

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 16 AUGUST 2016**

**SUPPORTED HOUSING PROTOCOL REVIEW**

**REPORT BY VIVIEN SMITH, HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report proposes amendments to the assessment and allocation of supported housing in Angus. The revisions to the supported housing protocol aim to achieve a more flexible approach to the assessment and allocation of supported housing, removing barriers to accessing supported housing while still working in partnership with Angus Health and Social Care Partnership to ensure sustainable outcomes for applicants.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Approves revisions to the eligibility criteria for supported housing.
- (ii) Approves revisions to the assessment process for older people's supported housing.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit
- Our communities are safe secure and vibrant
- Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services
- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner

**3. BACKGROUND**

Supported Housing enables individuals to retain their independence in their own tenancies while having the reassurance of 24 hour assistance from onsite staff when required.

There have been a high number of void properties within older people's supported housing and it has been recognised that the strict eligibility criteria and complex assessment routes currently in place have created barriers and delays for individuals accessing supported housing.

In addition, the introduction of Self Directed Support has given individuals choice and control over how their packages of care and support are arranged and delivered. This means that there is no longer a requirement for on-site care and support provision in supported housing as residents are moving in with their existing care and support packages in place. As a result, the onsite care and support provision in supported housing has been reduced and replaced by an enhanced housing management service.

In light of these changes, it was agreed that the Supported Housing protocol and eligibility criteria for supported housing would be reviewed in partnership with Angus Health & Social Care Partnership.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

To access Supported Housing, applicants must have an up to date Community Care Needs assessment submitted by the relevant Angus Health and Social Care Partnership case worker along with a Common Housing Application form and Housing Needs matrix. This is submitted to the Community Housing Team who check and process the assessment accordingly. To qualify for older people supported housing, applicants must be 65 years or older; have a minimum of 10 hours care and /or support needs and a requirement for continual supervision or support to maintain their safety due to vulnerability or cognitive impairment.

#### **5. PROPOSALS**

Members are asked to approve the proposal that there are no strict definitions for each supported housing complex and the proposal that discretion can be applied to ensure accommodation can be allocated flexibly across care groups to meet identified needs; providing this is approved by the case worker, service provider and appropriate Service Manager.

Where a requirement for older people's supported housing is identified, the following criteria for older people's supported housing is proposed:

- Applicants care and support needs are such that supported housing would provide an environment in which those needs could be met.
- Their care and support needs must be long term in nature.
- They cannot be safely supported in their present home due to care and support needs which are unpredictable and may require intervention.
- The applicant will normally be 60 years of age or older, however applications from younger applicants who otherwise meet the criteria will be considered.
- The applicant would benefit from the safety and security of supported housing and access to communal facilities.

Where there is no existing Community Care assessment, it is proposed the Housing Officer (Housing Options) will proceed to complete a Housing Needs assessment and make a recommendation for older people's supported housing, if appropriate. In the course of any other housing needs assessment where the Housing Officer (Housing Options) determines supported housing to best meet the applicant's needs, it is proposed the Housing Officer (Housing Options) can make this recommendation without the requirement of a Community Care assessment.

Due to the complex needs of applicants with Learning disabilities and mental health problems, and the tailored support provided by the supported housing complexes for these client groups, it is recommended that all applications for these complexes continue to be supported by a Community Care assessment.

**Appendix 1** - Supported Housing Application and Protocol is attached for information.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications from this revision.

#### **7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An Equalities Impact Assessment is required on the grounds of disability and age.

## 8. CONSULTATION

The reviewed draft Supported Housing Protocol was circulated across the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership, Communities Directorate, housing providers and housing support providers for comment. All suggestions and comments have been included in the draft review.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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### List of Appendices:

**Appendix 1** - Supported Housing Application and Allocation Protocol