

Housing Strategy 2009-2014

healthy homes, healthy lives, healthy city

Older People's Housing Strategy



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Published by

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Housing Strategy 2009-2014

healthy homes, healthy lives, healthy city

Older People's Housing Strategy

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About this Strategy

The Older People's Housing Strategy has been developed to address important citywide issues that affect the older population of Brighton & Hove – both now and in the future.

The strategy is relevant to all older people and their carers irrespective of the type of housing they live in. The majority of older people are owner occupiers in traditional housing. There is a small and potentially vulnerable group of older people in private rented housing and we have a very active community of older people living in social housing, particularly in sheltered housing. Overall, this strategy holds to the fundamental principle that older people want to continue to live in their own homes.

Not only does the Older People's Housing Strategy help us address the needs of the city's older population over the next five years, it also gives us an opportunity to create a framework of mutual respect, involvement and understanding that sets high standards and lays the foundations for meeting the needs and aspirations of the future older population.

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Foreword

Increases in life expectancy combined with improvements in healthcare and support ensure that reaching an 'old' age is no longer a barrier. Being old should not be seen as a burden but an opportunity that can be a springboard to new learning, new experiences and a healthy and active way of life.

The majority of older people already live in good quality housing, have full and active lives and are engaged in wider social or family circles. However, not all older people are so fortunate. Older people can become more vulnerable with age due to health complications, financial difficulties or the contraction of social networks, with the oldest old being most at risk of poor quality housing, isolation, and reducing independence.

Our strategy is working to make sure that all new homes in the city are built to a high standard that makes them suitable to adapt as the needs of residents change. We are also helping to improve the quality of older people's existing homes, whether they own their home or rent, with a range of measures designed to help with maintenance, energy efficiency and accessibility.

To help people maintain independence we are improving the support available to older people. When a person's existing home is no longer manageable - it may be too large or unable to be adapted - we are helping people move to more suitable housing of their choosing. Also, changes to the way we deliver services will look at ways of helping older people maintain and develop social networks to help them improve their independence, reduce isolation and encourage a more active and healthier lifestyle.

However, these initiatives will not be a success if older people and their carers are not able to easily access information on the vast range of assistance available. A co-ordinated approach to information and services will contribute to helping those in need to reach services that can make a significant difference to their wellbeing and quality of life.



Jim Baker
Director, Age
Concern
Brighton Hove
& Portslade and
Chairman of the
Older People's
Housing &
Support
Working Group



**Councillor
Maria Caulfield**
Cabinet Member
for Housing

When this strategy comes to a close the older population in the city will have started to increase at four times the rate of the younger population. This strategy aims to capitalise on the intervening years to assist services across the city in actively planning to meet these future increases in demand. More importantly, our strategy seeks to use this period of stability to set high standards for services that make sure aspirations are recognised and people are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

This is the first Older People's Housing Strategy for Brighton & Hove and it has only been possible through a new partnership – the ***Older People's Housing & Support Working Group***. This partnership brings together the council, health services, community and voluntary sector agencies and older people's champions to work collectively in improving quality of life in the communities we serve.



Jim Baker
Director, Age Concern
Brighton Hove & Portslade and
Chairman of the Older People's
Housing & Support Working
Group



Councillor Maria Caulfield
Cabinet Member for Housing

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Our Strategic Housing Vision for Brighton & Hove

The Older People's Housing Strategy is part of a group of housing-related strategies that supports the overarching ***Housing Strategy 2009-2014: healthy homes, healthy lives, healthy city***, sharing the same united vision:

Enabling healthy homes, healthy lives and a healthy city that reduces inequality and offers independence, choice and a high quality of life

Other supporting strategies include the BME (Black & Minority Ethnic) People's Housing Strategy and the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans) People's Housing Strategy.

Objectives of the Older People's Housing Strategy

The objectives of this strategy are specific to the needs of older people but also support the wider Housing Strategy:

- Objective 1 Make sure older people are able to access a mix of high quality housing suitable for their changing needs and aspirations
- Objective 2 Make sure older people are supported to sustain their independence as members of the wider community
- Objective 3 Make sure older people are able to access services and become involved in service development and decisions which affect them

Each objective has a number of strategic goals that outline the main actions and success criteria for this strategy.

Making a Difference

Over the lifetime of this strategy we would like to achieve:

- Improved support for isolated older people living in the community and older people wishing to downsize
- All new homes built to the Lifetime Homes Standard and 10% of all affordable housing built to the wheelchair (Accessible Housing) standard
- An Accessible Housing Register of adapted and wheelchair-accessible properties
- Improved access to information on issues relevant to older people and carers
- Critical review of our progress by the Older People's Housing & Support Working Group

Our Strategic Principles

The Housing Strategy upholds six principles that underpin all of the work we do and equally apply to this strategy:

- A healthy city
- Reducing inequality
- Improving neighbourhoods
- Accountability to local people
- Value for money
- Partnership working

Health Impact Assessment

We recognise that housing plays an important part of all aspects of people's lives, particularly health and wellbeing. As part of the development of this strategy, the Primary Care Trust has carried out a Health Impact Assessment on the city's housing stock and housing needs. The results of this assessment are helping us to make sure that our strategy and action plans contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of local people.

1.2 Engaging Local People

Effective engagement with older people, their carers and representatives is at the heart of this strategy. We developed the strategy in stages with extensive consultation with stakeholders to make sure that it meets the needs and aspirations of the city's older people.

Feedback from older people has highlighted that most have aspirations similar to the population as a whole – to have a full, independent, healthy and enjoyable life. Having safe and secure housing that enhances and supports aspirations is an important part of this overall picture in helping these aspirations become a reality.

Strategy Consultation

The first round of consultation was undertaken over a period of three months in summer 2007 giving local residents and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on a Consultation Briefing Pack covering different aspects of housing and support. The pack was available on the council website and throughout the city in libraries and other public places. It was also sent out to many stakeholders, voluntary organisations and residents.

Officers also went out into the community, attended social functions, service user groups' meetings and other events such as Celebrating Age, the BME Elders Information Day and the Older People's Services Provider Group to seek the views of local people.

