



Housing with Care Matters

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*Happy Anniversary!
The Housing LIN is 1 year old*

HEALTH AND WELFARE REFORM: A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW?

Jeremy Porteus writes, there seems to be no area of public policy that remains untouched by the medicine being prescribed by the Coalition Government. Housing, care and support for older people and those with a long term condition are not immune.

Recent Parliamentary debates in both Houses highlight the tensions across the political divide about the outcome of fundamental reforms to welfare, housing benefit, health and social care. The looming changes, some already underway, will both affect the current patterns of service delivery and, more importantly, impact on the lives of older and vulnerable people. For many it is a bitter pill to swallow.

As last month's budget reminded us, the UK is facing severe fiscal pressures and everybody is having to rein in spending, delivering 'more for less' or in some instances, 'more for nothing'. There is little injection of new capital or revenue into, what appears to be, an ailing system.

So what's the remedy? Those of us working at the interface of housing and care need to make a stronger case for investment in preventive services and demonstrate that early intervention can reduce the demand on more costly services at a later date. Furthermore, with major structural and system reform within local health and social care economies taking shape, we need to quickly develop relationships with new clinical commissioners and those making personalisation real. Both will demand that we are outcome driven and person-centred – these are the new prescription for better health and wellbeing.

In this issue, we highlight the latest in policy and research developments and put under the spotlight the new resources from the Housing LIN, other relevant publications that share practice and can advance your understanding, and opportunities for you to forge healthy partnerships. Information sharing, knowledge transfer and networking are all vital signs for innovation and improvement.

Stay on the pulse with the Housing LIN!

We are grateful to Willmott Dixon for their support of this issue of *Housing with Care Matters*



POLICY & FUNDING NEWS

Other policy and funding news across housing, health and social care since our last enews includes:

Budget 2012 – Right move?

This year's budget announced three areas that could be of benefit to housing with care in the long term. The first of these is the introduction of the new National Policy Planning Framework (see separate item below). Then there is also a £420m package that includes the 'Get Britain Building' and 'Growing Places' fund to create new homes and support local infrastructure, and finally an announcement on the consultation on social housing Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). Commenting on the latter, Jeremy Porteus said, *"the sector could benefit from new enterprising approaches to capital investment such as REITs to deliver more housing with care choices in the future."*

For a DCLG budget summary, go to: www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/newsroom/2112156

For further information on the REITs consultation, visit: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/condoc_reforms_to_reit.pdf

Welfare to workfare

The Welfare Reform Act received Royal Assent last month. It introduces a new Universal Credit which will replace most existing benefits and limits the total amount of benefit a person can claim. As reported in our last enews, it also introduces a new size criteria or 'bedroom tax'. Lord Best in his House of Lords amendment was successful in securing a government commitment to review the impact of these changes. Both the NHF and Care and Repair England have produced useful summaries available respectively at: www.housing.org.uk/idoc.ashx?docid=8f1b56c8-dc77-4540-9094-8711c42518ac&version=-1 and www.careandrepair-england.org.uk/pdf/welfare_reform_briefing_march_2012.pdf

MPs approve Health and Social Care Bill

The Health and Social Care Act has also received Royal Assent. It abolishes Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts in England from 1 April 2013 and gives much greater control over care budgets and commissioning decisions to GPs and other health professionals. In addition, public health functions will be integrated with local authorities to tackle health inequalities. For more,

read the Housing LIN Information Pack, 'Getting to grips with integration: making housing count' at: www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/browse/Housing/hwb/?parent=3691&child=8169
Or, see the CIH's latest 'How to...' guide on page 6.

Health and Wellbeing strategies

Shadow Health and Wellbeing Boards are in the process of undertaking their Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and drafting Health and Wellbeing strategies, so now is the time for the housing sector to try and engage locally to ensure that housing and housing-related services are not forgotten. The timescales specified in the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board workplan are as follows:

Date	Action
April 2012	Shadow H&W Board to approve JSNA 2012
April-May 2012	Determine health and wellbeing priorities with input from network stakeholder event
June 2012	Launch draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy for consultation
June - September 2012	Public consultation on draft
October 2012	Board to approve strategy
November 2012	Implementation

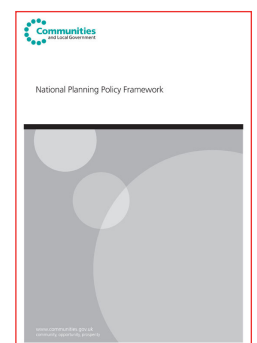
For a directory of current Health and Wellbeing Boards across England, visit: www.kingsfund.org.uk/current_projects/health_and_wellbeing_boards_making_them_work/hwb_map.html

Planning Framework

As trailed in last month's Budget, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has come into immediate effect and sets out a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'.

