

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

21 JANUARY 2014

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – ADULT CARE

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO
HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAMME**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Cabinet approval to commence a two phased process of formal consultation and engagement with organisations and their clients on a proposal to make £9m savings in the Housing Related Support (HRS) services programme, approximately £1m of which would be saved in 2014/15.

2. Information and Analysis

Context

Due to reductions in funding from Central Government, the Council must reduce its expenditure by £157m over the next 5 years.

In order to achieve this budget reduction, Cabinet is reviewing all areas of expenditure. At its meeting on 1 October 2013, Cabinet approved a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance on the revised budget for 2013/14. In approving the joint report, Cabinet also:-

- Approved a revised 5 year financial plan.
- Noted the changes to funding received since Council approved the budget in February 2013 and approved the uses to which it will be applied.
- Agreed the proposals for budget reductions outlined in Appendix 2 to that report.
- Noted that the possible areas for budget reductions in Appendix 3 to that report will be considered and detailed proposals brought before Members as appropriate.

The Council meeting on 2 October 2013 confirmed and accepted the proposals agreed by Cabinet in relation to the revision to the 2013/14 budget and to the reductions detailed in the report.

Proposals set out in Appendix 3 of the joint report, subject to Cabinet consideration and necessary consultation, included the Housing Related Support Services programme. Detailed proposals relating to these changes are set out below.

Funding for Housing Related Support originally came to the County Council as a ring fenced grant. In April 2009 the ring fence was removed and the funding has been incorporated into the more general grant funding from Central Government to the County Council. Since 2009, many Councils have made significant reductions in this budget. Research was conducted by the Local Government Information Unit and Circle Housing Group into cuts to Supporting People budgets in 2011. This surveyed 139 local authorities and 44 per cent of councils stated that they were reducing the level of service they could offer in order to make savings. For example, Worcestershire County Council's programme expects to achieve a £3m (21%) reduction in its base budget, Nottinghamshire County Council to achieve a £10m saving and Derby City Council aims to reduce its HRS budget from £9.5m in 2012/13 to £3.3m in 2014/15.

2.1 Current Provision

HRS services enable vulnerable people to achieve or maintain independent living in the community. These services can prevent individuals from being admitted to hospital/residential care and accessing other health services. They can also help people to avoid homelessness. Support workers help the person to draw up a support plan that is tailored to meet their individual needs and aspirations.

It provides predominantly non-care based support including supporting people to:

- Claim benefits and fill in forms.
- Develop skills to maintain and manage their tenancy.
- Gain access to other services they need.
- Participate in training or education.
- Contact family and friends.
- Manage their own physical and/or mental health.
- Stay safe.
- Find or keep their home.

A wide range of vulnerable people currently receive HRS including:

- Older people.
- People with Mental Ill Health.

- People with Learning Disabilities.
- Young People.
- People with Drug or Alcohol problems.
- People at risk of Domestic Abuse.
- People at risk of offending.

HRS Services can be provided in two ways:

1. Floating Support: these are HRS services provided predominantly by support workers to people wherever they live. This service is not linked to people living in specific settings such as a refuge.
2. Accommodation based Support; these are HRS services that are based on living in specific accommodation such as a hostel or a refuge.

A more detailed explanation of the types of services provided to these client groups that may be affected by these proposals and some case examples of people using HRS services are included at Appendix Two.

The HRS Programme currently has a total budget of £14,644,699. This preventative programme enables over 31,000 vulnerable local people to live independently in their own homes. The programme is instrumental in the delivery of prevention services for Derbyshire County Council, local district and borough Councils, the NHS and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). Currently there are 140 local services delivered by 57 providers.

The provision of HRS services is not in itself a statutory requirement for the Council, but these services do provide cost effective preventive support for vulnerable people.

There is strong evidence that many partner agencies as well as the Council benefit from the provision of HRS services and national research indicates that it has a positive financial return on investment for these agencies.

The proposed changes to the currently funded HRS services will have a direct impact on the clients who use the service, those who might have benefited from them in the future and the current service providers.

A breakdown of the current Accommodation and Support Budget for 2013/14 and services are detailed in table 1 below.

