

# Worcestershire County Council

Lessons in sustaining provision of  
supported housing

# Context - Worcestershire

- By 2031: 42% increase in over 60s; 136% increase in over 85s
- Rapid increase in dementia, due to the ageing demographic
- Levels of owner occupation amongst older people very high: over 80% of in 55-74 age range - importance of planning for all tenures.
- Growing population of disabled adults known to Adult Services
- Trends:
  - Increasing no. of young people with complex needs – autism related and health related
  - Increasing no. of older carers
  - Changing expectations and aspirations
- Challenges of 2-tier working
- WCC budget reductions of 20 million over last 5 years
  
- By 2031: 42% increase in over 60s; 136% increase in over 85s
- Rapid increase in dementia, due to the ageing demographic
- Levels of owner occupation amongst older people very high: over 80 per cent in the 55-74 age range underlining importance of planning for all tenures.
- Growing population of disabled adults 2016/17 known to DAS
- Trends:
  - Increasing no of young people with complex needs – autism related and health related
  - Increasing no of older carers
  - Changing expectations and aspirations
- Challenges of 2-tier working
- WCC budget reductions of xx% by 2020/21

## Last 5 years: housing is core part of our business



- Worcestershire Extra care housing strategy since 2012 (with Districts)
- Supported Living commissioning plan since 2014 (our first plan)
- DAS/NHS Learning Disability strategy 2015-2018
- DAS/NHS Dementia strategy
- New DAS supported living strategy from 2017
- Planned 'refresh' of older people's housing plan including extra care
- Preparing for future supported housing funding arrangements



# The WCC approach

- Council leadership role in promoting a variety of housing for older and disabled people
- £5m capital fund and 4+ WCC sites for supported housing
- Investment in market engagement and management - encouraged providers and developers from the social, charitable and private sectors to deliver the housing required
- Partnership working and funding model with extra care housing providers
- Mixed market of supported living providers
- Engagement with carers
- Dedicated front line staff e.g. PLOT - need to get front line staff 'on board'
- Financial support for the programme (e.g. Chris B)
- Dedicated commissioning capacity
- Need to evidence savings and efficiencies



# Housing for older people: outcomes



- More housing options, all tenures, more choice
- Seven housing schemes in the private sector creating 437 units of housing with a further two schemes and 213 units in the pipeline.
- Six housing schemes developed by housing associations creating 407 units of housing with 102 units being for shared ownership.
- There are three further schemes in development which will provide 163 mixed tenure units.
- There are further plans for 447 units of mixed tenure older people's housing over the next few years.

# People living with dementia



- WCC has developed a bespoke housing scheme specifically which is designed to be attractive to people living with dementia in partnership with Rooftop Housing and Redditch Borough Council.
- DTH is available to people across Worcestershire living with dementia who want to live in an attractive, well designed environment with extensive onsite care and support.
- DTH operational for over 12 months and has been very successful. The scheme was fully occupied soon after opening. It has been highly successful in providing an alternative to registered forms of care for individuals living with dementia.
- This housing-based model has also provided financial efficiencies to the council, generating a net saving on care costs compared to the use of alternative settings
- WCC plans to develop other similar schemes but mixed tenure

# Housing for people with learning disabilities: outcomes



- Increasing numbers of service users living in supported living rather than residential
- Work under way to support families to purchase properties for adult children with LD
- Need to consider joint provision for older carers and service users to enable caring role to continue
- Service users with learning disabilities living longer and becoming older people in their own right

**What it means...**

**Ruth's Story**



# Lessons...

- Set out clear market position – priorities (but not over prescriptive) and ‘open for business’ approach
- Political support important
- Willingness to invest capital/land in the programme
- A partnership approach with providers to share opportunity and risk
- Clarity about financial position: what is affordable and sustainable
- Commissioning supported housing requires internal capacity/resources
- Need to secure social work staff ‘buy in’
- Communications with current and potential customers essential and ongoing
- ‘Wins’ take time, effort and commitment
- Positive outcomes for all are achievable

# Contacts

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<https://ylyc.worcestershire.gov.uk/housing-and-care-homes/extra-care-housing/>

<https://ylyc.worcestershire.gov.uk/housing-and-care-homes/supported-living-for-people-with-disability/>