The Housing LIN welcomes the fact that housing for older people, including specialised housing, is highlighted in the Framework (paragraphs 50 and 159) as part of local authorities' Strategic Housing Market Assessment to determine the scale, range and tenure mix. However, network members remind us that such housing is still poorly understood by local planning authorities and robust intelligence is required to help councils assess the trajectory for housing in their area and resultant implementation plans.

Working closely with health and social care colleagues, the Housing LIN advocates that





authorities' plans should encompass a Market Position Statement (MPS) that provides further clear evidence of the demand, viability and the sustainability of future provision of housing for older people, including specialised housing such as extra care. These are outlined in our Strategic Housing for Older People Resource Pack (SHOP) jointly published with ADASS and can assist local authority planning authorities and providers plan, design and deliver housing that older people want.

Speaking at the West Midlands Later Life Forum conference, Jeremy Porteus told delegates, "this is not about concreting the landscape with extra care housing but creating a real opportunity to help shape older people's housing markets". To view the NPPF, go to: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf

DCLG consultation

The DCLG recently consulted on new draft statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England. The proposed new guidance is intended to assist authorities to take advantage of the provisions in the Localism Act and make it easier for them to move existing social tenants to more suitable accommodation. The Housing LIN has submitted specific comments on accessible housing registers via the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH). See para 4(c) of the CIH's submission at: www.cih.co.uk/resources/policy/Consultation_responses/Allocationsresp30032012.pdf

Some useful stats

The DCLG have published results from its English Housing Survey 2010-2011. Of note:

- 57% of people over 65 are outright owners, whilst 29% of all people over 65 lived in social rented housing, compared to 8% in the private rented sector
- 63 per cent of households in the social rented sector were in receipt of Housing Benefit, compared with only 25 per cent of those in the private rented sector.

To access the survey results in the headline report, go to: www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/2084179.pdf

NEW DH FUNDED EXTRA CARE SCHEME OPENS

The official opening of the following DH funded scheme took place this month

Shenley Wood, Milton Keynes



Shenley Wood Village is a partnership between Milton Keynes Council and the ExtraCare Charitable Trust. With capital funding from the Department of

Health and the Homes and Communities Agency and developed by Willmott Dixon, the retirement village has 300 apartments and is the second of its kind in Milton Keynes. It offers mixed tenure accommodation and a menu of health and wellbeing and lifestyle choices as well as meeting needs that require on-site assistance, such as care and support for some people with dementia or complex health needs. For details, visit our on-line directory of all DH funded extra care schemes at: www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/ECHScheme/search/Overview/?cid=8323

NEW HOUSING WITH CARE LOCATOR

Developed by the Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC), and now available on the Housing LIN website, this comprehensive database covers over 1,300 housing developments across the UK that offer care services. It is an essential tool for both commissioners wanting to pinpoint the supply of accommodation based care in their areas and those providers looking at potential market opportunities.

Not to be confused with our DH Funded Extra Care Scheme Directory, it is available at: <http://lin.housingcare.org/housing-care/search.aspx>





PERSONALISATION AT WORK

Following presentation at regional Housing LIN meetings, we have teamed up Kate McAllister and Merron Simpson to develop and deliver a programme to aid commissioners and providers of housing and housing related care and support providers explore and implement the transition to personalisation. *Stop, Start, Continue* is just one of the methods Merron and Kate have developed to help organisations navigate a course through this difficult task.