Table 1

Client Group	Service Type	Annual Budget	No of Clients	No of Services
All Client Groups	Alarm/On Call system	£1,097,121	10,370	29
Adults (under 65)	Accommodation-based & floating support	£1,775,016	530	4
Offenders / people at risk of offending	Accommodation-based services	£109,424	15	1
Older People with Support Needs	Accommodation-based & floating support	£4,310,664	19,383	44
People at risk from domestic violence	Accommodation-based & floating support	£849,838	204	4
People with a Physical or Sensory Disability	Accommodation-based services	£32,441	14	2
People with Learning Disabilities	Accommodation-based services	£3,475,940	446	43
People with Mental Health Problems	Accommodation-based & floating support	£1,962,887	490	9
Young People	Accommodation-based & floating support	£1,031,367	294	4
GRAND TOTAL		£14,644,698	31,746	140

2.1.2 Proposed changes to the HRS programme.

This report outlines a range of proposed measures including efficiencies, service re-design, and service reduction and de-commissioning which could deliver a total of £9m of savings. The plan would be phased over the two year period 2014-16 due to consultation, engagement, contractual agreements and, where appropriate, completing community care assessments.

The Council proposes to implement these changes over 2 phases. The first phase would take effect in 2014/15 and it is these proposals upon which the Council wishes now to formally consult. Phase Two will be the subject of further discussions with all interested parties and a subsequent process of consultation.

PHASE ONE

The proposed decommissioning of services due to be the subject of formal consultation during Phase One have been arrived at by using the following criteria:

- Maintain so far as possible services which complement the Council's statutory responsibilities and deliver on the Council Plan.
- De-commission services that could be commissioned by other partners for example district and borough councils, local NHS and the National Offender Management Service.
- Where appropriate identify services for client groups which could be re-designed as generic services for a wide range of vulnerable people and deliver best value.

Table 2 - Phase One - 2014-15 proposed services to be decommissioned			
Client Group / Service Type	Provider	No. Of Services Affected	Annual Contract Value
Adults (U65)	Action Housing	2	£954,100
	Derbyshire Connections Consortium (NCHA, Amber Trust, YMCA, NACRO, P3 & Riverside)	2	£820,916
	Sub Total	4	£1,775,016
Offenders & People at Risk of Offending	Action Housing	1	£109,424
Housing options for People with Learning Disabilities	Nottingham Community Housing Association	1	£35,000
Leaseholders	7 Individuals	7	£5,545
Totals		13	£1,924,985

If the proposals are agreed in Phase One there will be a six month saving of £962,493 in 2014/15 followed by a further saving of £962,492 in 2015/16.

Phase One is also dependent on ensuring that community care assessments are completed for relevant clients affected by this proposal and appropriate support plans are in place.

PHASE TWO

It is proposed that Phase Two would achieve a further £7m of savings, in addition to the £2m saved in Phase One. In order for the Council to finalise its proposals in respect of these further savings it is necessary to carry out a period of engagements with clients, providers and other interested parties. These proposals will form the basis of discussions with clients and providers. Contractual negotiations will also take place with providers to remodel services to achieve targeted savings, including possible retendering of services.

Proposals in Phase Two could involve:

- Making reductions in the services commissioned. These are outlined in Table Three.
- Remodelling and re-procuring the services that will continue. These are outlined in Table Four.

Table 3 Phase Two: Proposed Reductions in Services 2015/16

Client group/Service Type	No of Services Affected	Total Budget Reduction
Older People – Housing Options	1	£197,426
Older People Sheltered Housing with warden on site	18	£801,492
Older People – Home Improvement Agencies	2	£35,926
Older People – Handy Van Network	7	£91,488
Older People Including falls recovery	8	£2,138,206
People with mental health problems	9	£1,400,000
People with a learning disability – Supported living schemes jointly funded with care	35	£1,181,760
People at risk from domestic violence	4	£369,649
Young people's services	4	£859,185
Total	88	£7,075,132

The relevant providers affected by the proposed reductions highlighted in the table above are detailed in Appendix One.

Table 4 below outlines the services that it is proposed to retain in the HRS Programme assuming no additional funding is received from other sources.

