**Social Services, Health & Housing Policy Overview
Committee**

26th October 2006



Decisions Sheet

	<p>Members Present: Cllrs Catherine Dann (Chairman), Sid Garg, Peter Kemp, Eddie Lavery, John Major, Michael White and Kay Wilmott-Denbeigh.</p> <p>Apologies: Pat Jackson (Cllr Eddie Lavery substituting).</p> <p>Witnesses: Linda Lancaster & Teresa Simmonds (Frays Housing), Daniel Haigh & Mark Jolly (West London YMCA), Natalie McLean.</p> <p>Officers Present: Neil Stubbings, Kaks Chahal, Barry Newitt, Ruby Ali and David Coombs.</p>		
	<p>Declarations of Interest – None</p>		
	<p>Notes of the meetings held on 13th September 2006 - Agreed as an accurate record</p>		
	<p>Exclusion of the press and public – It was agreed that all items of business were considered in public.</p>		
<p>1.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="212 1159 1166 1921"> <p>Housing Support for Vulnerable People - Major Review: First Witness Session (Witnesses: Natalie McLean, Kaks Chahal, Linda Lancaster, Teresa Simmonds, Daniel Haigh and Mark Jolly)</p> <p>Natalie McLean from the Supporting People Service User Forum gave a presentation on the impact of the Supporting People programme on her life. Members noted Natalie’s comment that she would have benefited if the support services had been available sooner than they were.</p> <p>Kaks Chahal outlined the work of Housing Services including Housing Options Team. She said that there is a huge demand for social housing and that there is limited stock available in Hillingdon. As such, the private sector rental market is being increasingly used. The Housing Options Team seeks to prevent people becoming homeless through offering advice. The single person’s drop-in, which is held each week at St Andrew’s Church, is very popular. The service is delivered through partnership with other organisations i.e YMCA, Connexions and Hostels providers within the Borough</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1166 1159 1369 1921"> <p>Action By:</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Housing Support for Vulnerable People - Major Review: First Witness Session (Witnesses: Natalie McLean, Kaks Chahal, Linda Lancaster, Teresa Simmonds, Daniel Haigh and Mark Jolly)</p> <p>Natalie McLean from the Supporting People Service User Forum gave a presentation on the impact of the Supporting People programme on her life. Members noted Natalie’s comment that she would have benefited if the support services had been available sooner than they were.</p> <p>Kaks Chahal outlined the work of Housing Services including Housing Options Team. She said that there is a huge demand for social housing and that there is limited stock available in Hillingdon. As such, the private sector rental market is being increasingly used. The Housing Options Team seeks to prevent people becoming homeless through offering advice. The single person’s drop-in, which is held each week at St Andrew’s Church, is very popular. The service is delivered through partnership with other organisations i.e YMCA, Connexions and Hostels providers within the Borough</p>	<p>Action By:</p>
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Housing Services also offers floating support for vulnerable people, including people with mental health problems, including a specialist service for those from a Black, Asian or other ethnic minority group; Domestic Violence, for families placed in temporary accommodation and also a floating support for people leaving prison.

Members asked whether any vulnerable people were falling through the net and not receiving support. Kaks advised that the role of the Housing Options Team is to promote the services that are available and how to access them, however further work is required in promoting the support services available i.e with GP's, Cllr Major said that he believed that in nearly all cases people would have benefited from receiving support earlier than they did.

Members questioned the process undertaken when a tenant was building up rent arrears in temporary accommodation. Kaks advised that a reminder letter is sent out when someone starts to get in arrears – this letter invites the tenant to come in and discuss the support available to them. Members heard there could be problems finding out about Finders Fee residents in the private sector who were struggling with their rent. Members questioned whether private sector landlords could notify the Council at an earlier stage when tenants started building up arrears and whether this could be pursued through the private sector landlord forum.

Members felt that more could potentially be done to advise people of the support services available to them and at an earlier stage. It was felt that people could perhaps be encouraged to contact their local Councillor when they were facing housing problems.

Kaks advised Members on some of the gaps in housing support services, including those on offer to people in privately rented accommodation. Other gaps included advice provision for over 25 year olds; increased move-on accommodation for people ready to leave a hostel; and a night shelter for rough sleepers.