If you are wondering where to start, we suggest that you invite Merron and Kate to undertake a Diagnostic and Self Assessment Workshop for your organisation. This relatively small piece of work will provide you with a bespoke action plan that sets out steps you could take towards personalising your services. To find out more about this, please contact Merron at: Merron@newrealities.co.uk or Kate at: kate@katemcallister.co.uk

SHOP - JUST BROWSING

The Housing LIN's last quarter's results for unique website visitors show that in December alone an impressive 1,750 people browsed our Strategic Housing for Older People (SHOP) Resource Pack, 'Planning, designing and delivering housing that older people want' and 433 copies of the Pack were downloaded. Hardcopies launched at our December conference are still available if you email info@housinglin.org.uk

We are also working with the Institute of Public Care (IPC), the Resource Pack's authors, to develop a range of SHOP products to support service development and improvement. For example, how to develop Market Position Statements (MPSs) to best understand the demand for and supply of housing for older people in your area.

For more information on MPSs, go to SHOP on www.housinglin.org.uk/SHOP_resource_pack or IPC's website at <http://ipc.brookes.ac.uk/shop.html> The IPC website also includes details of their new Housing with Care course, a training programme designed specifically for ECH managers.



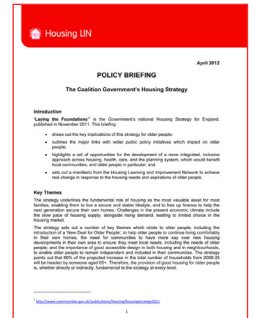
NEW HOUSING LIN PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

Keeping you informed on latest policy and practice developments, we are pleased to bring you the latest products from the Housing LIN.

Briefing on the New Deal on Housing for Older People

This new briefing from the Housing LIN draws out the key implications of the government's housing strategy for older people. It also:

- outlines the major links with wider public policy initiatives which impact on older people, and
- highlights a set of opportunities for the development of a more integrated, inclusive approach across housing, health, care, and the planning system, which would benefit local communities and older people



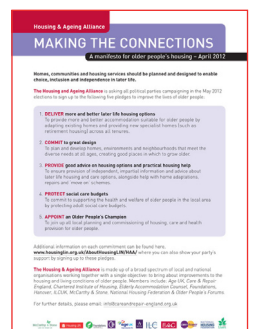
To view, go to:

www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8450

A manifesto for older people's housing

The Housing & Ageing Alliance is calling upon all political parties and candidates in the forthcoming local elections to sign up to the following pledges to improve the lives of older people. They are to:

- deliver more and better later life housing options
- commit to great design
- provide good advice on housing options and practical housing help
- protect social care budgets
- appoint an Older People's Champion



To view the brochure and find out how to get your local candidate to support this manifesto, visit:

www.housinglin.org.uk/library/Resources/Housing/HAA/HAA_Manifesto_FINAL.pdf



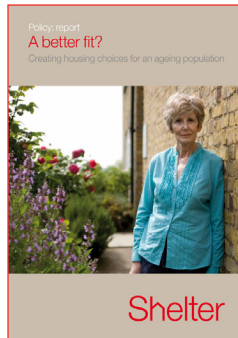
OTHER USEFUL PUBLICATIONS / RESOURCES

There are a wealth of new reports relating to housing for older people, housing design and accessibility and sources on the wider determinants of health and social care. They include:

HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

A better fit?

This new report from Shelter takes a detailed look at the current state of the housing for older people market and considers whether there is a wide choice of housing for an ageing population and any scope to stimulate a greater supply. View at:



http://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/policy_and_practice/policy_library/policy_library_folder/a_better_fit_creating_housing_choices_for_an_ageing_population

Meeting local housing demand

This guide by the LGA and HCA provides details on how local authorities can assess demand for housing in their areas, taking into account wider factors such as planning, equality, demography, health and wellbeing. Available at:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/meeting-local-housing-demand

Taking care of your health, if only I had known...

Care and Repair England have published a suite of condition specific self-help guides on planning ahead for housing and care in later life. Full of useful facts, figures, checklists and where to go for further information and advice, they focus on Dementia, Arthritis, Asthma, Heart Disease, Macular Disease and Strokes. For details, go to www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8447

In addition, they have released two reports which look specifically of the integration of housing and health. The first is: *'If only I had known... Integration of housing help into a hospital setting'* provides information about policy drivers which support the integration of housing help into a hospital setting with illustrative practice examples and cost benefit analysis of individual cases where housing improvements have saved health and care costs.