Table 4 Phase Two: Remodelled and Retained services 2015/16

Client Group	Service Type	No of Clients	Annual Budget
People at Risk from Domestic Violence	Accommodation-Based & Floating Support Services	198	£480,189
All Client Groups	Alarm/On Call system	10,370	£1,097,121
Older People with Support Needs	Accommodation-Based & Floating Support Services	15,000	£1,040,581
People with a Physical or Sensory Disability	Accommodation-Based Support Services	160	£32,441
People with Learning Disabilities	Accommodation-Based & Floating Support Services	170	£2,259,180
People with Mental Health Problems	Accommodation-Based & Floating Support Services	141	£562,887
Young People	Accommodation-Based & Floating Support Services	49	£172,182
GRAND TOTAL		26,088	£5,644,581

2.1.3 As a consequence of the proposed £9m saving from the HRS programme covered by the two phases; at least six providers and seven lease holders would have their services de-commissioned and this could result in job losses of up to 587 of which approximately 60 could be from Adult Care. There would also be a reduction in the number of clients supported due to a reduced range of services available. The proposed changes in services may lead to reduced support for vulnerable adults including those with protected characteristics of age, disability and gender and those in receipt of a care package for assessed care needs.

Where the benefit from the programme falls to other organisations we will engage with them over alternative ways of working for, for example providers

are invited to consider intensive housing management as an alternative way of delivering their services. This will take place during the consultation and engagement processes and will include, within the Council, Children and Younger Adults and Public Health and externally the Clinical Commissioning Groups, other local NHS organisations, Probation, Police service and the district and borough councils.

3 Consultation and Engagement

This proposal has implications for organisations providing services and for people receiving services commissioned/funded by Adult Care and as such a period of consultation will be required. The length of the consultation in respect of Phase One will be 12 weeks. A communication plan will be required to make sure that all people and providers who are potentially affected are fully aware of the proposals contained in the Cabinet report and have an opportunity to comment. In some instances this will involve engaging with hard to reach groups. It is estimated that approximately 5,660 people would be affected by the two phases of this proposal; all those affected by Phase One will be contacted as part of the consultation exercises being run by Adult Care and providers of HRS services. This consultation will need to extend to include other stakeholders such as statutory agencies and appropriate independent sector groups. As part of the consultation process the public will be invited to suggest alternative ways of making additional savings.

Particular consideration will need to be given in this instance to communicating with any hard to reach groups who do not receive a service directly through Adult Care but rather through an organisation commissioned/funded by Adult Care.

The consultation will be carried out by the Stakeholder Engagement Team with assistance in preparing materials from colleagues in the Press Office. In all instances material will need to be prepared in Easy Read format and the proposal will be available both in leaflet/letter format as well as on-line. In addition to this there will be the opportunity for the public to make their views known verbally either by a help-line or through public events. Officers will also attend appropriate Board and user group meetings as a further avenue of eliciting opinion on the proposals.

At the same time as formal consultation is undertaken in respect of Phase One, officers will also engage with interested parties in respect of the future of the service from 2015. This period of engagement will determine a set of proposals (Phase Two) which will be the subject of a further report to Cabinet and a further period of formal consultation.

As part of the engagement process, providers will be invited to enter into a dialogue with the Council as to how they could reduce their contract value and achieve efficiency savings in other ways.

4. Financial Considerations

The proposed £9m saving would be phased over two years 2014-16.

5. Human Resources Considerations

In addition to the arrangements for public consultation outlined in the report, the workforce planning implications for County Council staff arising from the proposals will be the subject of informal consultation with staff and Trade Unions. Formal consultation may be required subsequently, dependent on the whether a decision is made to proceed with the proposals.

6. Legal and Human Rights Considerations

The Director of Legal Services has advised that the proposals outlined in this report need to be considered with the proposed changes in other Cabinet reports, in particular, consultation on proposed changes to eligibility for Adult Social Care and increased contributions for non-residential care and consultation on the introduction of an Adult Social Care Transport Policy.

Consultation on all the proposals should, as far as practicable, take place at the same time. The information provided to consultees, in each consultation pack, must link to the other proposed changes in order for them to fully understand the global impact of the proposals and allow them to provide informed comment. Consultees should be specifically asked to comment on whether other changes proposed by the Council will, in their view, make the consequences of the proposed changes outlined in this report better or worse and, if so, in what ways.