Daniel Haigh told Members that West London YMCA was very keen to get involved in a night shelter for rough sleepers. The Council had allocated money for this, but it looked as though it would not be possible to open such a facility for the coming winter as no suitable location had been identified. Members heard that official calculations underestimated the number of rough sleepers in the Borough and Heathrow contributed to the problem.

Neil Stubbings advised that the challenges around providing a night shelter included: lack of support from Government as

Action By:

Hillingdon is not considered to have a rough sleeper problem due to the Council's official count identifying only seven rough sleepers and this is below the threshold of ten; lack of suitable property and the current financial situation of the council would mean any Council funding for a night shelter would be competing against other priorities against a background of enormous financial pressures within the council.

Members strongly felt that all options should be explored to see whether the Council could do more to open a night shelter.

Linda Lancaster and Teresa Simmonds outlined their work to help single people find rented accommodation in the private sector. Most of their clients receive benefits and some have severe depression but are not officially classified as 'vulnerable'. The SOLO scheme introduces tenants to landlords and helps with the deposit.

Frays are looking to expand their service by utilising empty properties. However, the demands on the project are growing. The more people they place, the more people who require ongoing support. With over 400 people in residence it is hard to meet both the landlords' and clients' expectations with one support worker and one part time Supporting People funded worker.

Linda Lancaster outlined the problems caused by the high rental prices in Hillingdon. She suggested the Council offers a top up housing benefit to under 25s through a Discretionary Housing Benefit.

Members expressed concern about whether private sector landlords did enough to monitor whether a tenant was building up rent arrears. Members asked whether landlords could be encouraged to advise the Council at an early stage when a tenant was building up arrears.

Mark Jolly and Daniel Haigh outlined the wide range of services offered at the YMCA hostels in Hayes and Uxbridge. Members heard that the organisation is seeking to establish mediation services to enable young people to stay at home, similar to the services that are on offer in Hammersmith & Fulham.

Members also heard about the services offered to young people being released from Wormwood Scrubs prison. Members questioned the level of support that was available and whether this is effective.

Neil Stubbings advised that this is part of the resettlement project. Under this, Hillingdon Council should receive the names and

Action By:

	<p>release dates for Hillingdon residents so that the relevant support services can be notified. He advised that the project has had a stuttering start and that the prisons did not always follow the agreed route of making referrals to the Council. He advised that the Council is about to interview for a Resettlement Officer. The Council and Probation Service would jointly fund this post for a 12 month period.</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Committee writes to the relevant Cabinet Member asking them to investigate whether the Council could do anything to help a night shelter be established in time for this winter. • That the final review report reflects the following issues of concern to the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What the Council could do to help establish a winter night shelter for rough sleepers ○ Whether signposting to support services could be improved so that more people know what help is available ○ That people are told at an early stage (i.e. when rent arrears are starting to build up) of the support services that are available – including Councillors and MPs ○ That private sector landlords inform the Council at an early stage that tenants are building up rent arrears so that support services can be offered • That the Committee notes the enthusiasm, commitment and expertise of the voluntary sector in working to support the housing needs of vulnerable Hillingdon residents. 	<p>Action By:</p> <p>David Coombs</p> <p>David Coombs</p>
2.	<p>Enhanced Hillingdon Independent Living Centre (HILC) – Major Review: Introductory Report (David Coombs)</p> <p>Members welcomed the detailed report and would use this to inform the witness sessions in December and February.</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Committee note the information provided. 	<p>Action By:</p>
3.	<p>Work Programme (David Coombs)</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Committee note the information provided. 	<p>Action By:</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at: 9.45 pm</p> <p>Next Meeting: 22nd November 2006 – 7pm</p>	

This is a summary of the Social Services, Health & Housing Policy Overview Committee proceedings. If you wish for more detailed information on any of the resolutions please contact David Coombs on 01895 250833.

Circulation of this decision sheet is to Members of the Social Services, Health & Housing Policy Overview Committee, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Leaders, Whips and appropriate officers.