Case Study: Older People's Housing & Support Working Group

Whilst developing the strategy we set up an Older People's Housing & Support Working Group made up of representatives from a wide range of older people's support and advocacy groups, the community and voluntary sector, the Primary Care Trust and the local authority. This group has reviewed each stage of the strategy development process and made many valuable contributions to our strategic priorities and action plan (see Appendix 2).

The second round of consultation concentrated on the Strategy Framework – our proposed priorities and actions developed from the findings of the first round of consultation. More consultation was carried out on this framework which has resulted in changes to our priorities and was used to help develop this strategy and action plan.

The third round of consultation showcased the draft Older People's Housing Strategy. Consultation was completed over a three month period, from October to December 2008. During this round of consultation the draft Older People's Strategy was available on the council website and sent out to many stakeholders, voluntary organisations and residents.

Officers met with service providers and went out into the community to seek the views of local people, by attending social functions, service user groups' meetings and other events such as Celebrating Age.

In November 2007 a successful stakeholders' event was held to consult on the group of draft housing-related strategies. The event was attended by representatives from a range of service providers including health, social services, voluntary sector and community champions.

On completion of the final round of consultation comments were collated, evaluated and integrated into the strategy.

We do not want consultation to end with the publication of this strategy, but would like it to be a part of an ongoing process, involving local people and other stakeholders throughout the life of the strategy, helping us to monitor its implementation and review our services.

1.3 The Goals of this Strategy

Each objective has a range of strategic goals that will be developed and implemented throughout the lifetime of this strategy.

Strategic Objective 1: Make sure older people are able to access a mix of high quality housing suitable for their changing needs and aspirations

Our strategic goals under this objective are to:

- Goal 1 Make sure the city's new and existing housing stock is able to meet the current and future needs of the population
- Goal 2 Promote a better use of properties that are particularly suitable for meeting the needs of those with disabilities and their carers
- Goal 3 Maximise support and assistance to help older people repair and improve their homes

Strategic Objective 2: Make sure older people are supported to sustain their independence as members of the wider community

Our strategic goals to help sustain independence are to:

- Goal 4 Support the provision of a greater range of support services to older people in their own homes
- Goal 5 Create safe and accessible communities that meet the needs of older people
- Goal 6 Develop the role of extra care and sheltered housing to make sure it is inclusive and part of the wider community
- Goal 7 Work closely with health and other service providers to provide the necessary housing and support that will minimise or prevent hospital or residential care admissions and dependency

Strategic Objective 3: Make sure older people are able to access services and become involved in service development and decisions which affect them

Our strategic goals to help engage older people are to:

- Goal 8 Continue to work with the Older People's Housing & Support Working Group to deliver services that have a positive impact on the lives of older people
- Goal 9 Develop systems to monitor service use, outcomes, satisfaction and complaints to identify gaps to help shape service development and make sure services are welcoming and inclusive
- Goal 10 Provide easily accessible and understandable information and advice regarding housing and services which are available to the city's older people, families and carers

1.4 Local Area Agreement

The Brighton & Hove Local Area Agreement (LAA) sets out the priorities for the city and has been agreed between the Government, the local authority, the Local Strategic Partnership and other key partners.

The agreement contains 35 key performance indicators that the Government will use to assess how the city is performing and includes additional local indicators to reflect key issues. As housing has such wide-reaching effects on people's lives, our strategy also contributes to a wider range of performance indicators than are in the LAA:

The priorities and goals of this strategy contribute to the following National Indicators for Local Authority Partnerships:

- **NI 1:** **Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area**
- NI 2: Percentage of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood
- **NI 4:** **Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality**
- NI 5: Overall/general satisfaction with local area
- **NI 7:** **Environment for a thriving third sector**
- NI 21: Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
- **NI 119:** **Self-reported measure of people's overall health & well being**
- NI 124: People with a long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition
- NI 125: Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation / intermediate care
- NI 131: Delayed transfers of care from hospitals
- NI 137: Healthy life expectancy at age 65
- NI 138: Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood
- NI 139: People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support to exercise choice and control to live independently
- **NI 141:** **Vulnerable people achieving independent living**
- NI 142: Vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living
- **NI 154:** **Net additional homes provided**
- NI 155: Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
- **NI 158:** **Percentage of decent council homes**
- NI 160: Local Authority tenants' satisfaction with landlord services
- **NI 187:** **Tackling fuel poverty**

(Indicators in bold are also included in Brighton & Hove's Local Area Agreement)

2 Introduction

2.1 Older People

Older people have a vital role to play in society, supporting social wellbeing, the economy and bringing a richness of life experiences to others. We must make sure that older people are valued, treated with respect and given the opportunity to be supported in maintaining their independence and quality of life as part of their community. We must also remember that not all older people are the same but are as diverse as the wider population with a similar variety of needs and aspirations.

People are empowered physically, psychologically, spiritually and emotionally by achieving and maintaining independence. However, through the different seasons of life our independence will change and as we grow older we may, for example, lose some physical independence but that does not mean we have also lost our mental, spiritual and emotional independence.

Income and health have a considerable effect on lifestyle. A low income can mean living in poor housing, not eating healthily, not being able to afford to heat our home adequately, not being able to socialise and be involved in activities. Poor health, both physical and mental, can reduce older people's independence and control over their lives and their ability to participate in social activities.

Having a comfortable home; well maintained, warm and fully accessible, eating a good healthy well-balanced diet and keeping fit and active, both physically and mentally, all enhance an older person's quality of life. Social inclusion through networks of family and friends and participation in associations and social activities and having access to and engaging with services all adds to the richness of life.

Housing has a direct and immediate impact on wellbeing and quality of life. Older people's housing should be of manageable size. It should have secure tenure, be well maintained and of decent standard, adaptable, accessible, safe and secure. Housing should be situated in pleasant secure neighbourhoods with a variety of local services, not too hilly and with good transport provision.

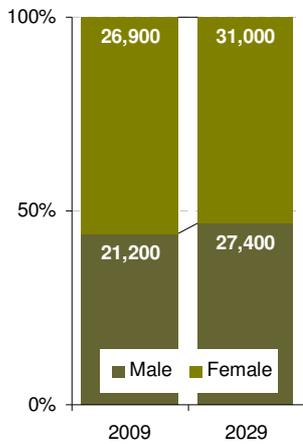
As older people age and their needs change, the response to those changes should enable them to maintain a good quality of life. It is important that this strategy supports older people whatever their circumstances, supporting those who are active and independent and, for those who are in less comfortable situations, to improve their quality of life.