When considering the proposals it will be essential for Members to have due regard to protecting and promoting the welfare and interests of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation). The proposals will therefore be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment, which will be linked to the Equality Impact Assessments for the other proposed changes, in order for Members to fully consider the impact of all the changes in the round. The assessment of impact on protected groups will include an assessment of any safeguarding issues arising.

7. Equality of Opportunity Considerations

The proposals will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. This will be prepared in the light of the consultation and will be included with the subsequent report to Cabinet.

8. Other Considerations

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Prevention of crime and disorder; equality of opportunity; environmental; health, property and transport considerations.

9. Key Decision

No

10. Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report?

No

11. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cabinet approves the commencement of a period of full public consultation on Phase One of the proposals and a period of engagement in respect of Phase Two as set out in the report.
2. That further reports are brought to Cabinet following the period of public consultation and engagement and Equality Impact Assessments are carried out.

**Bill Robertson
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County Hall
MATLOCK**

Appendix One

Relevant providers affected by the proposed reductions

Client Group / Service Type	Provider
Older People Housing Options	P3
Older People Sheltered Housing with warden on site	Anchor Trust
	Bolsover District Council
	Chesterfield Borough Council
	Chesterfield Churches
	Dales Housing
	Derwent
	EMH Homes
	Equity
	Guinness Partnership Ltd
	High Peak Borough Council
	Housing 21
	JJ Housing
	Metropolitan
	Riverside ECHG (English Churches)
	Raglan Housing Association
Rykneld Home	
Sanctuary Housing Association	
Older People HIA	Chesterfield Borough Council
	Metropolitan
Older People - Handy Van Network	Bolsover District Council
	Chesterfield Borough Council
	Medequip
	Metropolitan
	Rykneld Home
	South Derbyshire CVS
	Voluntary & Com Services Peaks & Dales
Older People Includes falls recovery	Bolsover District Council
	Chesterfield Borough Council
	Futures
	High Peak Borough Council
	Making Space
	Rykneld Home
South Derbyshire District Council	

People with mental health problems	P3
	Rethink
	Morning Rise
People with a learning disability - Supported living schemes jointly funded with care	Derbyshire County Council
	Enable
	Mencap
	Metropolitan
	Moore Care
	Norsaca
	Positive Horizons
	SLC Paragon
	Thera Trust
	United Response
People at risk from domestic violence	Nottingham Community Housing Association
	Trident
Young People's services	Framework

Appendix Two

Case Studies of Housing Related Support Services

Most vulnerable people find themselves in transition at various points in their lives. If they cannot access adequate housing at the right time their attempts to achieve positive outcomes can be seriously undermined. Housing Related Support services in Derbyshire help tackle multiple disadvantages by assisting:

- 🏠 Former rough sleepers, and other single homeless people living in hostels, to move on into self-contained accommodation.
- 🏠 Recovering substance mis-users, to settle down after treatment and rehabilitation.
- 🏠 Offenders, who have lost their homes while in prison, to plan for their Release.
- 🏠 People supported by domestic abuse providers to move on into private rented accommodation with floating support and / or Telecare.
- 🏠 Young people leaving care, to live independently for the first time.
- 🏠 Substantial public funds have often been invested in helping people to recover, re-engage and change. Without adequate housing, this investment can be lost. It is far more costly to deal with the implications of repeat homelessness than to manage the risks while someone is living in settled accommodation.



The commissioned services for this client group encompass clients aged over 25 years assessed with any of the following criteria:

- Single Homeless.
- Drugs and Alcohol issues.
- Offenders, Ex Offenders and those at Risk of Offending.
- Generic (i.e low level support needs).
- Other Complex Needs (including Dual Diagnosis).

Adults – Case Study

Action Housing and Support - Mark had recently been released from prison after serving a sentence for drug dealing and had suffered episodes of drug induced psychosis including being sectioned under the mental health act for his own safety on a number of occasions. He was referred by his Community Psychiatric Nurse for support in setting up and maintaining a tenancy.

His engagement was sporadic at first and Action supported him to access the Community Drug Team, he was prescribed methadone and began to feel more stable. This had a positive effect on his mental health and he re-engaged with his CPN and started taking his prescribed medication. Mark was supported to establish a payment schedule to cover his rent arrears to prevent possible eviction.