The second is: *'If only I had known... An evaluation of the local hospital linked pilot projects'* and provides evidence and information about local pilot projects which have been pioneering the integration of housing help into a hospital setting. Both reports can be found at:

www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8445

Design for Aging: International case studies of buildings and program

With a chapter by David Hughes at architects firm Pozzoni, this new book brings together 26 case studies from around the world and describes how each scheme has addressed the needs of its residents regardless of wide variations in design, geography, cultural factors, medical needs, capital cost, and other factors. Included in the UK examples is the DH funded scheme in St Helens, Heald Farm Court – previously a HAPPI category winner of the UK Housing Design Award. Copies can be ordered at: http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470946725_descCd-buy.html



HCA Affordable Housing Programme

Almost 10% of the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) Affordable Homes Programme is set to be delivered as supported housing and housing for older people, according to its Vulnerable and Older People Advisory Group (VOPAG) annual report. The report highlights

progress made by the HCA over the last calendar year on this agenda, includes a number of case studies, and makes a number of recommendations that aim to build on this over the coming months.

Alongside the annual report is an action plan based upon the recommendations made by VOPAG to the HCA on how it will build on its achievements. These focus on future investment, how best to work with local partners, growing staff's skills and expertise, addressing housing, planning, health, social care and welfare reform, and regulation issues. To download these materials, visit:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/vulnerable-and-older-people-advisory-group

Growing demand for advice

FirstStop, the national advice service for older people, reports that it has had an impressive 50% increase in the number of people it has assisted to the year ending April 2012. Working with over



20 local partnerships across the country, including Home Improvement Agencies, other advice centres and local councils, the service is supporting 250 new clients a month. For more about FirstStop services, go to: www.firststopadvice.org.uk

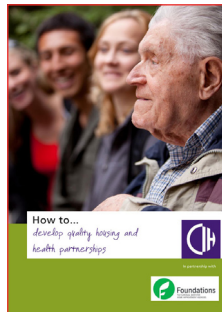
A better life: old age, new thoughts

Old age is not about 'them', it's about all of us. We're all heading in that direction - more of us than ever are reaching old age, and those who do face new challenges. The JRF are at the forefront of examining these issues and its new website contains imaginative multi-media vignettes to illustrate both the challenges and rewards of getting older. Go to <http://jrf.org.uk/betterlife>

HEALTH & CARE

How to...deliver quality housing and health partnerships

This CIH guide sets out how housing professionals can establish effective relationships with colleagues working in health, to improve outcomes for residents. It is particularly timely as budgets in both many housing and related support services and health services are facing budget constraints. These pressures could make the two sectors retreat in to their silos, or it could drive innovation in how housing and health together deliver more personalised and cost-effective services. To view, go to: www.cih.org/publication-free/display/vpathDCR/templatedata/cih/publication-free/data/How_to_deliver_quality_housing_and_health_partnerships

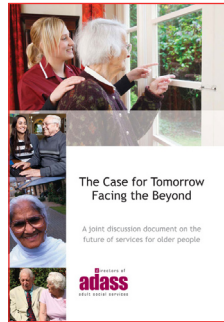


Care in Crisis 2012 – Mind the gap

With recent figures from DH showing that overall expenditure on adult social care fell by 1% in real terms last year to £17b, this briefing by Age UK suggests that the funding gap will only widen unless urgent action is taken.

As part of their campaign to put pressure on Government to set out a clear agenda in the forthcoming Social Care White Paper, Age UK claim that the current crisis has led to a reduction in service provision, increased charges levied by councils and fewer older people receiving the support they need. For more information on the campaign for greater dignity and respect for older people in the provision of social care, visit: www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/poor-quality-care-services-big-q/care-in-crisis-2012-report/

The case for tomorrow: facing the beyond



This new report from ADASS is the successor document to the influential 'All our Tomorrow's' report published in 2002 and articulates six key areas that require attention to create the environment to build better care and wellbeing services for older people. These include helping to change assumptions about

old age, incentivise community services, reduce barriers to integration, make sure choice and control work, protect quality and supply in the market, and help to invest in more social care.

