

Local Housing Strategy 2011/12 – 2015/16

Background Paper 3

West Dunbartonshire Council

Housing Needs of People with a Learning Disability

1. Context

The key challenge for any strategy for meeting the housing needs of people with a learning disability is to embed into it the principles of quality and support which govern all our services to this client group within West Dunbartonshire.

We regard it as the collective responsibility of all partner agencies to ensure that people with learning disabilities have full, purposeful, lives in which they are enabled to have the same quality of living as those residents without learning disabilities.

This means our objective should be to enable people with learning disabilities and their families to have greater choice and control over where, and how, they live. This should be achieved by increasing the range and choice of housing open to people with learning disabilities in order to enable them to live as independently as possible and to provide them with real housing choices.

Like all of us, those with a learning disability, along with their carers and advocates, cite the need for a homely environment, coupled with a sense of safety and security, as uppermost in their priorities for suitable housing.

People with learning disabilities can live successfully in different types of housing, from individual, self contained properties, housing networks, group homes and shared accommodation schemes. They can cope with the full range of tenures including ownership.

All our service users are continually assessed for housing needs. Clearly these can vary depending on individual circumstances, but include the need for the various types of housing outlined above.

2. WDC Demographic Issues

In terms of figures for those requiring housing resources in West Dunbartonshire, epidemiological studies suggest our area contains over 1000 people with a learning disability. Of these, over 630 are currently known to local authority social services. A total of 264 of these currently live at home with parents, families or friends.

At any one time, West Dunbartonshire's Learning Disability Services know of approximately 30 to 40 individuals requiring housing resources locally, for the

reasons described above. Their circumstances vary from emergency situations, through the spectrum of need, to longer term planning for independence.

The Scottish Government recently published *Scotland's National Dementia Strategy* (2010)¹ and reaffirmed that dementia was a priority for the administration. There are approximately 71,000 people with dementia in Scotland, around 2,300 of whom are under the age of 65. As our population ages, the number of people with dementia will increase and we expect the number to double over the next 25 years. Prevalence of dementia increases with age; around 1.5% of the 65 to 69-year-old population are affected, increasing to about one in three of the 90-plus age groups. On a pro rata basis to population, this would equate roughly to 23,700 with dementia, 750 of whom under age 65, in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area.² The majority, 63.5%, of people with dementia live at home in the community, with an estimated 36.5% of people with dementia living in care homes. Up to 70% of the care home population may have dementia.

Alzheimer Scotland estimate that the costs associated with dementia are £1.7 billion per annum. Of that cost, about £600 or £700 million is the cost of care and treatment services provided by the NHS and local government. The remainder is the contribution made by carers. The cost to the NHS is probably an underestimate given the greater understanding we now have of the cost of dementia in general hospital settings.

The National Needs Assessment (NHS) states that dementia is about four times more common in people with a learning disability than in the general population. The prevalence of dementia in Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area for both genders combined according to the Quality Outcomes Framework register in 2007/8 was just 0.52%. The prevalence of dementia in Greater Glasgow for both genders combined with LD in 2002-4 was 2.2%, confirming the 4-fold excess. The National Needs Assessment (Health) states that dementia is particularly common in people with Downs Syndrome, about half of whom will acquire clinical dementia in middle or older age, 30 or 40 years *before* their non learning disabled peers. The prevalence of dementia in PWDS varies by age: 2% at age 30-39 years, 9.4% at age 40-49 years, 36.1% at age 50-59 years and 54.5% at age 60-69 years.

In NHS GG&C, this would mean that we could expect to have a total of 63 PWDS and dementia aged 50-59 years and 22 aged 60-69 years (as there are fewer people in this older category due to premature death). As the life expectancy of PWDS continues to increase, we should expect this number with LD and dementia to increase.³

¹ Scotland's National Dementia Strategy (2010) The Scottish Government
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/mental-health/servicespolicy/Dementia>

² Glasgow & Clyde Valley HNDA GCVSDP March 2011

³ NHS GG&C Learning Disability Health Needs Assessment. January 2011

3. Housing Issues for People with a Learning Disability

Demand on housing resources for people with learning disabilities are many and varied, but stem from:

- Individuals whose parents are elderly or infirm and are less able to meet their needs in the parental home meaning that they often must leave home in order to receive the care and support they need.
- Individuals who are assessed as especially vulnerable in their current accommodation due to social isolation, adult protection concerns (an increasing priority in the wake of recent legislation and awareness about this issue), or increasing needs (e.g. disability, health etc.)
- Individual's accommodated out with West Dunbartonshire and who wish to return.
- Younger adults with a natural desire to experience independent living.
- Individuals whose current support arrangements are compromised by their living situation e.g. geographically isolated from family and friends.