Choice can be dependent on provision and availability of services and infrastructure and lack of choice can result in loss of control of our lives. For some older people the right choice may be to move to a new location or to downsize to a more manageable home. It may be to stay in their current home with an adaptation or to have care and support provided. For other older people the right choice may be to move to specialist housing more able to meet their needs.

To enable older people and carers to make informed choices in life, there needs to be easy access to information and advice. Information on available housing, finance, adaptations, assistive technology, help with repairs, domestic services, personal care and regular services such as shopping and gardening should be easily accessible.

Growing older should not be a negative experience but something to be embraced with the expectation of enjoying life to the full. Older people have similar aspirations to the rest of the population but may need more support to realise them as they grow older and more frail.

**Brighton & Hove
Population Projection**



Source: Office of National Statistics
2006 Projections

2.2 The Older Population

At the time of the 2001 Census there were a total of 51,058 people aged 60 years and older living in the city. However, in contrast to national and regional trends, the population of older people in the city reduced to 48,100 in 2009 and is expected to decrease slightly over the next few years¹.

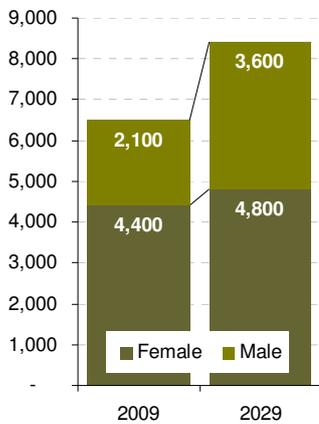
By 2013 the older population is expected to be at its lowest level with 47,600 people aged over 60 living in the city, a 1% reduction from 2009. We then expect to see an expansion in the older population, and from 2013 to 2029 it is expected to increase by 21%, more than four times the rate of younger age groups, to 58,500 people. It is essential that our strategy takes advantage of this short term dip to plan adequately for the upcoming expansion.

There is a fairly even split between males and females aged 60 to 74 but as people grow older the ratio changes, with 68% of people aged 85 years and over being female. These ratios are expected to change over the next 20 years as male life expectancy is increasing faster than that of females. In 2029, the proportion of people aged 85 and above that is female is likely to have reduced to 57%.

The 2001 Census showed that 6.6% of the city's population aged 60 and over identified themselves as being from a black and minority ethnic group² compared to 12% of the city's total population. The older population is expected to become more diverse as the population ages.

Although we have very little statistical data on older lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people, it is estimated that there are around 35,000 to 40,000 LGBT people living in the city out of total population of 256,600 people.

**Brighton & Hove
Population Projection
(Aged 85+)**



Source: Office of National Statistics
2006 Projections

¹ Office of National Statistics: 2006-based sub national population projections, published June 2008

² We have used the term black and minority ethnic to refer to those who are not White British – such as Irish, White Other, Black, Asian, Chinese or other groups

2.3 Housing Tenure of Older People

As people age, the Census shows little change in tenure amongst those in shared ownership or rented homes. A big shift can be seen however, in other types of tenure of those aged 85 and over, with a large decrease in owner occupation and a corresponding increase in those living in a communal establishment.

The table below shows the type of housing older people were living in as reported in the 2001 Census:

Tenure	Age			Total
	60-74	75-84	85+	
Owner occupier	72.3%	64.8%	49.4%	67.2%
Shared ownership (<i>part rent, part buy</i>)	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Social rented (<i>sheltered and general housing</i>)	15.7%	17.9%	16.6%	16.5%
Private rented	8.3%	8.8%	9.1%	8.6%
Rent free (<i>e.g. with friends or family</i>)	1.9%	3.4%	3.8%	2.6%
Communal establishment (<i>e.g. nursing or care home</i>)	1.3%	4.6%	20.8%	4.8%

Source: Census 2001

We are keen to investigate why the oldest owner occupiers are more likely than all other older people to move into communal establishments that may offer less independence.

We suspect that this could be due to a shortage of private sheltered or extra care housing schemes that also provide an element of support. We believe the city only has around 650 of these flats in the private sector, in contrast to more than 1,600 sheltered housing flats managed by the council and housing associations.

Case Study: Extra Care Housing

Extra Care Housing is relatively new to Brighton & Hove, offering tenants their own self-contained flat with a wide range of facilities such as shops, cafés and in some cases a cinema. Extra care housing has the benefit of a 24 hour on-site care team and can be seen as a step between sheltered housing and residential care, able to cater for people with much wider range and higher levels of need.

Care is tailored to the needs of individual tenants and can be increased or decreased as these needs change, promoting tenants' independence and avoiding the need for people to move into more institutional types of housing.

In 2006 Brighton & Hove developed New Larchwood in Coldean, its first extra care housing, as a partnership between the council and Hanover Housing Association. A second scheme at Patching Lodge has recently opened that includes flats for sale and 2-bedroom homes to help those with carers.



*New Larchwood,
Coldean*

2.4 Older People and Inequalities

The council's Reducing Inequality Review carried out at the end of 2007 identified the inequalities that older people living in the city can experience.

The review highlighted the divide between those older people who through affluence, good health and social networks are more empowered to make life choices and those who are living on low incomes, with poor health and isolated.

Across the city there are areas of deprivation and in one of these areas the high deprivation levels are primarily driven by people from the older age groups.

Deprivation in any form reduces older people's quality of life and wellbeing and we recognise that good quality, appropriate housing and housing support plays an important role in helping to reduce inequality.

To reduce inequalities we are keen to work with our colleagues across the statutory and voluntary sectors to find ways to remove barriers and improve the quality of life for older people and carers living in the city.

2.5 Market Forces

Older people are not immune from changes in the economic climate. For many the most valuable asset is their home and with the current slow down in the property market and the reduction in property prices, the choices they can make have become more limited. For example, prospective purchasers of flats in a new extra care development have been unable to buy as they have been unable to sell their current homes. In addition, the reduction in interest rates and falls in stock market values have had a negative effect on savings, investments and pensions.

2.6 Health Impact Assessment

The Census 2001 reports that almost half of those aged 60 and over in Brighton & Hove had a limiting long-term illness, rising to almost three quarters of those aged 85 and over.