Mark continued to make progress and asked for support in looking at training options. A meeting with a careers advisor was facilitated and Mark enrolled on some courses at Chesterfield College.

Mark took great satisfaction in being able to do something well (painting and decorating) and sought opportunities to develop his skills. His support worker arranged for him to spend a few days working alongside the in house maintenance team and also to apply for a small grant through a trust to purchase the paint and materials he needed to decorate his own property.

After 15 months Mark decided he no longer needed support having achieved the goals he had identified. At the time of exit he had completed a detox and was no longer using methadone. He had cleared his rent arrears and achieved the status of a secure tenant. He was continuing to engage with both the Drug Team and the Mental Health Team and successfully reached the end of his prison licence with no further offending. He is now looking for opportunities to gain employment or further develop his employability skills.



Older People

The majority of older people want to live in their own homes. They might be home owners or private sector tenants or may live in sheltered housing provided by a housing association or local council. Whatever their circumstances, **Housing Related Support** can help older people to live where they want to.

By providing an individually tailored service, it can help them to maintain maximum independence.

A Range of Services

Some older people just need help with repairs – and **housing related support** includes this in the form of Home Improvement Agencies for major repairs or, alternatively, assistance with practical tasks provided by the Handy Van Network. Information about housing alternatives can also be provided by the Derbyshire Older Peoples Housing Options Service that supports people with impartial advice. Others need much more care and support and we have developed a number of Extra Care Housing facilities to meet their needs.

The availability of funding within older people's services has proved critical in a number of ways:

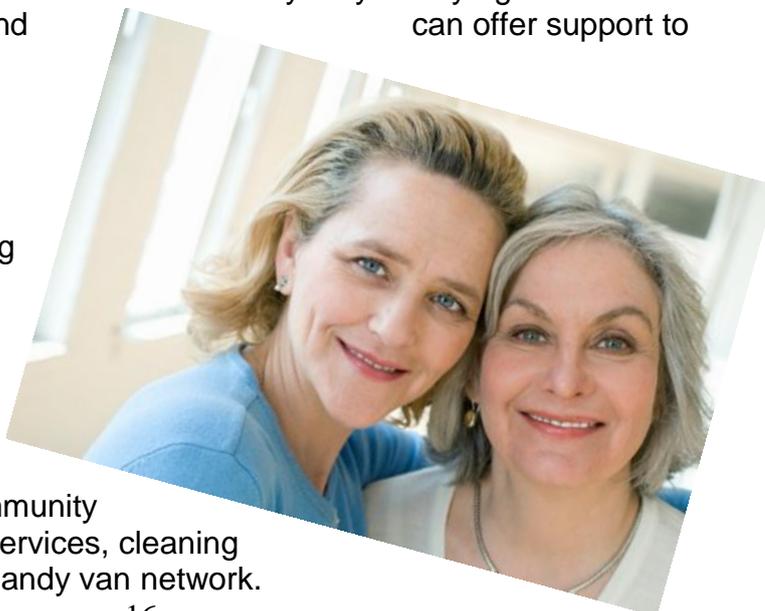
- 🏠 It has ensured that basic running costs will be financed, enabling the commissioners and the developer to proceed with confidence;
- 🏠 It has paid for core services, such as 24-hour cover, so that emergencies can be dealt with, in conjunction with the relevant agencies, at any time of day;
- 🏠 It has enabled providers to offer more choice, without the concern that individual choices will undermine service viability.

Older People's Housing Options - Advice and Support

The Derbyshire Older People's Housing Options Service is a free service that provides information, advice, support and practical help for older people who are living in poor or unsuitable housing and / or are considering options for moving on or changing their home to a different type of accommodation. The service is available to anyone over the age of 50 who is vulnerable or to anybody of any age who is the main carer of an older person, and can offer support to 900+ people every year.

Advice provided includes:

- Housing choices – choice based lettings and housing options systems, how to access private landlords, other housing associations, and evidence needed to support applications.
- Additional Services – community alarm provision, warden services, cleaning and gardening services, handy van network.



- Benefits – which benefit clients may be entitled to, how to obtain the forms, who to contact, evidence needed to support applications.
- Signposting – additional specialist services e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau for debt/money advice, Home Improvement Agency for housing repairs/adaptations, Derbyshire Housing Aid for advice around tenancies, rent and mortgage arrears.

