

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STRATEGIC HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD**

**8 October 2007**

**Joint Report of the Director of Health and Housing and Cabinet Member for  
Housing**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken  
by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 SUPPORTING PEOPLE OLDER PERSONS REVIEW UPDATE**

**Summary**

**This report updates Members on the outcome of the ‘Older Persons Strategic Review’. A revised set of recommendations have been agreed by the Commissioning Body which effectively secure the existing support arrangements for older people.**

**1.1 Background**

1.1.1 Members will recall the recommendations of the ‘Older Persons Strategic Review’ (commissioned by Kent Supporting People team) reported to the May 2007 meeting of the Board, along with a number of concerns raised by your officers and Russet Homes over how they would affect services users. The main issue of concern arising from the review was the recommendations to:

1.1.2 *“gradually discontinue funding sheltered housing schemes that employ on-site or resident Scheme Managers and move towards funding generic / specialist support services”*

1.1.3 A presentation from the head of Kent Supporting People team on the Supporting People programme in general and the review is scheduled on this agenda.

**1.2 Report**

1.2.1 Following an extended consultation exercise on the proposals with service users, providers and other partners, I am pleased to report that at its meeting in September 2007, the Commissioning Body (CB) approved a revised set of recommendations. These effectively secure the continuation of the scheme manager/warden role in sheltered housing for the foreseeable future. Most importantly, it was recommended that existing support arrangements would continue except where providers and service users agreed otherwise following a consultation exercise.

- 1.2.2 On this latter point, it was clear from consultation with older people that the overwhelming support was for maintaining the existing resident warden service. Members should be pleased that the CB has taken the views of users in to account in agreeing the final recommendations.
- 1.2.3 As some providers outside of T&M have already moved towards the peripatetic (ie floating support) model of support it was agreed a 'good practice' workshop would be held to allow other interested parties the opportunity of hearing more about this way of providing support.
- 1.2.4 The CB also endorsed continuing to fund community alarms in sheltered housing and to maintain funding existing extra care contracts.
- 1.2.5 Notwithstanding the new recommendations it is important that Members understand the general pressure for Supporting People resources. There remains concern that vulnerable people residing in the private sector may be missing out on the support services available. Therefore a strategic review of investment will be conducted as part of the Supporting People five-year strategy. This review will consider how the Supporting People programme is being delivered across the county to ensure needs are being met and that services provide value for money.

### **1.3 Legal Implications**

- 1.3.1 None arising from the report.

### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.4.1 None arising from this report.

### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

- 1.5.1 None arising from this report.

### **1.6 Recommendations**

- 1.6.1 That the **CABINET** be recommended to **NOTE** and **SUPPORT** the revised proposals arising from the Older Person Strategic Review, reported herein.

The Director of Health and Housing confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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Nil

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Director of Health and Housing

Councillor Jill Anderson  
Cabinet Member for Housing