

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Social Work and Health Improvement Committee: 20 January 2010

Subject: Best Value Review of Older People's Services – Progress Report No. 3

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This is the third progress report detailing implementation actions, following approval of the Council's Best Value Review of Older People's Services in May 2008.
- 1.2 This report details actions against the Action Plan template that was approved in December 2008, noting progress in a number of areas and identifying steps to further progress the vision for older people's services.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Best Value Review of Older People's Services was completed in early 2008 and was approved by Committee in May 2008.
- 2.2 The review was ambitious and far reaching with a vision for older people's services both now and in the longer term. The cornerstone of that vision is to support older people where they want to live – in their own homes – by providing person-centred and personalised supports that are flexible, can be intensive and deliver what older people need and want whenever and however they need/choose to receive it.
- 2.3 Milestones within the review are set out in the Action Plan that was approved in December 2008. Given that the Review itself covers planning assumptions from 2008 to 2025, with actions also phased over that long-term period, it is important to see progress in the context of that longer term period.

3. Progress on the Action Plan

3.1 Consultation

The general consultation on the Best Value Review was completed in December 2008. Since then, consultation activity has taken place, using the Older People's Strategy Group as the initial forum, on the development of respite care and on care management, where a pilot programme on the use of care management is now underway.

3.2 Commissioning Strategy

A strategic commissioning policy has now been completed and will be presented as a report for approval by Committee in January 2010. Following this, a report, making recommendations on the balance of the mixed economy of social care for older people will be presented to a further Committee in due course.

3.3 Developing Planning Tools for Needs and Resources

Work is ongoing on a number of fronts regarding this complex matrix of balancing ever changing needs, demographic trends, new thinking in this field and pressure on resources, all to develop an appropriate planning tool for the future. The latest report to be completed is the development of an outcomes approach to community care, which will be presented to Committee in January 2010. Thereafter, we will require to make recommendations about which capacity planning tool to use for the future and seek approval for this from a future Committee.

3.4 Extra Care/Very Sheltered Housing

The recently completed Waterside View development in Renton is due its first Annual Review, and this work will be completed in partnership between Cordale Housing Association, the Carman Centre and the Social Work and Health department of the Council. Following that, it is likely that further such developments will be recommended along similar partnership models, but the timescale for such new resources is still ahead of schedule, so a measured approach can be taken. This means that further exploratory discussions can be held with all Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and with HEED to determine the Best Value approach to the further development of such resources. It is suggested that such exploratory discussion take place in the first half of 2010, reporting back to Committee mid-year.

3.5 Care Homes

There are two aspects to the Best Value Review that relate of Care Homes. One concerns the long term future of the Councils own stock and the other relates to the need for development within the independent sector. Each aspect is inter-related and their futures are interdependent. Council is already considering the future of its own care homes stock as part of a package of savings recommendations, with the option of closing one or two of six council-run care homes being recommended. This option or options are inevitable at some time in the future, are part of the Best Value Review already accepted by Council, but would be more easily achieved if independent sector developments are in train. Despite troubled financial times in the independent sector, and generally in the construction industry, Officers have been able to stimulate interest in care home development on the back of the Best Value Review. The Council's Planning Committee recently approved plans for two Nursing Home developments, one in each of Dumbarton and Clydebank, and while neither of these has any assurance of contracts for places, developments such as this

may assist in shifting the balance of care from directly provided places to purchased places and at the same time enhance the choice of placement and this will drive the market up in terms of quality.

4. Personnel Implications

4.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this progress report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no immediate financial implications from this progress report, but Committee will recall that from the Best Value Review Report itself, a costed financial plan showed that, over the period from now until 2025, realising the vision and the Council's aspirations for older people will present a major challenge to the Council.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The risk analysis previously undertaken and detailed in the Best Value Review Report of May 2008 remains an accurate analysis of the situation.

7. Conclusion

7.1 This progress report shows that the Best Value Review of Older People's Services is on target to meet its aspirations. Officers continue to consult with partner agencies and stakeholders including, most importantly, older people themselves. There is progress in the housing sector, in Very Sheltered Extra Care Housing and in the Care Homes sector. There is a clear strategy for commissioning that can now be translated into a detailed Commissioning Plan. Good progress is being made.

8. Recommendation

8.1 Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the contents of the report
- ii) Ask the Executive Director of Social Work and Health to bring forward a further report on progress in due course.

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Background Papers: None

Appendix: None

Wards Affected: All