Housing Support for Vulnerable People

Major Review: Second Witness Session – Sheltered Housing

Contact Officer: David Coombs
Telephone: 01895 250833

REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to gather the evidence for their major review into Housing Support for Vulnerable People.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Ask the witnesses the suggested questions presented below
2. Ask the witnesses any supplementary questions as required

INFORMATION

1. At their September meeting the Committee decided to select two topics for this review: support services for people in the private sector and sheltered housing.
2. The last meeting was the witness session for support services for people in the private sector. This meeting is the witness session for the second topic – sheltered housing. The following witnesses are attending the meeting:
 - Jan Lynn – Hillingdon Homes
 - Bryan Steeple – Sheltered housing resident
 - Phillip Sharpe – Head of Older People’s Service, LB Hillingdon
 - Siobhan Moore – Housing 21
3. The Committee agreed a scoping report at the start of the review. Sheltered housing is a large topic and Members agreed terms of reference to ensure the review remains focused. The role of this review is to:
 - Examine the current housing support services provided to vulnerable people in Hillingdon and the impact of such services on residents’ independence;
 - Identify any gaps in services and areas of poor performance;
 - Review current and future strategic issues facing housing support services;
 - Identify potential improvements/actions in light of the above investigations.

4. These terms of reference are contained in the scoping report which is attached to this agenda.
5. Housing officers have provided a briefing report which highlights the strategic issues facing sheltered housing and the areas the review could impact upon. This is attached below. Members' attention is drawn to the sections of the briefing report concerning the future use of sheltered housing to support those with higher care needs, in particular the different options that the Council could pursue in this area.
6. Housing 21 is a charitable industrial and provident society that is a major national provider of housing care and support services for older people. The organisation operates several extra care housing schemes and has been invited to provide the Committee with examples of best practice outside of Hillingdon.
7. This is scheduled to be the only witness session on sheltered housing and therefore by the end of the witness session Members will need to identify the issues they would like to cover in their final report.
8. Members may wish to use the following questions to start their discussions:

Jan Lynn – Sheltered Housing, Hillingdon Homes

- i.) What are the current issues facing the sheltered housing service in Hillingdon?
- ii.) How do you think the sheltered housing service should develop in Hillingdon, in particular how could the service develop to support residents with higher care needs?

Bryan Steeple – Resident

- iii.) What is your experience of sheltered housing? How do you think the service could develop to support residents with higher care needs?

Phillip Sharpe – Head of Older People's Service, LB Hillingdon

- iv.) What pressures are facing the Council's Social Services Department in supporting elderly people in a residential setting out of hospital?
- v.) What role can sheltered housing play in responding to these pressures? How would the service need to change to meet this role? What issues may arise in changing the service in this way (e.g. resource implications)?

Siobhan Moore – Housing 21

- vi.) What models of service have been developed to enable sheltered housing to support residents with higher care needs (eg dementia)? What models are particularly effective? (eg sheltered housing catering for people with mixed needs or specialist wings)

SUGGESTED SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

1. Members use the witness session to inform their review into housing support services for vulnerable people.

Housing Support – Sheltered Housing Witness Session

Background Report

Contact Officer: Paul Feven
Telephone: 01895 277771

REASON FOR REPORT

Hillingdon Council will be reviewing the strategic direction of the sheltered housing service for the remainder of 2006/7. This review aims to establish the future direction for sheltered housing.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee can make recommendations to be considered as part of the sheltered housing review.
2. There are a wide range of potential options for the use of sheltered housing in future. These include but are by no means limited to:
 - No change required to sheltered housing provision or direction
 - Greater use of sheltered housing for extra care/people with dementia (and other groups)
 - Specialist wings to existing schemes or entire schemes for more vulnerable groups, ensuring that traditional sheltered provision continues mostly unaffected
 - Remodelling of some provision as older persons accommodation for those with no support needs

Clearly, these options are not mutually exclusive.

INFORMATION

Background

1. One of the council's key objectives is to maximise the independence of older people. The council aims to reduce the numbers of people living in more institutional settings such as residential care and nursing homes and enable older people, where it is possible and appropriate to do so, to live in their own home with appropriate support and care provided.
2. Sheltered Housing provides older people with a secure environment, a community of other residents and the ability to continue living independently. Each sheltered housing scheme has a Scheme Manager whose role it is to provide housing

support to residents, promote the welfare of residents and encourage independence.

