

Report Title: Housing Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities and/or Autism

Date of Meeting	7 November 2024
Report to:	Cabinet
Report of:	Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health
Portfolio:	Adult Social Care and Health
Wards affected:	All
Is this a key decision:	Yes
Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt/confidential report:	No

Summary:

To seek approval of the Housing Strategy for people with Learning Disabilities and/or Autism.

This strategy has been commissioned on a Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M) footprint as part of the commissioning work programme.

The strategy has been jointly produced with the Housing Learning and Improvement Network and will support a framework for all commissioners when assessing local housing need for this cohort of people and supporting new developments, alongside general housing to meet those needs. This also follows on from the work commissioned on behalf of C&M by Campbell Tickell in 2022.

Over the next 10 years, it is estimated that Cheshire and Merseyside will need 1,700 additional supported housing dwellings to meet the identified housing needs of people with learning disabilities and/or Autism. It is estimated that there is also a need for 400 general needs homes, typically social housing for rent over the same period. Sefton's requirements is 246 units of accommodation.

The Strategy will also support: -

- Sefton's Corporate Plan 2024-2027 in helping to meet some of the priority actions with the Adult Social Care section.
- Sefton's Housing Strategy 2022-2027 and the relevant themes: meeting people's housing needs, tackling barriers to obtaining suitable housing for the most

vulnerable and enabling people to live independently.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to:

(1) Approve the Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Disability and Autism Housing Strategy as set out in Appendix 1.

(2) Delegate authority to Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to approve & monitor delivery plan.

(3) Authorise the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to undertake any procurement exercise in relation to appointing preferred Registered Providers of Social Housing.

1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

1.1 There has been an absence of a coordinated regional policy, and this brings the commissioning intentions in to one key document, which can be shared with key stakeholders.

1.2 Several of our care and support providers work across local authority boundaries, and the strategy will ensure a consistent approach when cross boundary working.

1.3 There may be a future requirement to jointly commission services across local authority areas within Cheshire and Merseyside, especially where there are low volume but complex cases, and this strategy could support any joint developments.

Background

1.4 The 9 local authorities in Cheshire and Merseyside (Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Warrington, and Wirral) with NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care System (ICS) work together to commission and deliver the right mix of housing, care and health services required by people with learning disabilities and autistic people who have care/support needs.

1.5 The purpose of this Housing strategy for people with learning disabilities and autistic people is to set out the requirement for and the opportunities to develop excellent quality housing and supported accommodation to meet the needs of the population of people with learning disabilities and autistic people in Cheshire and Merseyside. This includes people who are living with their families/informal carers, people living in supported housing, people living in care homes, people who are inpatients, and young people who are known to the local authorities and NHS and who will become adults over the next 5 years.

1.6 We want to encourage the development of housing and supported accommodation options that are available for people who need housing to rent and for some people who may benefit from home ownership. We intend to co-produce the delivery and implementation of this strategy with the people who will be living in this housing and supported accommodation.

1.7 By working together through this strategy, the local authorities and the NHS will ensure that:

- Housing, health, and care services for people with learning disabilities/autistic people are proactively commissioned to meet peoples' needs;

- Young people who are transitioning to adult services will have more choice in relation to their future housing needs.
- People will in most cases have a tenancy with associated tenure rights;
- Housing will be well designed to meet people's needs as appropriate;
- People will have access to personalised care and support as well as access to 'core' support services where this is appropriate; and
- Capital funding for housing development will be sought through NHS England and/or Homes England as appropriate.

1.8 This strategy is aimed at:

- Housing organisations that provide mainstream and supported housing, including those currently operating in the Cheshire and Merseyside area and those who may consider operating here in the future;
- Support and care organisations that provide services for people with learning disabilities and autistic people with care/support needs; and
- Community organisations in the Cheshire and Merseyside area with an interest in housing and supported accommodation for people with learning disabilities and autistic people with care/support needs.
- As per many authorities Sefton is experiencing increasing numbers of young people in transition to eligibility for adult social care who will need housing, including supported housing. Trends amongst this cohort include:
 - Greater complexity of support needs
 - More people who have needs linked to Autism.
- Through this strategy we will commission and enable a wide range of housing and supported accommodation, including specialist and supported housing, which enables people to live independently in their communities, including:
 - Mainstream housing for individuals with personalised care and support;
 - Supported housing that is suited to people who need their own self-contained accommodation or shared housing, with a mix of personalised and shared care and support but can live near other people who may have care/support needs and within local communities; and
 - Housing and supported housing that is adapted in a variety of ways to meet the needs of people who need an accessible home and/or a home that is adapted to meet their support needs, as well as personalised care/support.