Jeremy Porteus notes that "with an Adult Social Care White Paper looming, this is a timely report. It signposts the direction that local authorities should follow to enable older people to live well at home, including mapping the route housing can take to meet the demand for alternatives to care". For more, go to:

www.adass.org.uk/images/stories/Policy%20Networks/Older%20People/Key%20Documents/TheCaseForTomorrow080312.pdf

Integration pilots inconclusive

The DH has published a report on an independent study of integrated care pilots. This 2 year evaluation looked at 16 sites across England who undertook different ways of integrating care. Many of these focussed on older people's care and surprisingly found that there was no significant impact on the cost of secondary care, with any benefits cancelled out by increases in emergency admissions. The study also points to poor inpatient experience but signs of better care coordination upon hospital discharge for older people. For more, go to: www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_133127.pdf

Which? exposes care failures

A *Which?* investigation has exposed shocking examples of poor home care of vulnerable people. Their investigation suggests a system that is at breaking point with huge pressure on commissioning managers to make savings and tighten eligibility criteria and home care managers reporting on the struggle to maintain a quality service. View the *Which?* video findings at: www.which.co.uk/news/2012/03/which-exposes-failings-in-home-care-system-281517/



Delivering Dignity



This paper is a draft response to last year's Health Service Ombudsman report that drew attention to failures in the delivery of hospital and residential care for older people. Whilst not housing specific, the recommendations are a useful set of measures that should be applied wherever dignified personal care is delivered at home, including end

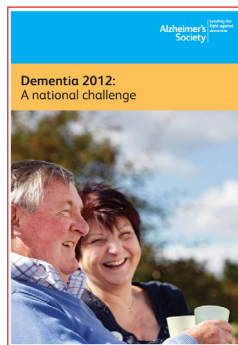
of life care. For details, go to:

www.nhsconfed.org/Documents/dignity.pdf

HOUSING & DEMENTIA

Dementia Challenge 2012

An Alzheimer's Society report on the state of dementia in 2012 has highlighted the disadvantages that people with dementia experience in their everyday lives and the challenges facing society. A key recommendation is a pressing call in societal awareness and understanding about dementia and a move towards the development of 'dementia friendly' communities. To find out more, go to: www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=1843



Also see our call for information on page 8 to read about how you can contribute to a forthcoming Housing LIN viewpoint.

AT and dementia guide

AT Dementia has developed a new, easy-to-navigate e-guide on assistive technology devices available to support people with dementia. It is described as a "self-help guide to how technology can help you to live well with dementia". Find out more at: www.asksara.org.uk/?auth=atdementia

Tenancies and Court of Protection

The Court of Protection issued updated guidance on the signing of tenancy agreements, and applications to the Court of Protection in relation to tenancy agreements. This is a useful document and can be found in our housing and dementia pages. The guidance outlines the legal position but does not seek to explore some of the issues in relation to tenancies for those who lack the mental capacity to sign them. To download, go to: www.justice.gov.uk/courts/rcj-rolls-building/court-of-protection

TELECARE UPDATE

This section highlights relevant Telecare and Telehealth items that may be of interest

International Congress on Telehealth and Telecare

Organised by The King's Fund and the University Medical Centre, Utrecht (UMC), the Congress brought together key speakers from around the world to showcase innovation and best practice in the implementation of telehealth and Telecare, including a [keynote address by Paul Burstow MP, Minister for Social Care, who presented on the WSD and innovations in the UK \(link\)](#). For more information, refer to our Telecare LIN newsletter below.

Telecare LIN – have we got more news for you

The latest edition of the ALIP/Telecare Network newsletter in support of the DALLAS programme is now available. Packed with everything you need to know about recent policy, practice and product development, this is the most informative newsletter available to the sector. Not to be missed if you are interested in the application of telecare and telehealth and how it can assist you in improving your services. To view, go to: www.telecarelin.org.uk/News/TelecareNewsItem/?cid=8080

RESEARCH UPDATE / CALL FOR INFORMATION

Members have asked us for any information on the following:

Care level needs in Extra Care

Razvan Constantinescu at Bristol City Council is working on their vision for future Extra Care Housing provision and future care needs. They are currently considering a 40/40/20 split of care needs with 40% of high level needs [10-20 hrs weekly], 40% of medium care needs [5-10 hrs weekly] and 20% of low care needs [0-5 hrs weekly]. Do you know what split your local authority is working to?