3. Hillingdon Homes manage all the council-owned sheltered housing schemes in Hillingdon. Management and maintenance of the schemes is funded from the Housing Revenue Account, while housing support activities (part of the Scheme Manager's duties) are funded from the council's Supporting People grant.

Key Issues

(a) Demographic factors

National

4. 30% of all households in the UK are headed by someone aged 60 or over – a proportion that will increase over the next 15 years.
5. The largest projected growth for all households is among those headed by people aged 55 and over.
6. Over the next 15 years there are also expected to be increasing numbers of
 - people aged 85 and over
 - older BME people
 - older people who live alone
7. Sheltered housing is the current home for a minority of older people and is unlikely to be the choice or destination of most older people. Nationally, 90% of older people live in private sector housing (and most of these are owner occupiers). Only 5% live in sheltered housing with another 5% living in care homes or other accommodation.

Local

8. Similar to the national picture, Hillingdon's older people are predominantly owner-occupiers.
 - 77% of older people in Hillingdon over 55 are owner occupiers
 - 75% of all those over 65 are owner-occupiers with 88% having no mortgage.
9. This remains the case (although to a lesser extent) for frail older people and people with special needs.
 - 69% of frail older people are owner occupiers (and the vast majority of these – 88% - have no mortgage)
 - Less than 20% of frail older people in Hillingdon are living in social housing
 - Overall, special needs households are more likely than non-special needs households to be living in owner-occupied (no mortgage) accommodation.

10. Hillingdon has more people over the age of 65 than the average borough – 13.9% of the population is over the age of 65 (census figures) as opposed to 12.4% for London as a whole.
11. Figures collated in 03-04 show that Hillingdon supported 90 per every 10,000 residents in residential care. These figures equate to 300 people over 65 living in residential care at that time. Current figures (April 2006) show a similar number of people over the age of 65 – 32, 590. Those requiring residential care have *increased* by approximately 15% to 345.
12. In addition, the current population over the age of 85 is around 4,295. The local population of over 85s is predicted to rise over the next 10 years to almost 5,000. Age increase brings an increased likelihood of certain medical conditions including dementia. Dementia affects one person in twenty over the age of 65 and one person in five over the age of 80. Hillingdon's strategy for older people will need to take account of these factors.

(b) Changing preferences

13. Many surveys indicate that the majority of people want to remain in their own homes as they age – generally around 80% of people. Research also suggests that the number of people who plan and act to avoid housing difficulties in later life (e.g. by moving to sheltered housing) is currently low. Current demand may not be a good indicator of need. People may have a low understanding of the choices on offer and the range of choices on offer is restrictive.
14. Research from Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2002) suggests that the majority of older people have no preference to live in communities exclusively for people of the same age. Respondents in a survey who had moved into sheltered housing gave a wide range of reasons for moving. 57% were property related and 69% related to health and personal care needs. Few mentioned a specific desire for sheltered accommodation as opposed to small, convenient accommodation on one level.
15. Other potential factors that influence demand for sheltered housing:
 - Poor quality housing
 - Mobility within the home
 - Accessing adaptations
 - Lack of information about other options
 - Lack of floating support to help maintain people in their own homes
 - Distance from family and local amenities
16. Hillingdon's own Housing Need Survey (2005) showed that most older people wish to remain in their own home even when their health or mobility deteriorates. The vast majority of frail older people who said their housing was unsuitable for their needs, still had no intention of moving

