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**To: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)**

**Date: 3 November 2015**

**Subject: Improving Accommodation for Older People Consultation**

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 This Note provides Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) with an overview of the consultation underway, outlining the approach taken and highlighting feedback to the consultation to date.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) are recommended to:
- Note the work completed on the consultation to date
  - Provide comment that can be considered as part of the consultation

## **3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015, Cabinet approved a consultation on the ceasing of care services from four Housing with Care schemes in the city. The four schemes are owned by Whitefriars Housing and the care services are provided by the City Council.
- 3.2 The overall objective of the proposal was to support the long term improvement in accommodation for older people within the City. It was proposed this would be achieved through ceasing care and support within some of the older schemes that provide a standard of accommodation below that which would be expected from a modern facility. In addition to this the proposal seeks to ensure the resources of the local authority are used in the most efficient way possible. Currently there are in the region of 40-50 vacancies within the existing Housing with Care stock in the city. This increase in vacancies is driven by more people being supported to remain in their own homes alongside some schemes proving difficult to attract tenants to.
- 3.3 The four schemes identified, and currently being consulted upon, are:
- a. Frank Walsh House, Hillfields
  - b. Skipton Lodge, Upper Stoke
  - c. Halford Lodge, Keresley
  - d. Farmcote Lodge, Aldermans Green
- 3.4 On the site at Frank Walsh House there are also two learning disability day services, Jenner8 and The Community Zone. The current proposal is to hand back the whole site to Whitefriars Housing. Therefore the consultation includes those service users and family carers affected by the proposed closure of the two day centres.

- 3.5 For the proposals, an Equality Consultation Analysis (ECA) has been completed to assess the potential impact. The outcome of the consultation will be used to further inform the Equality Consultation Analysis (ECA).
- 3.6 Prior to the formal consultation commencing a series of engagement meetings were held with service users, and their family carers, that would be directly affected by the proposals. These meetings provided an opportunity to explain the reason behind why the proposals were being put forward.
- 3.7 During the formal consultation to date, which commenced on 17 August 2015, service users and family carers have had an opportunity to share their views on the proposals. A series of group meetings have already taken place across the four Housing with Care schemes and the two day centres and sessions have been arranged for people to talk individually to City Council staff regarding the proposals being consulted on. In addition Grapevine has been commissioned to undertake meetings with service users of the day centres to ensure they are able to share their views on the proposals.
- 3.8 As well as consulting with directly affected groups the consultation is being shared with a range of stakeholders including:
- NHS Community Health event
  - Partnership Boards
  - Coventry Older Voices
  - Voluntary Action Coventry's Health and Social Care Provider Forum
- 3.9 The sessions held to date have ensured in the region of 180 people have been directly consulted with and a further 37 consultation responses have been received either online or via the post.
- 3.10 The consultation work undertaken to date has identified:
- Concerns about the potential upheaval of a move to a new Housing with Care scheme or day service and opposition to the notion of having to move when people are generally happy in the existing schemes
  - Requests for financial support should tenants need to move to an alternative Housing with Care scheme
  - Requests to close less than four of the Housing with Care schemes
  - Clarification as to why the Council has decided to support the building of a new Housing with Care scheme (specifically Earlsdon Retirement Village) when there are existing vacancies in older schemes
  - Concern that day centre service users may not get the same amount of support they currently receive and that this may impact on family carers ability to continue caring
  - A number of specific considerations to be taken into account should the proposals proceed including supporting people with sensory impairments and those where English is not the primary language spoken
- 3.11 The consultation runs until the 17 November 2015. During this time further opportunities will exist for people directly affected by the proposals and other stakeholder groups to input into the consultation. The feedback from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet in January 2015 along with recommendations following the consultation.

#### **4. List of appendices included**

None

#### **5. Other useful background papers**

Cabinet Report, Improving Accommodation for Older People, August 11<sup>th</sup> 2015

<http://modern.gov.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s24882/Improving%20Accommodation%20for%20Older%20People.pdf>

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