

Appendix 4

Extra Care Review

Saving Proposal 2015/16 £50K

Thurrock Council directly runs two extra care schemes, Kynoch Court and Piggs Corner and commissions a third service via Hannover Housing Association at Elisabeth Gardens. There are a number of different ways extra care can be provided however the usual components are:

- Adapted property/building to assist with independence e.g. wet rooms, wider doorframes to accommodate wheelchairs/mobility scooters, adjustable work surfaces.
- Availability of care and/or support staff
- Certain facilities such as a restaurant, lounges or a specially equipped bathroom

The decision was taken just over 10 years ago to convert Kynoch Court and Piggs Corner (specifically the 'hotel' component which is a set block of flats) sheltered housing schemes to extra care housing services as vacancies arose.

It was agreed as each sheltered housing tenancy became available in the 'hotel' that adaptations would take place to each property. Currently 14 flats at Kynoch Court (of the potential 20 flats) and 39 flats at Piggs Corner (of the potential 55 flats) have been converted to extra care.

The Housing Learning and Improvement Network (LIN) suggest that a minimum of 50 units is appropriate for an older people/people with dementia scheme to be financially viable. As such Kynoch Court, with the maximum 20 units converted would not be a viable extra care scheme.

To test viability, a review has been undertaken of the service. These findings show that it is not financially viable for the Council to continue delivering extra care on such a small scale. As such, the service at Kynoch Court will be de-commissioned as Extra Care. Each person will be reviewed to determine the level of care and support that is required from the outcome of the assessment services will be commissioned as appropriate for each person. The Piggs Corner scheme was also reviewed. This scheme is much larger (potentially 55 flats) and as such it is viable to remain as a designated extra care scheme.

However since the removal of Sheltered Housing Support Officer from Extra Care schemes care staff have been performing some housing related tasks which have constrained their capacity to deliver care.

Kynoch Court

As such Adult Social Care want to consult on the proposal to redefine the service delivered at Kynoch Court. This would mean removing the extra care registration. The proposal would be to:

Externalise the delivery of care by tendering for the amount of assessed care hours as a discrete service.

It is not thought this would result in any compulsory redundancies as staff currently working at Kynoch will be offered vacant shifts at Piggs Corner.

There is also a restaurant on site. This operates 3 days per week. Although the cost of food is met by the service users, the cost of food preparation is met by adult social care an alternative model of delivery will also be reviewed for this service.

Piggs Corner the proposal is to consult on the changes outlined below:

To introduce a concierge service and 1 full time equivalent sheltered housing officer
The concierge service and sheltered housing officer will cost £75 per service user per week.

This will be chargeable against housing benefit.

Currently there are:

- 62% of service users receiving full housing benefit
- 13% of service users receiving part housing benefit
- 26% of service users do not receive housing benefit

The methods of payment for this will be explored.

The proposal is to explore the options described to support the required saving.

Adult social care wants to fully involve people who access services those who might access them in the future and representative organisations for service users in Thurrock. This will be a consultation that will recommend options and explain the impact of those options. As part of this process Thurrock Coalition have agreed to produce a detailed Equality Impact Assessment of the proposals which will highlight the implications, risks and impact of the subsequent decisions that Health and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet will be required to make.