Raz has kindly agreed to pull any new data together to show that a mixed level of care need is preferable/desirable and would like to hear from you. Please email him at: raz.constantinescu@bristol.gov.uk Any information and supporting documentation is much appreciated.



Dementia friendly communities

The Housing LIN have commissioned Lynne Mitchell at the University of Warwick to produce a viewpoint on dementia friendly communities. Lynne would like your thoughts, experiences or examples of good practice following the hiatus on promoting lifetime homes and lifetime neighbourhoods, caused by the change in government. In particular, what do the Coalition government's policies mean for people with dementia and how are stakeholders, such as housing associations, developers and local authorities, addressing the need to make housing schemes and neighbourhoods dementia-friendly, if at all? Please contact Lynne at: Lynne.Mitchell@warwick.ac.uk

Extra Care and resident engagement

Housing providers have been involving and engaging residents for sometime but how well are we engaging residents of extra care housing? Margi Shand is looking for innovative examples for a Housing LIN viewpoint. She would like to hear from organisations that have approached involvement and/or personalisation in extra care in unconventional ways. Please send your examples with a brief description and contact details directly to Margi Shand at shandmargi@gmail.com by early May.

Diversity matters

Stonewall Housing has been commissioned by the Housing LIN to write a Viewpoint that will offer a fresh look at how the voices and needs of the older LGBT communities can be included in the development and provision of inclusive care.

Stonewall Housing believes that the needs of the older LGBT communities are often overlooked in housing and care planning and consequently many older LGBT people feel they have limited choice in the care options that are available. They feel it's important to develop an inclusive model of care provision where older LGBT communities can feel secure enough to be open about their life stories.

If you have any relevant information or case studies that you would like to share to help inform the Viewpoint, please contact Tina Wathern at Stonewall Housing at: tina@stonewallhousing.org

Housing and safeguarding adults

Imogen Parry, formerly Director of Policy of EROSH, has been asked to write an article for the Journal of Adult Protection on the role of housing staff in adult safeguarding. She would welcome examples of your practice. For more details, contact her on imogen.parry@btopenworld.com

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

This section contains updates from our regional 'leads'. For further information of what's happening in your region, go to the Housing LIN regional pages. We are also developing an online 'noticeboard' so that members can keep us better updated on innovative developments on housing with care and where you can showcase examples of practice in your region. Watch this space!

North West Region

Congratulations go to Janet Golding, Housing Policy and Commissioning Manager at Stockport Council and member of our NW Housing LIN, who has won the CIH National Student of the Year prize.



Janet Golding wins CIH student award

Libby Spencer and Jean Bray also report that Southway Housing Trust in South Manchester are starting work on an age inclusive strategy as part of Manchester's commitment to WHO 'age friendly city' status this year and research by Akxa Homes in Oldham on their Asian Elders' Strategy. The NW Housing LIN will keep track of these interesting projects and provide further details in future editions of this newsletter.

East Midlands Region

Debbie Waldron reports that plans for a £200m investment to transform residential and community care have been revealed by Derbyshire County Council. The proposed scheme aims to deliver dementia-friendly care and offer 1,600 extra care accommodations to hundreds of older people by providing brand new care and support, health and wellbeing services in Derbyshire.

Detailed consultation on these plans start from this month in relation to the first nine residential homes that could be affected by the plan and the move to more specialised services for older people, with short and long-term residential care, specialist dementia care, rehabilitation to help people get back on their feet and respite care. For details, go to:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/news_events/news_updates/2012/february/news_items/200_million_investment_will_transform_older_peoples_care.asp

The next network meeting will be at St Crispins' retirement village in Northampton on 11 May (see registration details on page 10 below).



North Yorkshire

Paula Broadbent reports on the event organised by Calderdale Council and NHS Calderdale last month which brought partners together to examine the role of housing in the health and wellbeing of older people in order to maximise their independence. More details will be uploaded on the regional pages of our website as soon as possible: www.housinglin.org.uk/HousingRegions/YorkshireHumber

Eastern

Sue Garwood reports that a new extra care scheme in Basildon, Essex, opened its doors in February 2012. Poplar House, comprises 61 apartments of which 46 are for affordable rent and 15 are for sale. There are also four one bed re-ablement flats at the scheme – jointly commissioned by Essex County Council and Health.

