

**Report to:** Health and Wellbeing Board

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014

**Report of:** Keith Davies, Director  
Development and Regeneration

**Report No:**

**Contact Officer:** Michelle Horrocks, Strategic  
Housing Manager

**Tel No:** 333963

**Report Title:** **Housing for Independent Living**

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**Non Confidential:** This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

**Purpose:** To inform members of the Board of the initial findings of a research project into older person's housing needs and aspirations and to raise awareness of the role housing has in maintaining independent living.

**Recommendations:** The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the issues raised within the research and presentation and to:

- Provide commitment to the development of an Older Person's Housing Strategy
- Ensure that Health and Social Care colleagues are aware of the housing services that exist and commit to referring clients into them.

**Decision:**

**Background  
Doc(s):**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The projected increase in the ageing population, often living with long term conditions and disabilities, at a time of serious financial constraints is a significant challenge for health, social care and also the housing sector. The 'home' is seen as a vital component within integration, as services are redesigned to provide home based care and early interventions. However, there has been a lack of understanding of the future housing needs and aspirations of older people in Bolton, and the role housing models and preventative services can have in maintaining independent living.
- 1.2 Strategic Housing, working closely with Adult Services, Public Health and Registered Housing Providers, commissioned research to explore the role housing can play in supporting health and social care agenda's, either through the provision of accommodation, reducing social isolation through community networks or offering prevention services such as handyperson, adaptations, advice and assistance.
- 1.3 A presentation will be made to the Health and Well-Being Board on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October that will provide more detail on the research and the role of housing. Below is a brief overview of the contents of the presentation.

## **2. Consultation**

- 2.1 In order to undertake the project, four separate work streams were undertaken:

- Literature and Evidence Review
- Data Analysis
- Community Engagement
- Stakeholder Consultation

In total, over 170 people aged over 55 were consulted and over 20 interviews conducted with stakeholders.

- 2.2 A Steering Group has overseen the research, which included representatives from Adult Services Commissioning and Quality Assurance, Public Health, Age UK, Bolton at Home and St Vincent's Housing Association.

## **3. Research Findings**

- 3.1 The first draft of the reports findings was received last week and there is still an amount of work to be undertaken to fully understand the recommendations and actions that will need to be implemented by all partners. However, below is a summary of the initial themes that have emerged:
  - Improvement and co-ordination of information, advice and access to housing and support services
  - Increase the capacity of preventative services and the role of the community
  - Develop a wider choice of housing options that will support improved health and well-being

- Build on the strength of existing partnership arrangements to ensure housing's role is one of leadership and influence.

#### **4. Housing and Independent Living**

- 4.1 There are a number of services already provided by the Council's housing service and also Registered Provider partners that assist with maintaining independence for older people. The main focus for this presentation will be Bolton's Home Improvement Agency, Care and Repair, which provides a number of services that ensure older homeowners are living in safe, warm and accessible homes.
- 4.2 The presentation will provide an overview of the different types of assistance that are available including financial, and proposals for including Health and Social Care referrals as part of the qualifying criteria.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the issues raised within the research and presentation and to:
  - Provide commitment to the development of an Older Person's Housing Strategy
  - Ensure that Health and Social Care colleagues are aware of the housing services that exist and commit to referring clients into them.