Issues such as these are likely to have an impact across all aspects of an older person's life and in particular over their housing – perhaps over someone's ability to heat, maintain or improve their home or their ability to undertake everyday tasks without some support or assistance.

To help make sure that the new housing strategy contributes to reducing health inequalities, the Public Health Directorate of NHS Brighton & Hove has been carrying out a Health Impact Assessment of the city's housing needs.

Research carried out by the Primary Care Trust (PCT)³ has identified a range of health and housing impacts that have helped us to develop the strategy:

- Mental health issues, including depression due to a range of housing factors, were among the most significant health issues reported, highlighting the importance of access to appropriate housing and support services.
- Isolation and a lack of social support was also highlighted, particularly among those with poor mobility illustrating the need for services to engage with wider communities alongside traditional groups.
- The need was highlighted for adaptations or more adaptable housing in accessible locations to help meet the needs of the population with a disability, a mobility problem or a specific care need. This should enable care services to be more easily delivered in the home rather than in hospital or institutional settings.
- There is a need for noise reductions through infrastructural insulation or environmental measures to alleviate much of the stress and anxiety reported.
- We need to maximise opportunities to improve the heating and insulation of homes to tackle fuel poverty and excess winter deaths.

The findings from the PCT have helped shape the development of the new housing strategies and are ensuring that our strategic priorities will help to reduce inequality and enhance health and wellbeing.

³ Brighton & Hove Housing Strategy Health Impact Assessment, NHS Brighton & Hove

3 The Strategy in Context

3.1 Linking to International, National and Regional Policy

There has been a wide range of international, national and regional research and policies produced in response to the changing aspirations and demographics of older people. Where relevant, we have used this knowledge and understanding to help shape our strategy.

International Policy

In 1991, the United Nations adopted the **United Nations Principles for Older Persons** (Resolution No.46/91). These principles covered 18 requirements focussed on Independence, Participation, Care, Self-fulfilment and Dignity aiming “to add life to the years that have been added to life”.



Brighton & Hove was involved in the **World Health Organization Healthy Cities Programme** (Phase IV) which focussed on healthy ageing, healthy urban planning and health impact assessment.

Brighton & Hove has been working through the Healthy Cities network, led by the Primary Care Trust with the council being a member of the Healthy City Partnership.



Phase IV has now come to an end and the city is looking at the potential to be involved in Phase V, which has the overarching goal of *Health and Health Equity in all Local Policies* and focuses on:

- Caring and supportive environment
- Healthy living
- Healthy urban environment and design

The development of a **Healthy City Strategy** is planned that will bring key services together and co-ordinate work to improve the health of local people.



National Policy

The government's housing strategy for older people, ***Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society*** was published at the beginning of 2008 by Communities and Local Government, the Department of Health and the Department for Work and Pensions.

The strategy has 9 overall aims focussing on:

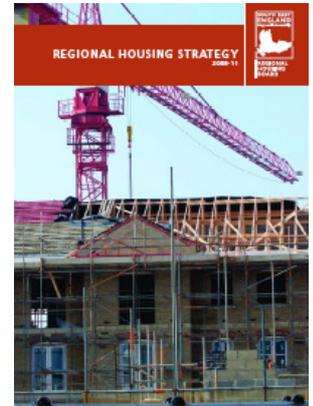
- New housing advice and information service
- Equity release
- New national rapid repairs and adaptations service and Warm Front
- Modernisation of the Disabled Facilities Grant
- Lifetime Homes
- Lifetime Neighbourhoods
- More homes and better planning
- Joining up housing and health care services
- Improving specialised housing

The national strategy brings together priorities from across government departments, in particular the 2007 Green Paper ***Homes for the Future***, the Department of Health's 2006 White Paper ***Our Health, Our Care, Our Say*** and the 2007 concordat on adult social care ***Putting People First***. These documents are also feeding into the forthcoming social care Green Paper and the new ***Independent Living Strategy***. All of these strategic documents focus on supporting people to live independently in the community through the provision of personalised self directed support.

In December 2008 the government published a follow up publication, ***Delivering Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods***, setting measures taken to progress the national strategy. It also describes the various key initiatives which are being taken or are due to be launched to implement the strategy.

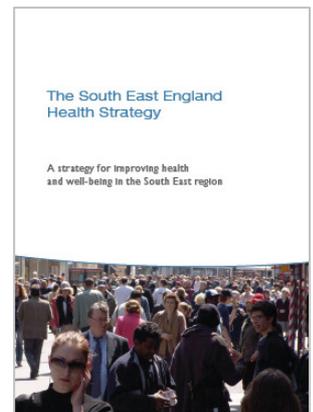
Regional Policy

The **Regional Housing Strategy 2008-2011** was published in April 2008 by the South East England Regional Assembly. Funding priorities concentrate on the delivery of new affordable housing, improving the quality of housing and improving provision for gypsy and traveller groups. The strategy recognises the needs of older people and commits the Regional Assembly to develop a vision for the region regarding housing for the ageing population based on research it aims to carry out in 2008/09.



The first **South East England Regional Health Strategy** was published in February 2008, with Later Life as one of its 6 key themes. To improve the health of older people the strategy is focussing on promoting and supporting:

- independence and engagement
- material wellbeing and financial security
- healthy active living
- the implementation of dignity in care standards and end of life care



3.2 Organising to Meet the Challenges

Brighton & Hove City Council has recently moved to the cabinet model of political leadership, with politicians being more directly responsible for the services under their remit. New scrutiny committees are able to hold councillors to account for their decisions

A new council constitution includes a commitment to openness and involvement and the council's new priorities, centred on delivering core services efficiently and making a real and lasting difference to local people's quality of life:

- protect the environment whilst growing the economy
- better use of public money
- reduce inequality by increasing opportunities
- fair enforcement of the law
- open and effective city leadership

Delivering effective services for older people requires a co-ordination of services across health, social care, housing, the community and voluntary sector. Adult social care and housing services are located in the same department within the council, enabling us to develop shared goals and understanding amongst staff delivering the services. The overall vision for these services is:

***Provide excellent services to
increase independence and quality of life***

Additionally, in recent years there has been a much bigger focus on working with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to make sure health considerations are included in our social care and housing work, with strategic public health officers from the PCT (NHS Brighton & Hove) now physically working alongside social care and housing colleagues. This partnership has led to the Health Impact Assessment carried out alongside the development of the new housing strategy.

***Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People's Services
2007-2010***

The Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People's Services sets out the future direction for health and social care services for older people in Brighton & Hove and has been jointly developed between the Primary Care Trust and the council's social care services.

The strategy has five key objectives:

- giving older people and their carers more say in how their services are shaped
- promoting healthy ageing and supporting independence
- providing more responsive and accessible care
- supporting more people at home
- best use of care homes for older people

The Older People's Housing Strategy and the Joint Commissioning Strategy complement each other in bringing key services together to address the needs of older people.

3.3 A Partnership Approach

This strategy will only be a success if it is delivered in partnership between the local council, service providers and our communities. In many cases the providers of specialist advice and services will understand the needs of parts of the community much more comprehensively than the council. We must work with all those that have a knowledge and stake in our local communities to achieve the aims of this strategy and make real improvements to the lives of the city's residents.

Some of the partnerships and key groups that operate across the city include:

- 2020 Community Partnership (Local Strategic Partnership or LSP)
- Public Service Board
- City Inclusion Partnership

2020 Community Partnership (Local Strategic Partnership)

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is a multi-agency partnership that brings together the different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. Its role is to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of local people. The LSP has developed the 2020 Community Strategy which sets out the vision and plans of the agencies, organisations and communities who work together to improve the quality of life in this city.

Public Service Board

The Public Service Board sits alongside the LSP and is the main forum for the council and its partners to work together on joint and national priorities. It has members from the Primary Care Trust, Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals, the Police and business leaders.

Local Area Agreement (LAA)

These are new agreements that set out the priorities for a local area agreed between Government, the local authority, the Local Strategic Partnership and other key partners. The priority themes for the Brighton & Hove LAA are:

- Promoting enterprise and learning
- Reducing crime and improving safety
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Strengthening communities and involving people
- Improving housing affordability
- Promoting resource efficiency and enhancing the environment
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Providing quality service

Action relating to the LAA includes improving work opportunities for people over 50, reducing overall levels of economic disadvantage, reducing anti-social behaviour and improving services for older people.

City Inclusion Partnership

The council has worked with partners in the city to develop new arrangements to oversee and lead the strategic direction of equalities and diversity work across the city.

The new City Inclusion Partnership sits within the Local Strategic Partnership and provides the basis for partnership work between the city council and our statutory and community / voluntary sector partners.

This Partnership will work actively with communities of interest and community / voluntary groups across the city and will provide a mechanism to hold the statutory sector to account in relation to equalities work.

3.4 Strategy Co-ordination

Our Older People's Housing Strategy does not operate in isolation. Its aims and objectives are interrelated to a wide range of other plans and strategies within the council, its partner agencies, and stakeholders.

Key plans and strategies include:

- 2020 Community Strategy
- Local Area Agreement
- Housing Strategy 2009-2014: healthy homes, healthy lives, healthy city
- Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People's Services 2007-2010
- Physical Disabilities Commissioning Strategy
- Self Directed Support Strategy
- Multi Agency Carers' Strategy 2006-2009
- Supporting People Commissioning Strategy 2008-2011
- Homelessness Strategy 2008
- Brighton & Hove Affordable Warmth Strategy 2002

Copies of these strategies and plans are available from the council's website.

4 Strategic Objective 1: Make sure older people are able to access a mix of high quality housing suitable for their changing needs and aspirations

4.1 Healthy Homes

The link between housing and health has been identified in research and the importance good housing has on people's overall independence and wellbeing firmly established. As people grow older they spend more and more of their time at home; therefore, where and how people live, has a significant impact on their health. We need to make sure that there is enough of the right type of high quality housing that is suitable for the changing needs and aspirations of older people and their carers.

Our strategic goals under this objective are to:

- Goal 1 Make sure the city's new and existing housing stock is able to meet the current and future needs of the population
- Goal 2 Promote a better use of properties that are particularly suitable for meeting the needs of those with disabilities and their carers
- Goal 3 Maximise support and assistance to help older people repair and improve their homes

Actions to make sure older people are able to access a mix of high quality housing suitable for their changing needs and aspirations will contribute to the following National Indicators for Local Authority Partnerships:

- NI 5: Overall/general satisfaction with local area
- NI 119: Self reported measure of people's overall health & well being
- NI 137: Healthy life expectancy at age 65
- NI 138: Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood
- NI 154: Net additional homes provided
- NI 155: Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
- NI 158: Percentage of decent council homes
- NI 187: Tackling fuel poverty

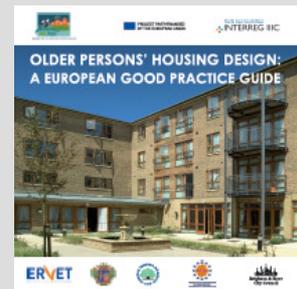
4.2 Strategic Goal 1: Make sure the city's new and existing housing stock is able to meet the current and future needs of the population

Historically, housing has often been developed with limited consideration to the changing needs of residents - making many unsuitable for adaptations or wheelchair use. We are working to make sure that all new housing in the city is built to Lifetime Homes Standards, making it suitable for adaptation, with at least 10% of new affordable housing meeting the higher wheelchair standard.

As people age and their circumstances change, they may find that their home is no longer suitable for their needs – it may not be adaptable, it may be too large, or it may not be close enough to friends, services or support. Moving home can be a stressful experience and we want to work with the community and voluntary sector to explore ways of helping to support older people through the moving process, building upon the work done by Adult Social Care in supporting older people who are moving to sheltered or residential housing.

Case Study: Older Persons' Housing Design

Brighton & Hove City Council was the UK lead on European Union Wel_hops project involving 5 countries, which published ***Older Persons' Housing Design: A European Good Practice Guide*** at the end of 2007. The design guide is written in a non technical format to help bridge understanding between professionals and older people.



Sheltered housing has provided quality accommodation for many years but much of the stock needs modernisation. We want to work with older people to explore the best ways of improving the housing, to make sure it meets the decent homes standard and explore opportunities to provide additional choice such as extra care housing.