4. Current Supported Housing for People with a Learning Disability

The table below shows the location of supported housing for people with a learning disability in West Dunbartonshire:

Table 1: WDC LD SERVICES – CURRENT HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES DISTRIBUTION MAR 2011

Care Provider	Total	%	Clydebank	Dumbarton/ OK	Vale of Leven	Out of Authority
Cornerstone	34	24.8	10	8	16	
Choices Scotland	1	0.7				1
Hansel Alliance	1	0.7				1
Key	41	29.9	23	2	9	7
Quarriers	10	7.3	10			
Real Life Options	1	0.7				1
RNIB	14	10.2	11	3		
Share Scotland	12	8.8			12	
Thistle	1	0.7				1
Turning Point	1	0.7		1		
Care Solutions	9	6.6	2		3	4
WDC HSS	12	8.8		6	6	
C-change	2	1.4	1			1
TOTALS	139	100	56	20	46	15

FUTURE NEED FOR HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE:

Currently, 29% of people with a learning disability (and known to LD Services) in WDC receive housing support services. NHS GG&C Health Needs Assessment (LD) January 2011 predicts 1.28% yearly rise in people with a learning disability.⁴

Thus, in 2021, numbers of PWLD in WDC requiring housing support will rise to approximately **160**.

5. Suitability of Current Provision

As well as the need for additional housing, the SW&H LD team have identified that some existing housing currently in use is no longer fit for purpose. The tenants in these houses will require to move to more suitable accommodation. Consultations are underway with housing providers over how best to address the reprovisioning priorities. This is likely to be an ongoing issue will during the period of the LHS.

6. Planned Capital Investment

LHS Guidance emphasises the requirement to address housing support issues of particular needs groups and to use this to inform future investment and related services. This is especially important in view of the removal of ring-fencing to funding of housing support services.⁵

In respect of new supply house building, the WD Local Plan strongly encourages developers to employ inclusive design principles and to comply with the Housing for Varying Needs guidance.⁶ There are indications however that the impetus in the direction of more inclusive house design may be diluted by the prevailing financial strictures.⁷

Currently there are no plans for new housing for specifically for PWLD. The publication of the arrangements for funding social housing under the Innovation and Investment Fund signals a significant change to how funding will be made available in the future.⁸ There are some projects under construction which will provide new build houses for elderly people but which would also meet the

⁴ NHS GG&C Learning Disability Health Needs Assessment. January 2011 Pages 51 & 52

⁵ Ring fencing for Supporting People services was removed in April 2008

⁶ WD Local Plan Adopted Plan 2010 Policy H4 Housing Development Standards

⁷ HCA in England has scrapped plans for new core standards in publicly supported housing developments, prompting criticism from CABI and the RIBA among others.

⁸ Scottish Government Innovation and Investment Fund March 2011

housing needs of some PWLD. Where appropriate, and where the housing provider is willing to be flexible about the client group to be housed, some of this housing may be used to accommodate PWLD.

7. Aids and Adaptations

Aids and adaptations are a valuable resource in enabling PWLD to live active lives in the community.

Currently WDC funds £286,000 of aids and adaptations which allow people to live in their own homes.

In the past, SG HID has made available funding for Stage III Adaptations to housing associations. The SHIP had allowed for £1.1M Stage III funding over the next five years. With the introduction of the new funding arrangements, the future of this resource is unclear. It is intended that an exercise be carried out to harmonise the procedures involved in processing these two major aids/adaptations funding streams.

Lomond and Clyde Care and Repair (LCCR) provides a vital service in West Dunbartonshire in assisting elderly, disabled and other at risk residents maintain a safe and independent environment within their own home. LCCR receives funding of approximately £600K per annum, of which £500K comes from the Council.

The increasing use of “Smart technology”, including *telecare* and *telehealth* systems, in housing support provides opportunities for meeting the objectives in this field but it is recognised these advances will come at a cost.