

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	1 February 2024
Subject:	Adoption of the Extra Care Allocations Policy		
Report of:	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health	Wards Affected:	All Wards
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care & Communities and Housing		
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Extra care housing is specialist housing provision that combines accommodation with care and support services designed to offer safe, private, and secure accommodation whilst allowing service users to retain the independence of having their own home.

Our needs indicate that we will require 1306 units of accommodation (approximately 15 schemes) across the borough by 2036.

The aim of the Extra Care Allocations Policy as per **Appendix A** is required to underpin and support our requirement. The policy will also promote independence and well-being; facilitate a balanced, vibrant, and sustainable community for residents with care and support needs which will play a key role in preventing and avoiding admissions to residential care and hospitals and contribute to our preventative agenda.

The Extra Care Allocations Policy details the eligibility, process, and system for applying for Extra Care Housing in Sefton.

The policy will be the main mechanism to support our plans in relation to Extra Care Housing in Sefton and ensure that the residents of Sefton have a clear and robust system and process for accessing the accommodation.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Notes the content of the report, Consultation Responses and Equality Impact Assessment.
- 2) Approve the adoption of the Extra Care Allocations Policy
- 3) Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in conjunction with Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to make minor

amendments to the Extra Care Allocations Policy as needed due to either regulation/legislation.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

- (1) The strategic priority to deliver Extra Care Housing is included in several of our key strategies including our: -
 - Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2019).
 - Sefton 2030 Vision (2016).
 - ASC – Market Position Statement (2021 -2026).
 - Sefton Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2020 – 2025).
 - Sefton Older Peoples Strategy (2019-2024).
 - Sefton Housing Strategy (2022-2027).

- (2) Extra Care Housing provides an alternative housing option to our residents and will help to reduce our reliance on alternative more restrictive options such as residential care.

- (3) Without a robust allocations policy, system and process the outcomes we are looking to achieve would be difficult to meet.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

1. Do nothing – Continue to use current extra care housing provision without any formal policy, system, or process to support.

Risks would include: -
 - a) Sefton residents not being prioritised and unable to access Extra Care Housing Provision within the borough.
 - b) ASC revenue budgets required to support the delivery of Extra Care Housing not meeting intended outcomes.
 - c) Housing Providers reverting to their own waiting lists due to inadequate nominations received from the council.

2. Introduce local letting policies for each individual scheme: -

Risks: -
 - a) Sefton residents not being prioritised and unable to access Extra Care Housing Provision within the borough with multiple systems processes across the borough.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

Revenue costs to be met within existing ASC budgets.

(B) Capital Costs

Not applicable.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
<p>The allocation process will be built within the Adult Social Care management system Liquid Logic, this IT system has the facility to incorporate the system.</p> <p>Staffing resources to support applicants and manage the application process including nominations will need to be met within ASC resources.</p>	
Legal Implications:	
<p>Care Act 2014 – “The Care Act replaces the specific statutory duty to provide accommodation with a general duty to 'meet the needs' of a person who needs care and support. It is arguable that this will make it harder to obtain housing for people with eligible care needs.”</p> <p>Nominations agreements between the council and all Housing Providers who provide the Extra Care Schemes will need to be put in place.</p>	
Equality Implications:	
<p>No equalities implications identified. The proposed scheme will enable residents with care and support needs to access accommodation within the borough that is currently unavailable.</p> <p>An Equality Impact Assessment can be seen as per Appendix B</p>	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
<p>The recommendations within this report will</p>	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:
<p>Those who require care and support in Sefton are among the most vulnerable in society and a policy which prioritises residents needs who meet the eligibility for Extra Care Housing across the borough is needed.</p>

<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</p> <p>The extra care model of service supports and promotes independence, including ensuring that people who need care and support remain as part of, and can continue to access their local community.</p> <p>Through this policy the Council and its partners can help to support extra care as an alternative housing option and help reduce reliance on other services.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services:</p> <p>As part of the wider objectives in delivering extra care housing schemes commissioning and delivery of care and support services will be required to ensure the residents who are nominated as part of the policy their care and support needs can be met.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer:</p> <p>Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health is responsible for integrated commissioning and this development meets the strategic vision for Adult Social Care and Health in relation to promoting choice and control and ensuring that there are local services available for those in need.</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform:</p> <p>Extra Care Housing is one mechanism that will help support our strategic needs in reducing reliance on alternative more restrictive housing options for older residents.</p> <p>Working in an integrated manor to commission and ensure outcomes are focused on health needs will also reduce GP contacts and hospital admissions.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</p> <p>The policy will enable residents to live their best lives, gain meaningful outcomes which will enable them to prosper.</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment: N/A</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener: N/A</p>

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultation

The Executive Director Corporate Resources & Customer Services (FD7450/23) and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD5550/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

A public consultation process in conjunction with other key stakeholders was conducted from Friday 10th February 2023 for a period of two months to Tuesday 11th April 2023.

Internal engagement to progress the concept of the policy and information relating to the consultation was distributed via a range of following channels including the Intranet and targeted communications.