4.3 Strategic Goal 2: Promote a better use of properties that are particularly suitable for meeting the needs of those with disabilities and their carers

As people grow older their health can decline. The 2001 Census reported that 47% of people aged 60+ reported a limiting long-term illness, limiting their daily activities or the work they can do, rising to 73% amongst those aged 85+.

The Brighton & Hove Housing Needs Survey 2005 reported that 27% of people aged 60+ reported a support need, rising to 42% amongst those aged 75+. Of those people aged 60+ reporting a support need, 10.3% were wheelchair users, 63.4% had walking difficulties and 25.7% had visual / hearing impairments.

The survey also reported on the adaptations needed to meet the needs of people with a support need. 10% of people aged 60+ reported a need for an adaptation. Of those people, 11.6% needed wheelchair adaptations, 47.9% needed bathroom adaptations and 32.5% needed handrails / grab rails.

Currently we carry out more than 500 adaptations to homes every year in the private and public sectors, as the care of disabled people is increasingly provided in the home, the already high need for adaptations will increase.

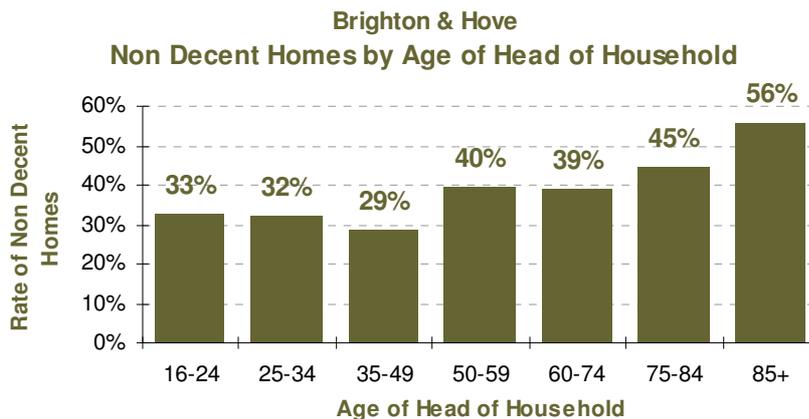
There is a limited supply of housing in the city that is particularly suitable for wheelchair users or those with other physical disabilities. We are planning to develop an accessible housing register of all adapted social housing and at the same time give priority to those with disabilities when these become available for re-letting.

We also want to work with private sector landlords and agents to explore the potential for improved advertising of their adapted homes when they become available for reletting or resale.

Through the Brighton & Hove Housing Partnership, the council is also working with housing association partners to advertise new affordable wheelchair standard housing before it is built, to make sure that accessibility features are tailored to the specific needs of the future residents.

4.4 Strategic Goal 3: Maximise support and assistance to help older people repair and improve their homes

The Brighton & Hove Private Sector House Condition Survey 2008 identified the strong relationship between age of the head of household and levels of non decency. The highest rate was where the age of the head of household was aged 85+ (56%).



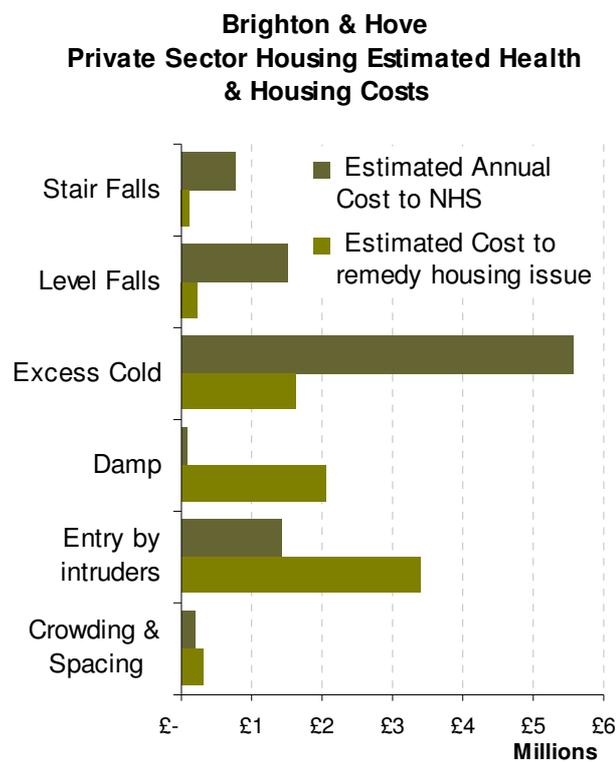
Source: Private Sector Stock Condition Survey 2008

The survey's house condition indicators identified that people aged 65+ were living in homes above the city's averages for non decency for three of the four indicators.

Group	Category 1 hazard	Unfit	In disrepair	Fuel poor
Aged 65+	20.0%	5.2%	10.1%	7.0%
Brighton & Hove average	18.5%	8.0%	7.7%	4.9%

Source: 2007 Brighton & Hove House Condition Survey

The Building Research Establishment in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health has developed a calculator to estimate the likely annual cost to the NHS from incidents with housing related issues and the potential cost of carrying out works to homes to prevent these conditions.



Source: BRE / CIEH - HHSRS Calculator

Using this calculator, falls and excess cold are expected to result in more than 1,200 incidents each year at a likely cost to the NHS of £7.87m, yet the cost to remedy the housing issues relating to this are estimated at £1.96m. Excess cold and falls have a much higher health impact on local older people and we are in discussions with NHS Brighton & Hove to see if there are ways to accurately identify those residents who are at highest risk so that we can target our private sector adaptation and improvement works more effectively.

Older home owners can easily find themselves in a situation where they are equity rich as a result of rising property prices but cash poor as a result of limited pensions. While on paper they have significant assets, in practice they may not have the cash to fund the cost of repairs and maintenance. This can lead to many difficulties such as keeping warm and healthy.

Case Study: Anchor Staying Put

Case Study: Trading Standards Buy With Confidence

Case Study: Age Concern Help at Home

Worries about the quality of building contractors can often be daunting for those needing home repairs. To overcome this, the council helps to fund **Anchor Trust Staying Put**, a Home Improvement Agency that employs handypersons or will help older people manage the work. The council's Trading Standards service has a **Buy With Confidence** Scheme listing approved local traders. **Age Concern** has a **Help at Home Scheme** that provides a matching service between older people and self-employed home helps and gardeners.



