

**SHELTERED HOUSING AND LIFELINE SERVICE TASK GROUP held at
ALAN HASLER HOUSE SHELTERED HOUSING COMPLEX GREAT
DUNMOW at 11.00 am on 22 OCTOBER 2009**

Present:- Councillors E L Bellingham-Smith, J E Hudson, D J Morson, J A Redfern and S V Schneider

Suzanna Wood (Housing Policy and Strategy Manager), Cathy Roberts (Democratic Services Officer), Maureen Cox (Sheltered Housing Officers), Russell Goodey (Building Services Manager), (Helen Harvey (Senior Sheltered Housing and Lifeline Officer), Jill Jackson (Supporting People Team, ECC), Roz Millership (Head of Housing Services), Liz Petrie (Housing Management Manager), Sue Russell (Lifeline Officer) and John Maddams and Paul Simpson(Tenant Forum).

SH34 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Suzannah Westwood (Strategic Commissioning, ECC) and Heather Duncan (Sheltered Housing Officer).

SH35 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2009 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SH36 LEAD OFFICER'S REPORT

The Housing Management Manager explained that since the last meeting officers had been investigating methods of implementing the hub and spoke model for providing the sheltered housing service and that further consultation with residents and their families/carers and friends would take place during the next month.

A document from Supporting People was circulated by the Senior Sheltered Housing and Lifeline Officer. It showed three funding options for the 'Hub and Spoke' model from which the Group needed to recommend a preferred option to Essex County Council Supporting People Commissioning body in early December 2009.

Members of the Group and officers discussed at length the merits of the three options with particular reference to the financial effect to the Council and fairness to residents. It was noted that the first option which was “block gross contract” was less flexible as regards accommodating self-funders, and those who might wish to opt out of the service.

Option 2 “block gross fixed capacity” also had the advantage of simplicity which was an advantage from an administrative point of view.

Option 3 was a mixture “block gross and block gross capacity” but was deemed too complicated to administer.

RECOMMENDED that Essex County Council Supporting People be requested to take on board this authority’s preference for Option 2.

SH37

OUT OF HOURS / WEEKEND RESPONSE SERVICE

The Task Group received the report of the Housing Management Manager on the wish of the officers to continue to carry out their own review of the sheltered housing service, particularly as regards out of hours and week-end response. The purpose was to free up more of the sheltered housing officers’ time to enable them to provide a more efficient and effective service to all service users and possibly take the service into the wider community.

The Housing Management Manager and the Senior Sheltered Housing and Lifeline Officer gave details of the ways in which they thought the service to residents could be improved.

RESOLVED That officers bring a report to the next meeting of the Task Group, to be held on Wednesday 6 January 2010, with a complete package of proposed improvements so that these may be considered for submission to the meeting of the Community and Housing Committee on 21 January 2010.

SH38

MOBILITY SCOOTERS

The Task Group was informed that issues had arisen from increasing ownership of mobility scooters by residents in sheltered homes. Issues regarding health and safety and the storage of scooters were currently being investigated by officers.

Members felt that scooters should not be used inside the sheltered housing schemes and felt that in other respects the issues were too extensive to be considered at the meeting.

RESOLVED that officers bring a report to a future meeting of the Task Group on proposals for regulating the use and storage of mobility scooters in the vicinity of sheltered housing schemes.

SH38

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman and Members of the Group with the Building Services Manager reviewed the comments obtained from residents before the meeting and compiled a list of necessary works.

The meeting ended at 12.40pm.