

EXTRA CARE – WHAT IS IT AND WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR IT IN WILTSHIRE?

DEFINITIONS:

- Sheltered housing – is provided by registered social landlords (used to be called housing associations) and is for older people. Usually schemes comprise blocks of flats or bungalows grouped together. Housing support (not domiciliary care) used to be provided by resident wardens but now the majority of schemes offer off site “floating” support. Rents in these schemes are funded through Housing Benefit with housing support paid for by residents often with a contribution from Supporting People grant. Some tenants may have personal care provided by domiciliary care agencies.
- Extra care – is provided by registered social landlords, voluntary sector and private companies. It provides a higher level of support than sheltered housing as there are on site staff (both care and housing support staff) that are available twenty four hours a day. Occupants are tenants or leaseholders.
- Care homes provide accommodation with intensive support that are registered under the Care Standards Act and subject to inspection by the Care Quality Commission. Residents do not have any rights as tenants and have high levels of need that mean they are no longer able to support themselves in their own homes.

EXTRA CARE IN WILTSHIRE:

Extra care is a means of offering care and support in self contained accommodation that can be rented or purchased. The accommodation is usually flats or bungalows, with support available 24 hours a day. In addition to the individual accommodation, extra care schemes will have an extensive range of facilities and provision, along with a café or meal provision.

It provides an accommodation option for people whose needs cannot be met in sheltered housing or living on their own but do not need nursing in a nursing home. Care in a nursing home will always be needed for some people, but the needs and wishes of older people indicate that they would prefer their own front door for as long as possible – our ambition is to help them achieve the life they want for themselves.

In Wiltshire there are 300 units of which 80 are available for social rent with the remainder available for lease. The two schemes are in East Wiltshire, Devizes and Pewsey. A further scheme has just begun to be built in Trowbridge funded in part by the Department of Health.

The Accommodation Strategy for Older People highlighted the need to meet the accommodation requirements of the rising number of older people and particularly older people with dementia. We are proposing to facilitate the development of 900 units in a number of schemes throughout Wiltshire. These developments will either be funded by housing associations (Registered Social Landlords), by grants, Private Finance Initiative or will be developed by private companies.

In Wiltshire because of the rural nature our approach is to develop smaller projects and to make maximum use of telecare (assistive technology) to support the safety and security of tenants. The geography and communities of Wiltshire also lend themselves well to what is known as a “hub and spoke” model of extra care. This is sometimes referred to as “virtual” extra care, as it can offer services and facilities to the wider community as well as to tenants of the scheme. We are beginning to work on this model at the Pewsey scheme where the local lunch club now meets, and domiciliary care is provided to older people living in the surrounding area.

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