Support available includes:

- Completing forms for the clients if they are unable to do so themselves.
- Liaising with partner agencies to obtain additional services i.e. adult care, housing associations, other voluntary agencies.
- Negotiating on behalf of clients with suppliers/providers to manage bills/finances more efficiently.
- Bidding on the choice based lettings and home options systems.

iDecide, including P3 and Amber Trust, told us that during “the first six months of the service operating we have supported 33 individuals across four of the six districts to access additional benefits totalling £85,000 (Average of £2,577.82 per client).” The additional income has been used to:

- Cover the cost of minor adaptations allowing clients to remain in their homes.
- Purchase cleaning and gardening services helping clients maintain their tenancies and avoid action being taken against them.
- Pay fuels bills meaning clients aren’t worrying about heating their homes.
- Purchase white goods, aids and home furnishings.
- Pay for transport to social activities reducing social isolation.

Derbyshire Older People's Housing Options – Case Study

iDecide - Joyce is wheelchair dependent and cannot access her kitchen or reach surfaces in her bungalow without help. Initial contact identified that Joyce wanted to stay in her bungalow but felt work on adaptations had been halted due to the impression she wished to move. She was supported to access befriending and support services and to enrol on a computer course she could do from home. Her support worker engaged with the District and County Councils to progress her Disabled Facilities Grant and adaptation work. The worker also supported Joyce to identify benefit entitlements.



The Handy Van Network

The Derbyshire Handy Van Network is a service making it safer for older and vulnerable people to live in their own homes. A Derbyshire resident who is aged 60 or over or a vulnerable person who is referred into the network can access the service free of charge. However, any materials required for any small repairs or DIY tasks have to be purchased by the client.

The service provision includes the following:

- Home Fire Safety and Home Security checks.
- Installation of Telecare.
- Security equipment provided and installed.
- Installation of key safes and grab rails.
- Energy efficiency advice.
- Practical tasks – for example:
 - changing light bulbs.
 - securing carpets and rugs.
 - removing and hanging curtains.
 - checking stair rails are secure and appropriate.
 - path and door access clearance.
 - securing tap washers to reduce dripping taps.
 - and other tasks, as appropriate.

During 2011/12, the Handy Van Network completed over 25,000 tasks during 8,111 visits. Support was provided to a range of older and vulnerable people across the county, including the provision of specialist services for people at risk of domestic abuse and supporting the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service following fatal fires across the county.

A summary of the benefits delivered is detailed in the table below:

Measure	Number	Outcomes
Reduced falls	140	Falls prevented
Improved or maintained independent living - sheltered	16	People prevented moving into sheltered accommodation
Improved or maintained independent living - temporary	2	People prevented moving into homes
Reduced burglaries	4	Prevented burglaries
Reduced bed days	8	People prevented using an avg. number of bed days
Reduced use of social services	11	People prevented using social services
Reduced fuel poverty	2256	People with reduced bills

Handy Van Network – CASE STUDY



Hannah contacted the Handy Van Network for help with a broken and loose stair rail. Two of the operatives visited and removed the broken stair rail, repaired it and fixed it firmly back to the wall. In addition they noticed that Hannah did not have a smoke alarm so they carried out a Home Fire Safety and a full Home Security Check and fitted 2 smoke alarms, a door chain and a door alarm.

Hannah was given advice about ways of cutting energy costs by using various energy efficiency measures. She said she would be pursuing the option of free loft insulation which is also good for the environment.

Floating Support (Warden Service)

The Accommodation and Support Team carried out a strategic review of Older People's Services which included the "warden services." The review considered amongst other matters the projected increase in the number of older people living in Derbyshire, the need to provide and deliver effective, high quality, value for money services, which are accessible throughout the County, areas of deprivation and Derbyshire's rural communities where service provision may be lacking.

The recommendations from the review were used to shape the new Service:

- Services are tenure neutral. This facilitates the removal of barriers to support for minority groups.
- A menu of options is available across the County in order to target support where it is needed.
- The availability of increased support for short term needs only.
- Reduces unnecessary hospital admissions and prevents the need for moves into residential care.
- Includes a "falls recovery service," only for instances where no other medical intervention is needed.
- The option of a warden service that is not linked to the community alarm service.
- Service delivery allows for greater choice and control.

