

**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.

Previous Minutes
Sheltered Housing Task Group, 6 January 2010, item 2

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.