

**Wiltshire Independent Living Strategy 2022/27**

**Purpose of Report**

1. This report summarises the draft Wiltshire Independent Living Strategy 2022/27, which is attached as an appendix.
2. The Committee is asked to consider the Strategy and support its ambition to maximise the independence, choice and control for people with a learning disability, mental health condition and/or autism spectrum condition (LD/MH/A) in Wiltshire by providing the right accommodation and support in the right place at the right time.

**Background**

3. In Wiltshire, we have made significant improvements in recent years in improving outcomes for people with learning disability, mental health needs and/or autism spectrum conditions.
4. However, there is a lack of choice, quality and consistency across our local housing and social care markets.
5. This means that too often Wiltshire residents have to move outside of the County. We need to develop a range of independent living options which give people tenancy rights, or to care settings which are overly restrictive, in order to have their needs met. In particular, we know that the needs of autistic people, younger people who are leaving school/college and who wish to live independently, and people with learning disabilities are not consistently well met.
6. Whilst some people get excellent support which supports them to realise their ambitions, we have heard from other people that there are barriers to them being able to live their best life. Some people describe a way of working which is over-protective and risk-averse, and that this can be more disabling to a person's wellbeing than their disability.
7. We also know that our housing and care provision is not well-aligned. There are a number of challenges that people face in applying for housing, bidding and signing tenancies. The strategy resolves to clarify our protocols and processes around housing applications, and to clarify the Council's position that it will provide indemnity for registered housing providers where a person lacks capacity to sign a tenancy. We will strengthen our relationships with providers and

ensure housing and care services are clearly joined up and working in a more strategic way to deliver the outcomes that people in Wiltshire need and want.

8. As part of the development of the Strategy, officers have undertaken an analysis of the needs of approximately 160 people with LD/MH/A who need to and are ready to move now, or for whom we know a move will be needed in the coming years. Over 80% of this group are under 40 years of age, over half have a learning disability, and many have multiple conditions. This analysis allows us to plan for the future and consider what we need to build, provide or commission in the years to come.
9. Wiltshire CIL has asked over 2,000 people what a good life looks like, what people already have that helps them to live that good life, and what else they need. From these conversations, it is clear that people want:
  - a. a place they can call home, where they belong and feel safe
  - b. equal and meaningful relationships, where people trust and love the people around them,
  - c. to be a part of their community, to be valued and accepted
  - d. choice and control over the support they get, and who they get it from
  - e. hope for the future, and not to feel written off for being different
10. The Independent Living Strategy therefore makes a number of recommendations for how we will overcome these challenges. This starts with a change of culture, which we can only achieve by listening to the voices of people, valuing their unique skills and contributions, and understanding what is important to them.
11. The Strategy has been developed by a wide range of stakeholders from within the Council (including Commissioning, Social Care, Housing, Education and Planning), Health (BSW Clinical Commissioning Group and our key providers, Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and Wiltshire Health and Care), voluntary sector (including Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living and Wiltshire Parent Carer Council) and the independent sector (including housing and social care providers). The implementation of the Strategy will form part of the Adult Social Care Transformation programme.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

12. There are 5 key priorities within the Strategy:
  - a. We will change the way we commission accommodation and support
  - b. We will implement a recovery pathway which enables people with mental health needs to get the right support in the right place at the right time
  - c. We will create more housing choices for people, and this includes building new supported living in the places where they are most needed
  - d. We will review our ways of working, and where they are not clear or fit-for-purpose, we need to change them
  - e. We will provide clear information which helps people to find the accommodation and support which best meets their needs

13. To deliver these priorities, we will need to develop new accommodation and models of support, so that everybody has the opportunity to live as independently as possible in Wiltshire. Given the challenges in Wiltshire, we will need to consider a range of approaches, including making or delivering ourselves (e.g. building accessible housing via Stone Circle, expanding our in-house enablement service for people with LD/MH/A), jointly commissioning with the CCG, establishing strategic partnerships with key providers, etc.
14. In the short term, we will drill down into the needs analysis to identify key cohorts of people to focus on, and to find out exactly what they want from their home and their support. The voices of people with LD/MH/A will champion this strategy, just as their views have shaped it. We will develop detailed service specifications and business cases to plug the gaps in service we have identified. We will also review our internal processes to ensure they are fit-for-purpose – e.g. by establishing Deputyship procedures to give housing providers confidence, clarifying housing providers' policies around multi-tenancies, clarifying our own internal Housing Application protocol, etc.
15. In the medium-to-long term, we will evaluate the Good Lives Alliance framework and learn lessons from Wave 1 as we re-commission the framework. We will establish a pipeline of new accommodation and support in the places in Wiltshire where we know the need is greatest – particularly in Salisbury and Trowbridge.
16. An ambitious action plan will be co-produced with experts by experience, providers and other stakeholders. This will sit underneath this strategy, and will be refined as we develop new models of care and support.

## **Conclusion**

17. The Strategy represents an ambitious programme of work for the Council and its partners. As it succeeds, we would expect to see:
  - a. Fewer Wiltshire residents in out-of-County placements
  - b. People spending less time in hospital, because the community better meets their needs
  - c. Customers involved at every step of the commissioning journey
  - d. Clearer, more accessible information for the public about what is available and processes for applying
  - e. More people having tenancy rights and fewer people in residential care
  - f. Young people feeling confident about the future and feeling prepared and supported as they reach adulthood
18. The Strategy will be presented to Cabinet on 7 September 2022.

## **Recommendations**

19. As above, the Wiltshire Independent Living Strategy recommends that we:
  - a. change the way we commission accommodation and support
  - b. implement a recovery pathway which enables people with mental health needs to get the right support in the right place at the right time

- c. create more housing choices for people, and this includes building new supported living in the places where they are most needed
- d. review our ways of working, and where they are not clear or fit-for-purpose, we need to change them
- e. provide clear information which helps people to find the accommodation and support which best meets their needs

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**The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:**

None

### **Appendices**

1. Draft Wiltshire Independent Living Strategy 2022/27
2. Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living, What do people need to live their good life? (2022)