She also reports that the last regional Housing LIN network meeting was held at another new housing with care scheme in the region. Temple Court, in Baldock,



Temple Court, Baldock

was developed by North Hertfordshire Homes in collaboration with Hertfordshire County Council. The scheme offer 36 “super-sized” flats for older people with care needs, and incorporates some interesting features including a central atrium with a striking “tree of life” mosaic.

In addition, Rosewood Court in St Albans opened in February and is the pilot scheme for the St Albans City and District Council’s redevelopment of sheltered housing in the District. It provides 34 flats with wet rooms, contemporary communal facilities, and bathing spas on each floor.

The next network meeting will be in Bury St Edmunds on 22nd May (see registration details on page 10 below).

North East

Denise Gillie reports that Sunderland City Council have been successful in securing funding to gain older persons’ playground equipment within the garden areas of three of its extra care schemes in the City. The equipment, which is resistance equipment purposely provided to support re-ablement and activity for older people, will be provided in each scheme this month. All residents

have been consulted and will receive taster sessions to demonstrate how they will benefit from using and enjoying the play provision.

Also, the Elders’ Council, the Quality of Life Partnership and the Changing Age for Business Initiative at Newcastle University have published a paper that looks at the problems and issues facing older homeowners and relatives when trying to get financial information and advice. ‘Time for co-production on financial products and services?: Reflections on a critical dialogue between Newcastle Elders’ Council and financial services’ can be downloaded at:

www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8452

West Midlands

Anne Bailey reports on West Midlands Later Life Forum that took place in Birmingham last month, which brought together older people and staff from voluntary and statutory organisations to look at the implications of the APPG ‘Living Well at Home’ Inquiry report and beyond.



Deighton Court, Walsall

She also reports on the official opening of two new Housing 21 schemes in Walsall, the final of 5 extra care housing developments and a rehabilitation unit in Walsall’s £43m re-provision project: Deighton Court provides 53 one and two bedroom apartments, along with a hairdressing salon, restaurant, hobby room, assisted bathrooms and guest room. There is also a day centre and rehabilitation/



The Water Mill, Walsall

respite facilities at the scheme. And The Water Mill offers 30 residential places and 10 respite places as well as providing day care facilities for people aged 55 and over with dementia. The scheme is the first of its kind for Housing 21.



South West

Pat Palmer reports on the recent The Age of Influence: Shaping our own Future event organised by the SW Seniors Network, chaired by Valerie Singleton. More details will be uploaded on the regional pages of our website as soon as possible: www.housinglin.org.uk/HousingRegions/SouthWest

The next regional LIN meeting is taking place at Badminton Gardens in Downend, South Gloucestershire on 1 May (see registration details below)

London

Margaret Edwards reports that a copy of the report on the February debate as part of the consultation on the Mayor's draft revised London Housing Strategy is now available. Delegates welcomed the commitment to give greater attention to the housing needs of older Londoners. To view, go to www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8441

Other news: Hanover Housing Association have acquired a £26m six acre site in Muswell Hill, LB Haringey, in response to demand for co-housing in the area. Inspired by the North London Sustainable Housing Partnership, a co-housing group of local residents who have come together to find a housing opportunity where they can live in a mutually supportive community, Hanover will be involving the group to develop part of the site. It represents an exciting opportunity for co-housing in North London.

Sue Starkey House, a new scheme in Tower Hamlets, has recently opened. It comprises 40 flats, of which eight are two bedroomed. The building - along with another to be completed in the borough shortly - will give less able residents in Tower Hamlets more choice in the type of housing and care support available to them.

And finally, LB Southwark have launched a commission on the future of council housing in the borough which will report in September 2012. For details and/or to contribute, go to: www.southwarkhousingcommission.com

South East

Sue Terry reports the opening of two new schemes in East and West Sussex. In East Sussex, Saxon Weald Housing Association have completed in Lagney, Eastbourne. It comprises 62 one and two bedroom apartments for rent. These have been specially designed to deliver 24hour on-site care support for older people with communal lounges, a

hairdressing salon and a restaurant, which is also open to members of the local community.