Falls Alert Service – Telecare and Falls Recovery Service

Derbyshire's Falls Alert Service – Telecare provides a 24 hour home safety system which incorporates a range of Telecare sensors. The service enables people to live independently within their own homes; with an instant response should a sensor be activated, providing valuable peace of mind. **Housing Related Support** is currently funding 500+ free packs of equipment to fallers or potential fallers. The only cost to the client is a £2.50 per week monitoring charge, plus call charges only when the alarm is activated.

The Falls Recovery Service (FRS) delivers a timely response and safe lift from the floor for clients who have fallen in their own homes, who are not knowingly injured and who are unable to get up off the floor without some level of assistance. FRS staff will carry out a pre-lift risk assessment on the faller and employ recognised safe moving and handling techniques with the use of specialist lifting equipment. The service has been established in partnership with the NHS.

Category 2 Sheltered Housing Services

Category 2 Sheltered Housing provides supported accommodation for older people who choose to live in the community but also to live in a more secure setting that offers communal facilities, on-site support staff during part of the day and access to a community alarm that offers 24/7 reassurance. This type of supported accommodation has a door entry system to the facility providing added security and peace of mind.

Learning Disabilities (LD)

In Derbyshire around 370 People with a Learning Disability receive housing related support. Many of these individuals have moved into independent living and maintained their tenancies with a mixture of both social care and housing related support.

Housing choices in Derbyshire include:

- Private Rented Accommodation.
- Home Ownership.
- Social Housing.
- Shared Housing.
- Living with Family.

Housing Related Support Provision for People with a Learning Disability

As part of future and on-going work the Derbyshire Accommodation and Support Team are working to ensure that our services are innovative and support individuals to achieve their identified outcomes. We are undertaking a review of services for People with a Learning Disability which includes supported living, floating support, shared lives and housing choices.

In Derbyshire there are different types of support available to ensure that service user needs are met. Examples are: some People with a Learning Disability can receive a small amount of housing related support per week within their own home (floating support), while others receive support within a family placement. Alternatively, some individuals live with other People with a Learning Disability in shared accommodation.

- The previous strategic review identified the need for more flexible support options to be available to People with a Learning Disability, this led to the procurement of a Floating Support and Housing Choices service which has now been in operation for over a year and is proving a success.

LD Floating Support - Case Study

David was not managing very well and his family were very worried about him. His Social Worker made the referral and it was identified that his flat was in poor condition. David admitted that he does not like to do domestic duties and was struggling to manage his finances; including getting overdrawn and being charged account fees. David was at risk of getting into debt, he was not going out often and there was a concern that he was becoming isolated. David said he was miserable and wanted some help.

An assessment indicated David would need 2 hours support a week. He wanted to manage his money effectively and responded well to a budgeting plan, set up direct debits and managed to clear his debts.

The support worker identified a benefit that had not been applied for and David received a sum of money. He was able to replace his very noisy fridge freezer, buy some household items and expand his leisure opportunities.

David has been supported to join in with the local pub pool tournaments and to get involved in a community pottery class. He takes pride in showing the support worker and his family his creations. At first his support worker attended with him until David felt confident enough to go independently, and he was also introduced to an organic farm where he has become a volunteer. He brings home the produce, which has had a positive impact on his healthy eating.

With support David set up a time table for cleaning duties. He stuck to this and managed to maintain his flat independently. He told his support worker that he feels more confident now and enjoys his life.

LD Housing Options - Case Study

Angela was in temporary accommodation but wanted a permanent home. Barbara had been living in a shared flat but was unsettled and needed to share with someone more compatible.

Social workers arranged for the two ladies to spend some time each week out together, with carers, to see how they got on. They both enjoyed this and felt they would be able to share a house.

The support worker discussed their housing needs with Social Workers i.e. suitable area, close proximity to families, local facilities, links to public transport and any mobility issues. The property search commenced with talking to housing providers and private landlords in the area to find somewhere suitable.

A property became vacant in a quiet residential area which was only a short bus ride from the local town. The house has a small garden that they can both enjoy.

The support worker arranged for Housing Benefit payments through the District Council. A care provider has also been chosen to provide the one to one care and for someone to sleep in at night.

All photographs used are for illustrative purposes only.