(c) The need for higher levels of care and support

17. Sheltered housing has traditionally catered for a range of older people – from independent to those relying on greater provision of care. The majority of people currently living in sheltered housing in Hillingdon (council provision) have low or no support needs. Currently, council sheltered housing applicants must be:
- Over 60
 - Able to live independently with some support
 - Able to use the facilities of the sheltered scheme
 - Able and prepared to live within a close community sharing communal facilities
 - Council sheltered housing applicants must not be in requirement of 24 hour care and a secure environment to ensure their personal safety
18. Sheltered housing is, by its very nature, a preventative form of housing to assist people wishing to remain independent for as long as possible. There has, however, been an increasing demand for sheltered housing to be used for a greater range of vulnerable clients including people requiring extra care and people with dementia. Using sheltered housing for people with higher support needs would provide a greater range of housing options for people who could benefit from an independent environment but who would otherwise be living in residential care. The council has a target to reduce residential care placements by 5% per annum over a two-year period.
19. The council has been working with Hillingdon Homes for the last few years to broaden the use of sheltered housing to cater for people with extra care needs. Scheme Managers are able to provide day-to-day housing support but can refer a resident for extra care with a minimum delay. Although the extra care service can be used for a temporary period (say 6-8 weeks) for people returning from hospital to ease recovery, the more usual situation is longer term. A typical situation for a sheltered housing resident in receipt of the service would be to receive three visits per day from the extra care service offering personal care, assistance with meals and bathing. Hillingdon plans to have delivered extra care to 160 residents living in council sheltered housing by the end of March 2007.
20. There are factors to consider if the council wishes to increase the provision of extra care within sheltered housing:
- The existing extra care service is 24 hour in that a floating service is available throughout the night. It does not, however, provide on site support on a 24 hour basis. In addition, the council's existing stock of sheltered housing does not provide the security features to support people with high degrees of dementia.
 - The need to preserve the nature of sheltered schemes, as specialist housing for independent older people, is a very important factor. During the consultation on the introduction of the extra care service with existing sheltered residents, it was agreed to have a ceiling of 20% of residents in any

one scheme receiving extra care. This was to ensure that schemes would maintain a mix of support needs and preserve the existing nature of the schemes where the majority of people have low or no support needs. Changing the nature of extra care provision would need to be the subject of further consultation with residents.

- The ceiling of 20% extra care provision within an individual scheme ensures that the service is spread over a large number of schemes, twenty-one in total. This provides residents with greater choice and flexibility as extra care is available throughout the borough but it also ensures that care provision is more expensive to provide. Large reductions of costs are possible but only by clustering the care provision over a smaller number of schemes.
- The council can look for opportunities for new provision, such as specialist extra care schemes with dementia wings. This eases the problem of altering the nature of an established scheme and also allows care to be provided on a more cost effective basis. However, it is also argued that the most effective schemes allow integration of people with high and low support needs.

(d) Support for older people living at home

21. Providing support to people in their own homes is essential to a strategy of maintaining the independence of older people.
22. The sheltered housing service provides a visiting service to older people in the community. Scheme managers from all 22 council sheltered schemes have been visiting council tenants who are over 60 in the community providing an advocacy/advice role.
23. This service is well received and could potentially be expanded to include older people in private rented accommodation and homeowners.
24. Supporting People has recently funded a small tenure-neutral scheme of floating support to older people in their own homes.

(e) Outcome of Hillingdon's recent housing research

25. The council's most recent research into the housing needs and preferences of older people in Hillingdon was conducted by Tribal (2005). The conclusions to this were that there were a number of gaps in services for older people including gaps for the 2,800 older people with dementia in Hillingdon (2001 figures). The majority of people with dementia in Hillingdon currently live in owner-occupied homes.
26. Recommendations arising from the research included the following:
 - Provide more non sheltered housing for older people (two bed units)
 - Provide extra care housing with 24 hour staff cover (including services for dementia)
 - Provide sheltered housing for sale (including extra care)
 - Provide a tenure neutral visiting service for older people in their own homes

- Provide intermediate care for people with dementia
- Use new technology to assist independent living including for those with dementia
- Develop shared ownership models that will appeal to and be affordable to older home owners with low levels of income and equity
- Encourage flats for sale to couples where one person has dementia
- Provide floating support for older people living in their own home (tenure-neutral)

**SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH & HOUSING
POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

2006/7

REVIEW SCOPING REPORT

Proposed review title:

HOUSING SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Aim of the Review

To identify any changes needed to the Council's provision of housing support to vulnerable people.

Terms of Reference

1. To examine the current housing support services provided to vulnerable people in Hillingdon and the impact of such services on residents' independence;
2. To identify any gaps in services and areas of poor performance;
3. To review current and future strategic issues facing housing support services;
4. To identify potential improvements/actions in light of the above investigations.

