

# Older Persons Housing Strategy Highlight Report

October 2010

## Introduction

It is over a year since the strategy was formally signed off and there has been considerable activity across all of the themes during that time. The majority of actions are on track and work has begun on a number of actions that were overdue at the time of the last report. During the next six month period however the Comprehensive Spending Review is due and it is likely that the whole action plan will require reviewing and consideration given to reprioritising as partners review targets and focus once future resources are clearer.

## Key Achievements

A number of key outcomes have been delivered since the last exception report.

The Older Persons Housing Needs and Aspirations study has been completed and the report launched at an event hosted by Blaby District Council in June. The report and details of the launch event can be found on the following link

<http://www.blaby.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/council-and-democracy/policies--strategies-and-plans/housing-strategy/housing-needs-and-aspirations-for-older-people/>

The first sheltered scheme review proposal was submitted to cabinet in August. The review covered both future eligibility of Longcliffe Road but also took the opportunity to review the wider issue of eligibility to elderly plus properties

Another significant piece of work undertaken in association with CNH which was not initially a discreet action within the Strategy but which assists in the delivery of a number of the actions was the production of a marketing plan for older persons accommodation. This was taken to the Senior Citizens forum for approval and has lead to a number of activities to raise the profile of and promote the borough's sheltered accommodation including a series of scheme open days, improved information and marketing material for both the broad service and individual schemes and an increased profile online including <http://www.housingcare.org/>.

The open days have proved beneficial for a number of reasons acting both as an opportunity to raise awareness of sheltered schemes but also to identify potential barriers to letting. For example the recent open day at Aingarth identified strong demand for the scheme with a number of applicants

expressing an interest in the show flat (a bedsit) but expressing concern at the thought of accepting a larger unit on the first floor. This has identified that accessibility to the flats is the greatest barrier to lettings at the scheme.

### **Overdue Actions**

The most notable action which has fallen behind schedule is that around developing a hospital discharge protocol. There were initial delays in identifying the appropriate officers within the health service although an initial meeting has now taken place and some progress made. Furthermore it has now been agreed to try and develop the protocol countywide which obviously extends the scope and the number of partners who need to be co-ordinated. The existing "Discharge and Transfer of Patient policy," is subject to review by the end of October this year and it is hoped that progress on the protocol can be aligned with this work.

The other action where there is less progress than anticipated has been in relation to moving forward the provision of assistive technology. Again this has been as a result of difficulties identifying the appropriate officers in the County Council but again some progress is now being made.

The majority of other actions that are overdue are in progress and do not have significant dependencies reliant predominantly on officer time. There are a number of actions that may need to be reviewed in light of changing priorities nationally and the direction Supporting People take as a result of their strategic review of services for older people.

### **Conclusions**

Since the strategy was agreed in the Summer of 2009 a number of opportunities have been taken for "quick wins," and some of these are highlighted above.

One of the key strengths of the approach to the action plan has been to retain flexibility to ensure that outcomes are delivered even where the focus of the original action may have shifted slightly such as the work with CNH to develop the marketing plan.

David Scruton October 2010