

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

12TH JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	<i>DRAFT LEARNING DISABILITY HOUSING PLAN 2012-2015</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>INTERIM DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, REGENERATION AND PLANNING</i>
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	<i>CLLR. GEORGE DAVIES</i>
KEY DECISION	<i>NO.</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- (1) Provide Members with an overview of the draft Learning Disability Housing Plan 2012-2015.
- (2) To seek approval for the draft Learning Disability Housing Plan 2012-2015 to be published for public consultation.

The development of the Learning Disability Housing Plan cross-cuts a number of the Councils corporate priorities, but specifically the 'Your Neighbourhood' theme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 This report recommends that Members:

- (1) Note the contents of the draft Learning Disability Housing Plan 2012-2015.
- (2) Approve the draft Learning Disability Housing Plan 2012-2015 for public consultation.
- (3) Receive a further report on the Learning Disability Housing Plan 2012-2015 following the completion of the consultation period.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 People with learning disabilities are amongst some of the most vulnerable and socially excluded people in our society. The Learning Disability Housing Plan has been developed in the context of key government policies. In particular, the 'Valuing People' White Paper 2001 (and its successor 'Valuing People Now'), which identified that:
- Only 15% of people with a learning disability have a home of their own;
 - More than 30% of people with learning disabilities live in residential care homes, a significant proportion of which are often some distance away from their place of origin and their families;
 - Many people with learning disabilities are living with older family carers who have their own needs.
- 3.2 Additionally, the 2011 Government report '*Think Local, Act Personal: Next Steps for Transforming Adult Social Care*' draws out the need to "work closely with private and social housing providers" to continue developing a wide range of options that enable independent living'. It also talks about delivering a broader range of housing and accommodation, recognising the important role that the living environment has on people with care and support needs.
- 3.3 These key documents recognise the importance of people with learning disabilities and their families having greater choice and control over how and where they live. This plan seeks to address these key drivers through identifying the housing needs of people with learning disabilities in Wirral, highlighting the trends and likely changes that are facing us locally and provides a detailed plan of how partners will work together to meet those needs and changes over the coming years.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Following the publication of 'Valuing People' in 2001, Learning Disability Partnership Boards (LDPB) were established in every Local Authority. The remit of the LDPB is to oversee interagency planning and commissioning to achieve social inclusion for people with learning disabilities.
- 4.2 In February 2009 'Valuing People Now', the revised and updated national strategy for people with a learning disability was published. The main priorities identified in this report were to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities in health, housing, and employment. It stressed the pivotal role of LDPBs as the key vehicle for delivering on these priorities.
- 4.3 In Wirral, these priorities have been reflected in the development of 5 sub-committees of the LDPB, these being:
- Health
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Personalisation
 - People as Citizens

- 4.4 The principal focus of the Housing Sub-Committee, which is chaired by the Acting Head of Housing and whose membership includes representatives from the Housing Division, Department of Adult Social Services, Health and local Housing Associations, has been the development of the draft learning disability Housing Plan.
- 4.5 The vision for the learning disability Housing Plan is a simple one, 'To achieve a coherent multi agency Housing Plan for people with Learning Disabilities that works towards the provision of accessible information and advice and housing and support services that removes the barriers to disabled people leading full lives with the maximum degree of independence and choice'. The plan is supported by five key strategic priorities, each with detailed solutions and action targets designed to achieve them:
- The development of a robust evidence base that will inform future housing plans.
 - The development of an accommodation pathway that provides a range of accommodation options that people can progress through to live as independently as possible
 - To increase information and advice about the range of housing options
 - To ensure that accommodation is provided which is fit-for purpose in terms of disabled access.
 - To increase the range of accommodation/support options available locally.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 The lack of a dedicated, appropriately consulted upon learning disability housing plan will result in the Council not adequately capturing all of the housing needs of people with learning disabilities in Wirral. It is to address this risk that this plan is being prepared.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The development of a dedicated housing plan was viewed as the only efficient and effective method to identify the housing needs of people with learning disabilities and the subsequent actions that Wirral Council will take to meet these needs. Therefore, no other options were considered.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The draft Housing Plan has already been subject to a discussions with groups such as the Enabling Fulfilling Lives Group, the Carers Development Committee, the Supporting People Core Strategy Development Group, the LDPB and its' associated Executive Board and other key officers within relevant departments.

- 7.2 It is proposed that the second stage of the consultation process will involve testing the draft strategy and gaining views on all of the key issues identified within the plan. This part of the consultation process will take place with a wide range of key stakeholders and members of the public, though a range of existing engagement mechanisms over a six week period.
- 7.3 Should approval for consultation be given, then the plan will be converted into 'easy-read' format to make it more accessible for people that may experience difficulties in reading the current format.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 If approval for consultation is given, then it is the intention to involve a wide range of local services including relevant voluntary and community groups.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications at this stage in respect of the draft learning disability Housing Plan. Any future requirements and actions arising from the new plan that have any financial implications would be subject to further consideration by Members prior to implementation.

- 9.2 There are no specific IT, Staffing or Asset implications arising from this report.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are none arising directly from this report

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The draft learning disability Housing Plan seeks to address issues of disability, vulnerability social exclusion and equalities issues.

- 11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- (a) Is an EIA required? An EIA will be undertaken once the consultation period has concluded and before the plan is brought back to Members for final approval.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no direct carbon reduction implications or other environmental issues arising from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 No planning permission is required as a result of this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Sheila Jacobs**
Supported and Special Needs Housing Principal Manager
telephone: (0151) 691 8345
email: sheilajacobs@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Draft plan attached

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None.	