

ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE**16 July 2024**

REPORT TITLE:	CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM HOUSING STRATEGY
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CARE AND HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the Cheshire and Merseyside commissioning work programme for “Independent and Fulfilling Lives” and the development of a Learning Disability and Autism Housing Strategy. 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.

The report supports the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27, specifically the 'Promoting Independence and Healthier Lives' theme.

The report went before the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 5 March 2024. The committee resolved that:

1. The Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Disability and Autism Housing Strategy as set out in Appendix 2 to this report be approved; and
2. The report be considered for information at the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee and the Children, Young People and Education Committee at a future date to be agreed

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is recommended to note the Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Disability and Autism Housing Strategy as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 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 Some support and care 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 highly complex cases, and this strategy will support any joint developments.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 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.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 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 in order 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.
- 3.2 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 good 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.
- 3.3 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.

3.4 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;
- 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.

3.5 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.

3.6 Through this strategy we will commission and enable a wide range of housing and supported accommodation, including specialist and supported housing, that 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 are able to live in close proximity to 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.

3.7 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. The Gap analysis showed for Wirral for Supported Living between 2022-2033 that an additional 259 units of accommodation would be required to meet demographic demand.

3.8 In Wirral we anticipate that the 259 figure will be covered by some relets of existing schemes, with new schemes being developed and new style accommodation (own front door) being commissioned and that some of the need for supported living will be met differently by an increase in shared lives placements or general needs housing with support as follows:

Increase in shared lives	Increase in use of general needs housing
26	46

3.9 Where possible, residential homes for adults with learning disabilities will not be used, other than for the most complex people, working in collaboration with NHS ICB commissioners.

3.10 Future monitoring of the strategy and governance oversight will be agreed with Council officers across departments and an implementation plan agreed.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the learning disability and autism housing strategy.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council has a duty under the Care Act 2014 to ensure that there is sufficiency within its local provision to meet local assessed needs, and this includes working in collaboration with housing colleagues to ensure accommodation is in place for this cohort of people.

5.2 Adult Social Care commissioners are working closely with Housing colleagues to ensure that specialist supported housing meets the requirements for housing benefit purposes.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report. The ensuing work from the delivery and implementation of the strategy can be managed within available staffing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There is a risk that people will not have suitable and timely accommodation to meet local needs. This risk is mitigated by having the strategy in place and ensuring that capacity and demand modelling is in place to ensure sufficiency of accommodation for this cohort of people.

7.2 There is a risk that if the strategy is not approved, that a local one will need to be developed which could delay improved outcomes for local people, and also not ensure consistency with regional local authorities.

7.3 There is a risk that the implementation is not managed. This risk will be mitigated by the implementation being managed by Adult Social Care working in liaison with operational services and other Council departments.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The draft strategy was shared with some targeted local support and specialist Autism 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 ready format (appendix 1) and officers have been in place to support conversations and meetings with people who use services and care providers had this been requested.

8.2 The draft strategy was discussed at the Wirral Supported Living Provider Forum which is led by the Contract Management team.

8.3 The draft strategy was shared with colleagues from Housing and Regeneration who also provided feedback to the Housing Learning and Improvement Network. Housing and Regeneration colleagues.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and can be accessed by the following link: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Any new build housing developments and existing scheme remodels will be considered for environmental impact and support requested from Council specialists in that area.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Housing developers, Registered Landlords and care and support provider employ local people for Wirral and therefore bring social value to the Borough.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 DRAFT Easy Read Version Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Disability and Autism Housing strategy

Appendix 2 DRAFT Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Disability and Autism Housing strategy

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Campbell Tickell report 2022

Cheshire and Merseyside Housing Gap analysis 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee in accordance with paragraph H (i) and (viii), “the Authority’s role and functions in relation to strategic and private sector housing policies and as the housing authority, including but not limited to: (i) the Council’s Housing Strategy; (viii) housing related support services.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee (Update on Extra Care Housing)	19/09/2023