

COMMITTEE: RACE ADVISORY FORUM

DATE: 6TH JUNE 2005

SUBJECT: FUTURE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE LIVING IN LUTON

REPORT BY: SCRUTINY OFFICER

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL		COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS ✓
STAFFING		OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Forum on the progress made towards the modernisation of services provided for vulnerable adults in Luton. The main purpose of this particular report is to ensure that all the communities in Luton have been consulted over the future living needs of older people.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The Race Advisory Forum is recommended to:
 - (i) Note the progress made so far in inculcating the views of althe older people in Luton in the design and delivery of services to meet the future living needs of older people in Luton.
 - (ii) Call for a further report when the implementation plans are produced for consultation.

(iii) Note that in the meantime, if any members of the forum has strong views and feel that they have not had the opportunity to inform us of their community's needs in relation to older people, they can contact: Marina Mele – Service Manager

BACKGROUND

5. The Council embarked on the scrutiny of the modernisation of services to older people in Luton some time ago. The Social Inclusion scrutiny committee used the guidance from the *ODPM and Better Government to plan the scrutiny of this topic.
6. It set up an Older People's Scrutiny Working Group made up of Older People in Luton and representatives of their key organisations and Strategic Partners e.g. the Primary Care Trust, Age Concern.
7. The Group was representative of the people of Luton and users of the service. They received presentations from speakers from authorities that are considered to have established good practice in this area. Members of this group and Councillors visited some of these authorities to explore the possibility of the good practice to be introduced in Luton. In addition they made a note of any bad practice or simple mistakes that can easily be made. The fact-finding group went to Liverpool, Northants, Oxfordshire, Suffolk and Bedford. Most of the provisions presented a very positive picture of care, involvement and the positive effects of a systemic approach. The variety of provision and its support structures were very well thought through. Members of this group have now produced an album of all the good and bad practice that they witnessed.
8. Members of the Older People's Working Group had every opportunity to report their concerns and findings directly to the Social Inclusion Scrutiny committee. The working group has made several recommendations to the Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee, which have been accepted.
9. The Service has been working not only with the Scrutiny Working Group but also with older people directly and through several Agencies, Fora and voluntary sector Organisations. The Council works closely with the Luton Senior Peoples Forum, which is the Council's main forum for consultation with older people.
10. The service organised a Listening Event focussed on discussing the future living needs of older people living in Luton, with participation by a wide range of older people themselves, their representatives, professionals and stakeholders. A number of key points were discussed in the workshops. A full report was published entitled: "Future Living Arrangements for Older People Living in Luton"

11. The Service has also published an information guide for older people living in Luton. It is a guide to all the services that are provided either by the Council or its Partners like Health, Age Concern etc.
12. In Peterborough the local authority and the health service are managing social care jointly. The Director of Adult Social Care in Peterborough, Ian Anderson, addressed the scrutiny committee meeting and told us why and how health and social care services are being jointly managed.

REPORT

13. The draft Strategy for the Future Living Needs of Older People is the first of a series of service strategies, which will result in a comprehensive Older People's Strategy for Luton. It is the driver for achieving the Council's Public Service Agreement target to increase the numbers of older people who live independently in their own homes.
14. It is underpinned by a vision of community living that achieves the following outcomes for older people
 - **Living longer and healthier lives** – including protection from abuse and exploitation.
 - **Better quality of life, enhanced lifestyles** – better access to leisure, social activities and lifelong learning.
 - **Further opportunities for employment** – older people having the opportunity to work or having access to other income-generating opportunities.
 - **Reduced poverty** – elimination of poverty in old age and greater financial independence.
 - **More independence and interdependence** – relationships based on reciprocity rather than dependence.
 - **Better informed** – increased access to information and advice so that older people can take action for themselves.
 - **More involved** in decision making – fully able to influence the development of key policy areas including the governance, implementation and shaping of services and to exercise their democratic rights as citizens of their communities.

- **Greater control and autonomy** – more choice and control over the services provided to them.
- **No discrimination** – Ageism, stereotyping and other types of discrimination against older people confronted and stopped.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S COMMENTS ON THE FUTURE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

15. The Scrutiny Working Group met specifically to consider the Service report on the future living arrangements for older people in Luton. They made the recommendations as listed in paragraph 17 of this report. These were endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee and accepted by the Executive and are now a part of the Future Living Needs Strategy for Older People in Luton.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

16. Extra Care sheltered housing will now have community facilities for the elderly attached to it.
17. When Partners are being sought for commissioning future provision for older people, they will now be sought nationally rather than locally.
18. Residents of Care Homes that could be decommissioned will be fully consulted before any decision is taken.
19. Extra Care sheltered housing model that was recommended by the Service will be discussed with different communities in Luton to ensure that their needs have been catered for. Health facilities may also be in the catchment areas of such provision.
20. Residents and staff of Homes that are being commissioned will have to move with the new provision. The Service will ensure that unless the residents want to move they will not be compelled to without a specific reason.
21. A fair lease for shared ownership will be developed for senior people in Luton. Contracts will be worded carefully. Older people who prefer shared ownership schemes should be assisted keeping in mind examples of such leases e.g. they will be informed of such a scheme in Liverpool, which has been considered as a best practice example by the ODPM.
22. Regular refurbishment of premises will also be reflected in the contract of the new social landlords so that all such properties do not get run down. A plan should be worked on bringing all such properties in line with modern standards.

23. Where possible older people will be allowed to remain within their traditional settings. More elaboration will be sought on respite provision accessibility and consultation with the ethnic minority and other hard to reach communities on specialist provision.
24. The refurbishment and modernisation required at the Mount, the Laurels and Westlea would be presented to the committee and done before April 2007.
25. The Reviews of Day Care Services for older people will be support the implementation proposals above. These reviews are being conducted in partnership with Health and the Home Care Commissioning Strategy.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

26. The Service will be putting together an implementation plan. Members are requested to indicate whether or not they would like to receive it at this Forum or just be kept informed.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

27. Older people are often excluded from the mainstream and this makes it necessary to make every effort to ensure that they have had a say in their future living arrangements, not only because it is a specific requirement issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister but also as a part of Luton's key priority to consult all its citizens and in particular those that are hard to reach or socially excluded. The Council is also duty bound to consult with communities that are likely to be impacted by its existing or proposed policies.

CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

28. Every effort has been made both by the service and the scrutiny committee to ensure that consultation was as wide and as inclusive as possible. There are references in the main body of this report and in the printed material circulated today that scrutiny has tried to make this modernisation process as transparent and inclusive as possible.

APPENDIX

29. Appendix A: A Profile of Ethnic Minority Older People in Luton.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

30. ODPM – Guidance
 31. Conference Report on Future Living Needs of Older People Living in Luton
 32. Older People Living In Luton
 33. Committee Reports on the Topic and on best practice visited by
Representatives of older People.
 34. A Photographic Album put together by Older people in Luton on the current
Good and Bad practice in the Country.
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