In West Sussex, McCarthy & Stone have opened 'Tailored Care Living' in Littlehampton, their new product and equivalent to extra care housing. Claridge House has 58 apartments for sale and offers 24hour flexible care and support, in partnership with Somerset Care Group.

In Berkshire, Alexandra Place extra care scheme in Woodley has won the 'Most Innovative Supported/ Sheltered Housing Scheme' prize at the Housing Innovation Award. The scheme consists of 64 one and two-bedroom apartments for 55s and over, including ten apartments specifically for people with dementia. It is designed to meet the needs of older people and offers varying levels of care and support on-site, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Also in Berkshire, Catalyst Housing Group have opened Oak Tree House, a new 60 unit extra care housing scheme in Tilehurst.

The next meeting will take place at Stanbridge House, in Banbury, Oxfordshire on 17 May (see registration details below)

REGIONAL MEETINGS

This section focuses on presentations given at recent regional meetings, conferences and upcoming events.

Forthcoming regional meetings

Details of those confirmed for your area are listed below. To receive an automatic invite, register your interest by region at:

www.housinglin.org.uk/userAccount/register

South West HLIN, 1st May in Downend, South Gloucestershire

East Midlands HLIN, 11th May, Northampton

South East HLIN, 17th May, Banbury

Eastern HLIN, 22nd May, Bury St Edmunds

North West HLIN, 13th June, Ormskirk

South East HLIN, 18th October, Staines

Registrations for our regional meetings are open to members of the Housing LIN at:

www.housinglin.org.uk/Events



Euro zone

Jeremy Porteus spoke at the Extra Care and Innovative Supported Living Solutions for Older People in Wales conference in Cardiff in Wales last month. This excellent event explored the service models that promote independent living and drew on research and practice examples on what cost savings they may deliver. Copies of the presentations are available from: <http://kt-equal.org.uk/calendar/57/45-Extra-Care-and-Innovative-Supported-Living-Solutions-for-Older-People-in-Wales>

In addition, Jeremy and Anne Bailey participated in a delegation of Dutch housing practitioners visiting examples of regeneration and housing for older people in the West Midlands. The tour, organised by the Academy of Urbanism, visited ExtraCare Charitable Trust's urban retirement village, Panel Croft, in Birmingham and the Low Hill extra care scheme in Wolverhampton, managed by Accord HA.

OTHER EVENTS

This section lists major events supported by the Housing LIN that will be of interest to our network members

NHF Health and Social Care Bill conference on 24 April, London

www.housing.org.uk/events/find_an_event/care_and_support/health_and_social_care_bill_co.aspx

NHF South West Care and Support Conference on 17 May, Exeter

www.housing.org.uk/our_regions/south_west_region/south_west_events/south_west_supported_housing_c.aspx

NW healthy housing conference on 30 May, Burnley

<http://healthyhousingconference30may2012-eresearch.eventbrite.com/?srnk=1>

NHC adaptations conference on 31 May, York

www.northern-consortium.org.uk/Page/Events/AdaptationsConference2012.aspx

PROFILE YOUR WORK

If you have promotional material, articles or features you would like us to consider for future editions of *Housing with Care Matters*, please send information to:

info@housinglin.org.uk

We welcome your contributions.

ABOUT THE HOUSING LIN

Now with over 46,000 registered subscribers, the Housing LIN is the leading 'knowledge hub' for a growing network of housing, health and social care professionals in England involved in planning, commissioning, designing, funding, building and managing housing, care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults.

We welcome news items for consideration in our next issue. Please email these to:

info@housinglin.org.uk

AND FINALLY - A BIG THANK YOU!

On behalf of everyone involved with the Housing LIN, can I extend my sincere thanks for your support in our first year outside the Department of Health. This has enabled us to sustain our activities and influence. In particular, our on-line learning and improvement resources are highly valued; regional meetings recognised for their excellent knowledge sharing and networking opportunities; and, at a time of significant change, we have forged important connections with key people and organisations at the forefront of shaping policy and quality in the delivery of housing with care.

Stay connected with the Housing LIN!

We are grateful to Willmott Dixon for their support of *Housing with Care Matters*