Brighton & Hove City Council provides grants and loans that help maintain and improve the quality and energy efficiency of around 1,000 private sector homes every year. We have secured £18.6m from the Regional Housing Board on behalf the Brighton & Hove, East Sussex Together Partnership for private sector works up to 2011, with more than half of the money being spent in the city.

Action Plan Summary: Strategic Objective 1: Make sure older people are able to access a mix of high quality housing suitable for their changing needs and aspirations

Strategic Action	Target	Current Position	Lead Partner
Goal 1	Make sure the city's new and existing housing stock is able to meet the current and future needs of the population		
Improve the supply of housing that can be adapted to meet the changing needs of households	100% of all new housing to meet Lifetime Homes Standard	Agreed in Local Plan policy HO13	Brighton & Hove City Council
Improve supply of housing for those with wheelchairs	10% of all new social rented homes to be built to accessible homes standard (wheelchair standard)	2008/09 16% of new affordable homes met Accessible Homes standard	Brighton & Hove City Council
Improve housing choice across all housing types and tenures	Deliver more mixed tenure housing both with and without support	Patching Lodge Extra Care Scheme completed in 2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
Improve support to older people for making and implementing housing choice	Bespoke schemes with estate / lettings agents supporting older people wishing to move	Explore options	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group
Modernise / remodel sheltered stock and upgrade facilities	Brighton (Decent Homes) Standard with adaptations completed at same time as refurbishments	Procurement strategy in development	Brighton & Hove City Council
Goal 2	Promote a better use of properties that are particularly suitable for meeting the needs of those with disabilities and their carers		
Improve access to housing for those with disabilities	Develop a register of adapted social rented housing categorised for mobility	Dwellings classified for mobility when let	Brighton & Hove City Council
Improve access to housing for those with wheelchairs	All new accessible homes for rent advertised 'off plan' to those in need. New property 'built' around the needs of person	31 households successfully housed in new build properties	Brighton & Hove City Council
Achieve best use of all adapted social housing stock through matching households with stock	All households on Housing Register assessed for mobility needs	Achieved. All households assessed for mobility needs and all properties advertised by mobility grouping	Brighton & Hove City Council

Strategic Action	Target	Current Position	Lead Partner
Provision for storage and recycling of adaptations	Identify and set up storage for equipment to enable re-cycling	Review of equipment storage in progress	Brighton & Hove City Council
Review adaptations and disabled facilities grants	Complete adaptations review and improve speed of adaptations	Adaptations review in progress	Brighton & Hove City Council
Improved access to temporary accommodation	Increased supply of suitable temporary accommodation for those with disabilities	Developing accessible emergency accommodation for clients with physical disabilities	Brighton & Hove City Council
Build relationships with landlords to identify adapted and adaptable properties in the private sector	Improved supply and advertising of accessible homes in the private rented sector	Ongoing	Brighton & Hove City Council
Goal 3	Maximise support and assistance to help older people repair and improve their homes		
Help older people in the private sector to live in decent quality homes	Reduction in level of older people in non-decent housing	Revised Housing Renewal Assistance Policy launched	Brighton & Hove City Council
Improve access to equity release, low cost loans, grants	Take up of funding options by older people to improve and maintain their homes	Marketing strategy in progress in partnership with South Coast Money Line	Brighton & Hove City Council
Reduce Fuel poverty amongst older people and carers	Maximise take up of Warm Front, Brighton & Hove Warm-Homes and Council energy efficiency grants	2008/09 saw home energy efficiency grants to 663 private sector households (worth more than £1.3 million) aimed at older people and/or those on low incomes	Brighton & Hove City Council
Promote awareness of approved contractor schemes	Increased knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trading Standards Buy with Confidence Scheme Home Improvement Agency Age Concern Help at home scheme 	Buy with Confidence has circa 70 local and 2,300 regional members. Seeking other media to increase awareness of all schemes	Brighton & Hove City Council Older People's Housing & Support Working Group

Strategy Statement: Disabilities

Brighton & Hove is recognised for having higher levels of physical disability in its general population than the national average. Housing problems are compounded by much of the city being hilly, preventing full wheelchair accessibility. Many homes were built in the 19th century and subsequently converted into flats, often with small rooms and narrow stairways, making accessibility and adaptation difficult.

Brighton & Hove City Council and our partners are forerunners in adopting policies and working practices that support the needs of people who have a physical disability and their carers.

In 2001 the city council adopted the **Lifetime Homes Standard** to make sure that all new housing built in Brighton & Hove is accessible and adaptable to changing household needs. The government has stated that it would like the standard adopted nationally by 2013 - more than ten years after Brighton & Hove adopted it. We are also ensuring that 10% of all new affordable homes are built to the authority's new wheelchair standard **Accessible Housing & Lifetime Homes**, adopted in March 2008, which sets standards higher than national requirements. All new affordable housing that meets the wheelchair standard is advertised before it is built in order to make sure that the features installed are designed around the specific needs of the future occupants.

To help make sure the urban environment around new homes is also accessible, the **Code for Sustainable Homes** includes a number of criteria such as the requirement for a level or gently sloping approach to the Lifetime Home and the distance from the car parking space to be kept to a minimum.

Choice Based Lettings has evolved since its conception and now incorporates a **mobility rating** that indicates whether an available property is suitable for a wheelchair user or someone with limited mobility. To make sure the best use is made of our housing stock, we are developing an **Accessible Housing Register** and we have an officer who is working with people wanting to downsize or release an adapted home they no longer need. Work is also underway to increase the supply of temporary accommodation suitable for those with a disability.

Each year we spend almost £2m on **adaptations** and **Disabled Facilities Grants** to improve the accessibility of people's homes across the public and private sectors, helping around 500 households.

5 Strategic Objective 2: Make sure older people are supported to sustain their independence as members of the wider community

5.1 Healthy Lives

A common theme of consultation with many older people is their fundamental desire to remain independent in their own homes.