Background and importance

This review looks at a number of strategic themes with both national and local significance:

- The vital contribution that safe, affordable housing makes to health and wellbeing educational attainment of children and reducing crime
- Maintaining independence and supporting people within their own homes
- Avoiding institutional forms of care and support e.g. residential homes, hospital
- Giving vulnerable people the skills they need to maintain their own homes and avoid repeat homelessness
- Integrated working between housing services, social services and the PCT to provide people with more housing options and support to remain in their own home

Reasons for the review/Pressure for change

- Grants to enable vulnerable people in private sector accommodation to live independently is a priority in the Leader's Statement in the current Council Plan.
- Completing 105 disabled facilities grants prioritising older people leaving hospital is a further priority in the Leader's Statement in the current Council Plan.
- Ensuring that vulnerable people within private sector accommodation live in decent homes is likely to be a stretch target within the Local Area Agreement. The prevention of homelessness may feature as a second stretch target. Both these issues are at the heart of any examination of housing support services.
- The national Supporting People programme is at a key stage of development; being reviewed nationally and locally to ensure that it provides the maximum service for vulnerable people.
- The pressures on housing supply in London means that any successful housing strategy must help people access appropriate housing with the necessary support to remain there.

Key questions

The Committee will seek evidence on the following issues that they will use to inform their conclusions and recommendations

- i.) What is the role of housing support services?
- ii.) What housing support services are currently in place for vulnerable people and what has been their impact?
- iii.) What has the Supporting People programme achieved to date and how could the programme develop?
- iv.) What are the current gaps in housing support services for vulnerable groups?
- v.) What is the role of other services/organisations in providing housing support (e.g. the Benefits Service, Hillingdon's Primary Care Trust, voluntary sector organisations)?
- vi.) What pressures are likely to face housing support services as a result of economic, demographic and political pressures? How will the Council respond to these changes?

Methodology

Housing officers will provide an introductory report giving a high level overview of a range of housing support services across the public and private sector for a wide variety of client groups.

Members can then (a) focus on 2-3 areas of service e.g. housing support to older people or (b) retain the high-level overview throughout the remainder of the review.

The main body of the review will entail:

- Evidence gathering sessions from a range of witnesses including voluntary sector groups and statutory service providers
- Research into best practice elsewhere (e.g. 'excellent' rated authorities in West London)
- Review of relevant documentary evidence including the draft Housing Strategy, the current Supporting People Strategy, the Private Sector Housing Strategy and the Single Persons Housing Strategy

Stakeholders and consultation plan

The Committee will ask for written submissions or oral evidence from a selection of witnesses, chosen from the following people or categories. The first witness session will focus on housing support in public sector housing, the second session on the support offered to private sector residents.

First Session (Public Sector)

- Hillingdon Homes officers
- Social Services officers (including services relating to older people, young people leaving care, people with drug and alcohol problems)
- Service user/tenant representative

Second Session (Private Sector)

- Private Sector Housing Manager
- Hillingdon Primary Care Trust officers
- Voluntary sector provider (e.g. Project 2041, Frays Care and Repair)
- Voluntary sector advocates (e.g. Age Concern, DASH)
- Mental Health Services

Connected work (recently completed, planned or ongoing)

- Development of a range of relevant housing strategies
- Supporting People service reviews
- Housing support provision within learning disability modernisation programme and mental health modernisation programme
- Ongoing work of the Single Persons Working Group

Proposed timeframe & milestones

Meeting	Action	Purpose / Outcome
1. 27.07.06	Agree Scoping Report	Key questions, potential witnesses and terms of reference agreed

2. 13.09.06	Introductory Report	Brief Members on the background to the review
3. 26.10.06	Witness session	Evidence gathering
4. 22.11.06	Witness Session	Evidence gathering
5. 11.01.07	Draft recommendations	Discussion over evidence and agree draft recommendations

Risk assessment

No high risks factors have been identified that would hinder the success of this review.

Cabinet Forward Plan

Contact Officer: David Coombs
Telephone: 01895 250833

REASON FOR ITEM

The Committee is required to consider the Forward Plan and provide Cabinet with any comments it wishes to make before the decision is taken.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. ***Before the meeting***, inform Democratic Services of any items going before the November and December Cabinet meetings that the Committee would like to discuss at this meeting.
2. Study the Forward Plan and decide whether the Committee would like to consider any items at a future meeting.

