

Report of the Chief Executive

COMMUNITY LIVING NETWORK

1. Purpose of report

To update the Committee on the Council's recent partnership work with Nottinghamshire County Council and the Community Living Network.

2. Background

The Council aims to strengthen relationships with the County Council on matters that relate to health and social care to try and achieve the best outcomes for tenants.

The Community Living Network has provided an opportunity to further strengthen relationships and achieve mutually beneficial solutions and provide positive outcomes for vulnerable people.

3. Detail

The attached the appendix provides an overview of the Community Living Network and what benefits it has for the Council, the County Council and clients that are open to the service.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the partnership work with Nottinghamshire County Council with regard to the Community Living Network.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX**Community Living Network****What is the Community Living Network?**

The Community Living Network is a mechanism where a number of service users live in close proximity to each other. Each has their own home or flat and they are supported by a worker who provides a small amount of practical help to each member of the network. This can be for example, help in paying bills, organising correspondence, organising appointments and accessing the correct benefits. The worker aims to help bring members of the network together and help form a supportive relationship with each other.

Benefits for Broxtowe Borough Council

The accommodation that has been identified for usage as part of the network within the Allocations Policy is Independent Living accommodation. The Council has Independent Living accommodation that is classified as difficult to let, as there is very little interest in it. It has some units of this accommodation within the same Independent Living Scheme or within Schemes that are in close proximity, this makes it attractive for the networks purpose. It also assists in filling empty properties and thus helps the Council with rental income.

The relaxation of the “Local Connection” for Independent Living accommodation within the Allocations Policy also is advantageous. If the County is working with eligible and compatible clients that are in another Nottinghamshire Borough or District for example, they could be moved closer and benefit from the network.

The Council may have housed some of these clients in its accommodation anyway through an offer from the housing waiting list. As the clients have an element of vulnerability that surrounds tenancy sustainment as outlined above, it would have created a resource pressure on the Housing Officer, Tenancy Sustainment Officer, Financial Inclusion Officer or the Independent Living Coordinator to provide housing related support to bridge this gap. The Community Living Network and the workers within help the Council and relieve this pressure.

Benefits for Nottinghamshire County Council and the clients

Many of the clients are currently placed in community locations, such as living with family or living in shared accommodation. This accommodation is often not the most suitable for them but they have difficulty in accessing alternative accommodation because their needs are either not at the threshold for help through bespoke supported accommodation or too high to maintain independent tenancies such as private rented or social housing because of the lack of specialist support. The network allows them to be placed in self-contained accommodation with an element of support that they need.

The advantage of the network and working with a housing provider like Broxtowe Borough Council is that it enables clients to be placed in close proximity to each

other, whether this be on the same Independent Living Scheme or in Independent Living Schemes that are in close proximity to each other, to create efficiencies for the County Council has the support provider and also enable them to build relationships with each other.

Broxtowe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council discuss each case before a placement is made, so Broxtowe Borough Council can ensure that the allocation of the property to the client is appropriate.

The Council has so far placed two people within its accommodation, both of these properties were in low demand and were difficult for the Council to let.