(B) External partners

External engagement with residents, partners and key stakeholder has been ongoing over the past year with a focus on the policy: -

- Social Media – Twitter and Facebook
- Sefton Council website
- Your Sefton, Your Say website.
- Meetings with strategic partners
- Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens meeting
- Healthwatch meeting
- Residents’ meetings (Parkhaven and James Horrigan Court extra care schemes)
- E mails

A public engagement and consultation report can be found as per **Appendix C**.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

Appendix A Extra Care Allocations Policy

Appendix B Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix C Public Engagement and Consultation Report

Background Papers:

Sefton Public Engagement and Consultation Panel: -

Proposal to undertake Public Engagement and Consultation Activity – Extra Care Allocations Policy for Sefton Nov 2022.

<https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/documents/s112995/Item%206%20-%20Extra%20Care%20Allocations%20Policy%20Consultation.pdf>

1. Background

- 1.1 Sefton Council has not previously produced a policy to support Extra Care Housing.
- 1.2 The Extra Care Allocations Policy has been developed to support our strategic vision on delivering 1306 units of Extra Care Housing across the borough by 2036.
- 1.3 The aim of the policy is to ensure appropriate nominations for Sefton residents who meet the criteria, promote independence and well-being; facilitate a balanced, vibrant, and sustainable community for residents with care and support needs whilst playing a key role in preventing and avoiding admissions to residential care and hospitals admissions.
- 1.4 The Policy provides clarity by which people applying for accommodation in Extra Care Housing in Sefton are assessed for housing and if eligible, allocated appropriate available accommodation with care and support.
- 1.5 To ensure efficient and appropriate allocation of vacant units in all types of Extra Care schemes, the allocation process is proposed to be built within the core Care Management System of the Social Worker Provider (Liquid Logic). The Council is committed to working effectively and at pace to allocate tenancies to identified people with an assessed, eligible need.
- 1.6 Sefton council will also establish an Extra Care Housing Panel which will meet regularly to ensure oversight of allocations, policy and other such matters relating to Extra Care Housing.

2. Consultation and Engagement

2.

- 2.1 The public consultation and engagement process was conducted from Friday 10th February 2023 for a period of two months to Tuesday 11th April 2023.
- 2.2 The following consultation methods were used:
 - Public consultation online survey, using the “Your Sefton, Your Say” Platform.
 - Attendance and presentation at various meetings
 - Distribution of the policy and questionnaire
 - Documents for the consultation were produced in easy read, including the survey.

Information relating to the consultation was distributed internally widely.

External: -

- Social Media – Twitter and Facebook
- Sefton Council website
- Your Sefton, Your Say website.

- Meetings with strategic partners
- Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens meeting
- Healthwatch meeting
- Residents' meetings (Parkhaven and James Horrigan Court extra care schemes)
- E mails

2.3 The survey consisted of five questions and comment sections for each and a generic comments section (also including twelve optional equality monitoring questions).

The focus of the consultation and engagement was: -

- 1) Extra Care Eligibility
 - a. Local Connection
 - b. Age Threshold
 - c. Support needs
- 2) Allocations Process
- 3) Nominations Process

3. Summary of the Consultation Results

3.1 Responses received included fifty-two from individuals and two stakeholder groups one of which included ten participants at Parkhaven Extra Care Housing Scheme reference ANON-CSW6-EU5G-S.

3.2 A summary of respondent's responses is as follows: -

- 89% agree with the proposed criteria of local connection.
- 92% agree with the proposed age criteria of 55+.
- 87% of response agreed with the proposed criteria to also consider people under the age of 55.
- 96% agree with the proposed criteria to also consider people with support needs.

3.3 In addition to the responses above comments were welcomed on each individual question and through a generic question around the policy. This led to a total of sixty-seven comments in total.

3.4 A summary comment received, is as follows: -

- Eighteen comments were received in relation to the proposed criteria of local connection.
 - Although 89% agreed, comments around allowing applicants with close family and carer connections to the borough was highlighted.

Agreed to monitor these applications but no change to policy as this could lead to current residents not being able to access extra care housing. This would also leave us open to challenge and would be difficult to manage and apply.

- Nine comments were received in relation to the proposed age criteria of 55+.
 - Some minor mixed comments re upping and lowering the age limit and ensuring careful consideration is given. Overall positive and no changes to the criteria.
- Fifteen comments were received in relation to the proposed criteria to also consider people under the age of 55.
 - Some positive comments and views. Agreed to reviewing the wording of 3.3 of the policy and an action to follow up with Housing Providers re succession rights of tenants.
- Eight comments were received in relation to the proposed criteria to also consider people with support needs.
 - 96% in agreeance but some comments and amendment to 3.3 and actions around the care and support specification agreed.
- Seventeen additional comments were received through the generic question around the policy.
 - Some positive comments and overall, no action required. Minor amendment to 3.2 and well put comment re siblings and which will amend 3.3 to reflect.

4. Feedback on consultation

4.1 A final draft policy has been produced and is attached for consideration.

4.2 The policy will also be published on the “Your Sefton, Your Say” platform.

4.4 Findings from the consultation will be circulated to respondents via E-mail (if provided), and other communication channels as necessary.

4.5 Final policy will also be presented at Sefton partnership for older citizens and Healthwatch forum.

5. Future Engagement

5.1 The policy will be monitored regularly through the allocation panel and measured against adult social care needs to ensure outcomes are being delivered.

5.2 The policy will be reviewed in 2028 to ensure that it is having the desired impact and outcomes are being achieved.

Conclusion

Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendations and adopt the Extra Care Allocations Policy. Implementation of the policy, system and process will then begin during 2024.