INFORMATION

1. A summary of the most recent Cabinet Forward Plan covering November 2006 to February 2007 is attached. This version has been edited to include only items relevant to this Committee's remit. The full version is updated on 15th of each month. It can be found on the front page of the 'Members' Desk' under 'Useful Links'.
2. The date for the December Cabinet has been changed and it is now before the next meeting of this Committee. If Members would like to discuss any items going before either the November or December Cabinet then they will need to inform Democratic Services prior to the meeting so that officers from Adult Social Care, Health and Housing can be called to attend.
3. Members will also need to decide at this meeting whether they wish to use their December meeting to comment on items coming before the January Cabinet meeting.

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

1. Members decide whether to comment on any items coming before Cabinet.

Forward Plan of Cabinet Business

Period of Plan - November 2006 to February 2007



Ref	Item / Report for Decision	Decision Body			Member Responsible	Officer Contact & Telephone Number	Consultation	Background Documents	NEW ITEMS
		Cabinet Meeting	Full Council	Cabinet Member					
NOVEMBER 2006									
787	Review of Tenants Grant to Move Scheme	30th Nov			Cllr Philip Corthorne	Darryl Wallace 01895 277689			
771	Frank Welch Court - update on the reprovision of sheltered housing scheme	30th Nov			Cllr Philip Corthorne	Tomas Buada 01895 250717			
805	Supporting People quarterly report			Nov	Cllr Philip Corthorne	Barry Newitt 01895 277323			NEW
DECEMBER 2006									
802	Acceptance of Tender for works at Colne Park Caravan Site	14th Dec			Cllr Philip Corthorne	Jim Whitcomb 01895			
806	Highgrove Learning Disability Supported Housing - acceptance of tender	14th Dec			Cllr Philip Corthorne	Jane Wood 01895 and Janet Pring 01895			NEW
JANUARY 2007									
803	Bourne Lodge reprovision - update	18th Jan			Cllr Philip Corthorne	Jane Wood 01895			NEW
804	Fair Access to Care - progress report on modernisation of the delivery of community care services	18th Jan			Cllr Philip Corthorne	Jane Wood 01895 and Phillip Sharpe 01895			NEW
FEBRUARY 2007									
	<i>No items relating to this Committee's remit are scheduled for the February Cabinet at this stage</i>								

Work Programme 2006/7

Contact Officer: David Coombs
Telephone: 01895 250833

REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to track the progress of their work programme in accordance with good project management practice.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Note the proposed programme of work
2. Amend the work programme if required
3. Agree whether to hold an additional meeting

INFORMATION

1. The Committee have agreed the work programme produced below. Pale shading indicates completed meetings.

SUGGESTED SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

1. Ensure Members are clear on the work coming before the Committee

**Social Services, Health & Housing Policy Overview Committee
2006/7 Work Programme**

NB: Shading indicates completed meetings

Meeting Date	Item
15th June 2006	Presentation on role and remit of Committee
	Work Programme for 2006/7
27th July 2006	Scoping Reports for Major Reviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillingdon Independent Living Centre • Housing Support for Vulnerable People
	Cabinet Forward Plan
	Hillingdon Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Committee Report 2005/6
	Overview of public health issues
13th September 2006	Social Services & Housing Department Performance Report – Quarter 1
	Major risks in Social Services & Housing Department
	Cabinet Forward Plan
	Housing Major Review: Introductory Session
26th October 2006	Cabinet Forward Plan
	Housing Major Review: Witness Session 1
	HILC Major Review: Introductory Session
22nd November 2006	Housing Major Review: Witness Session 2
	Cabinet Forward Plan
14th December 2006	Social Services & Housing Department Performance Report – Quarter 2
	Major risks in Social Services & Housing Department
	Cabinet Forward Plan
	HILC Major Review: Witness Session 1
	Budget Pressures in Social Services & Housing

11th January 2007	Cabinet Forward Plan
	Service and Budget Plans for Social Services & Housing Department
	Housing Major Review: Draft recommendations

6th February 2007	Cabinet Forward Plan
	HILC Major Review: Witness Session 2

12th April 2007	Social Services & Housing Department Performance Report – Quarter 3
	Major risks in Social Services & Housing Department
	Cabinet Forward Plan
	HILC Major Review: Draft recommendations