1.9 In 2022, Cheshire and Merseyside Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Commissioners worked with Campbell Tickell, a Business Management Consultancy in London, to produce a report on the future numbers of Adults with Learning Disabilities and Autism who may require care with accommodation as an alternative to acute based hospital care within a community setting. In 2023, Cheshire and Merseyside Commissioners used the data from the Campbell Tickell exercise to work with the Housing Learning and Improvement Network to develop a gap analysis to inform the development of the Learning Disability and Autism Housing strategy.

1.10 The Gap analysis showed Sefton requires an additional 246 Supported Living units by 2033 would be required to meet demographic demand.

1.11 In Sefton we anticipate that the 246 units will be delivered through a variety of means including but not limited to: -

- Sefton Council Housing Programme
- Preferred Housing Partners
- Remodelling of current provision
- Increase in shared lives placements.
- Home Ownership for people with Long-Term disabilities (HOLD)
- Better utilisation of general needs housing.

1.12 The approach for new accommodation to meet our needs is proposed to be undertaken through co-production with our key stakeholders in terms of what our housing offer looks like and where we would like it in the borough.

1.13 We will ensure we explore what opportunities we may have within our own council housing programme to assist with meeting our needs whilst supporting the wider Housing Strategy including point IN3.1 of the action plan which states: -

- Approval and implementation of Housing Pathway document and processes; delivering streamlined access to supported living, in addition to housing provision for all cohorts of vulnerable people including older persons and those with disabilities, for example those with learning disability and/or Autism, physical impairment and mental health.

1.14 Alongside the co-production we will ensure market engagement via the CHEST is also undertaken to ensure the housing market understand our needs and aspirations.

1.15 A procurement exercise would then be proposed to be undertaken to ensure we have a preferred providers list to support us in the delivery of the 246 units who meet certain criteria set out by the council and co-production group.

1.16 We acknowledge there will always be a need for more specialist/emergency accommodation as a requirement in the borough that the wider market will be able to respond to whereby preferred providers cannot meet a need.

1.17 The wider market may also present opportunities for the council to consider at any point which may be considered if the criteria for joining the preferred provider list can be met through the appropriate procurement route.

1.18 As per recommendation 2 & 3 the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care will have oversight with regular updates of the implementation plan and progress on a bi-annual basis.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 There are no direct financial implications regarding the strategy. Should any decisions need to be made around capital investment for any future opportunities this will be brought through the relevant governance route dependent on financial delegation.

3. Legal Implications

3.1 The Council has a duty under the Care Act 2014 in that a fundamental component of the Act is the 'suitability of accommodation' in meeting the at home care and support needs of older and vulnerable people.

3.2 Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 which requires local authorities in England to review supported housing in their areas and develop strategies.

4. Corporate Risk Implications

4.1 Risk that without adequate and appropriate accommodation residents will be placed in more restrictive, less efficient accommodation and in some cases out of borough. To mitigate against this risk the strategy sets out the demand and an implementation plan will then be put in place.

5 Staffing HR Implications

5.1 No direct staffing implications.

6 Conclusion

6.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendations and adopt the Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 1) To have a single strategy for each local authority, but this would not have supported any cross boundary working, or the regional requirements on an NHS Integrated Care system region. This was option was rejected to have a more efficient oversight of the housing market across the C&M region.

Equality Implications:
The strategy aims to enhances the diverse types of accommodation to meet needs of residents with and Learning Disability and or Autism.
Impact on Children and Young People:
With enhanced housing options available to residents with a Learning Disability and or Autism there could be an impact in terms of Children and Young people in being able to have more interaction with family members. Young people who are transitioning to adult services will have more choice and options in relation to their housing needs.
Climate Emergency Implications:
The recommendations within this report will have a Neutral impact.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Services and Commercial (FD.7802/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5902/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

- The draft strategy was shared with Sefton Officers; Cabinet Members; MerseyCare; People First; Carers Centre; Autism Sub-Group; and Cheshire and Merseyside partners and providers for feedback, alongside local self-advocacy groups.
- Feedback was given to the Housing Learning and Improvement Network and Cheshire and Merseyside colleagues to inform the strategy. A draft strategy has also been shared in an easy read format as per appendix 2.
- The draft strategy was shared with internal colleagues from Housing, Adult Social Care and Commissioning who also provided feedback to the Housing Learning and Improvement Network.

Implementation Date for the Decision:

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Cabinet decision.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix 1 - Housing Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities and/or Autism

Appendix 2 - Easy Read Housing Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities and/or Autism

Background Papers:

- 1) Campbell Tickell - Assessment of future accommodation with support needs – April 2023
<https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/documents/s124847/Assessment%20of%20future%20accommodation%20with%20support%20needs.pdf>