Our strategic goals to help sustain independence are to:

- Goal 4 Support the provision of a greater range of support services to older people in their own homes
- Goal 5 Create safe and accessible communities that meet the needs of older people
- Goal 6 Develop the role of extra care and sheltered housing to make sure it is inclusive and part of the wider community
- Goal 7 Work closely with health and other service providers to provide the necessary housing and support that will minimise or prevent hospital or residential care admissions and dependency

Actions to make sure older people are supported to sustain their independence as members of the wider community will contribute to the following National Indicators for Local Authority Partnerships:

- NI 1: Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- NI 21: Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
- NI 124: People with a long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition
- NI 125: Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation / intermediate care
- NI 131: Delayed transfers of care from hospitals
- NI 142: Vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living
- NI 160: Local Authority tenants' satisfaction with landlord services

5.2 Strategic Goal 4: Support the provision of a greater range of support services to older people in their own homes

To provide effective support we must recognise that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to service provision does not really fit anyone. Many older people have complex support needs arising from a multitude of issues, such as a disability or mental health problem. All of these issues can affect someone's housing and support needs.

Our services need to be flexible and responsive enough to cater for a wide range of needs:

- Nationally 1.8 million pensioners live in poverty.
- More than 14,000 older people living in the city suffer from a recognised mental health problem.
- In an audit of older homeless people living in supported accommodation, it was identified that over 50% of participants had 5 or more support needs.
- Evidence shows that older people are more likely to misuse alcohol rather than other substances, with increases being seen in the number of people over 65 drinking more than recommended levels.
- Some BME elder groups are more likely to experience forms of deprivation, poverty and poor health.
- Older LGBT people have reported that they sometimes experience discrimination, particularly in communal accommodation.

Provision of the right type of support at the right time is crucial in preventing people from having to move to residential care. Increasingly we want to see a move to more self-directed support, recognising that older people themselves are likely to know best what services they need to help them in their everyday life. To sustain people in their own homes we need to work with older people and their carers to identify and tailor support around their individual and possibly complex needs.

We need to improve access to the wide range of support available, which can be confusing for professionals as well as those in need of the services. Adult Social Care services have, from 6 May 2008, begun a three year personalisation agenda which started with the launch of a single access point for all social care services. As the transformation agenda progresses housing related support will be an important aspect of the wider programme.

Nationally and locally, Adult Social Care services are becoming more personalised. Personal budgets are being phased in that give those eligible for support more choice on the types of services they receive and who they are received from. The changes implemented so far have given older people the choice to receive direct payments, enabling them to purchase alternative services to traditional day care centres, such as support to visit friends, attend church and retain important social networks. This is making a major difference to older people's quality of life because they are making choices and being involved in activities that they want to enjoy rather than having generic services.

Advances in medication and telecare are enabling many more older people remain at home in a safe environment and we need to make sure we keep adapting and keeping pace with this ever changing medium.

The voluntary sector plays an important role in the lives of many older people and carers living in the city; providing a whole range of support services, information, advice and advocacy. The services include personal care and practical help - shopping, gardening, transport, meals, befriending, nail cutting, counselling, to more informative support such as monitoring services, lay work, providing information on benefits and services etc. It is important that we work with the voluntary sector to achieve the goals set out in this strategy.

Case Study: Neighbourhood Care Scheme

In July 2009 the Neighbourhood Care Scheme was a finalist in the National NHS Health and Social Care Awards in the Mental Health and Wellbeing category. The National NHS Health and Social Care Awards highlight and celebrate innovation and excellence across health and social care and recognise and encourage working together across organisations and professions, with service users and local populations. The Neighbourhood Care Scheme volunteers directly support 208 people and during 2008/09 has been recruiting, on average, a new volunteer every four days; resulting in a 50% increase in the provision of support.

5.3 Strategic Goal 5: Create safe and accessible communities that meet the needs of older people

If older people are to be truly independent, then their local community must also be an accessible and welcoming environment. The design and layout of a community is just as important as the provision of services and sense of community. If we fail in this, older people are at risk of becoming isolated in their own homes.

We want to help create vibrant communities that have a range of services, with opportunities for older people to socialise and interact with each other and the wider population, also helping to develop a mutual respect and understanding amongst different community groups.

For a community to be fully inclusive, it is important that all residents are able to genuinely and actively participate in decision making, particularly over issues such as community safety or area regeneration initiatives.

Consultation identifies that older people are concerned about becoming more isolated as they age. To make sure older people are able to maintain social and support networks, we need to make sure they are able to access good quality affordable transport when needed.

Case Study: EasyLink Community Transport

EasyLink have a fleet of 16 minibuses, most of them wheelchair accessible, that can seat up to 16 people. It is a door-to-door transport service for people who have difficulties in getting to the bus stop or on and off buses and is run for Brighton & Hove City Council by Community Transport. Easylink buses serve all parts of Brighton and Hove and provide a service to and from superstores, the city centre and local shops. These are also available for hire, with a driver, at a reasonable price to any community group/club. Easylink buses all have a passenger lift or low level floor so they are ideal for people who cannot manage steps or who travel in a wheelchair. Age Concern have recently bought their own minibus which they are making available to

Community Transport when not in use by them.



We also need to make sure that those working in local communities are able to recognise when residents are in need of additional support and are able to make referrals to the appropriate services.

The 2020 Community Strategy, the Local Transport Plan and a new Accessibility Plan reflect the need for good public transport and safe and accessible neighbourhoods. The importance of a good local public transport system was highlighted through consultation. We need to work with our colleagues in Transport, Planning and Policy to highlight the needs of older people and their carers and bring forward services that will help meet those needs.

5.4 Strategic Goal 6: Develop the role of extra care and sheltered housing to make sure it is inclusive and part of the wider community

Extra Care Housing is similar to sheltered housing but also provides 24 hour in-house care services. Extra care housing and some sheltered housing have a range of services provided at the scheme that may also be available to the local community, such as a café, chiropody, hairdresser, GP surgery, the hire of rooms and facilities for developing community events.

There is also the potential for sheltered housing tenants to benefit from the wider community involvement seen with extra care housing. Sheltered housing scheme residents could choose to have a more active role amongst the local older population by serving as a focus for activities and events in their area to help overcome isolation and also to support local community spirit.

Foremost, we must remember that these housing schemes are people's homes and we need to make sure that any changes have a positive impact on residents. It is vitally important that any plans are developed in partnership with the schemes' residents – perhaps they may want to champion and lead on their own community initiatives. It helps where there is clear separation between residential and communal facilities to make sure that residents continue to feel safe and secure, and to maintain privacy.

A number of sheltered housing schemes across the city already successfully provide activities in their common areas that are open not only to tenants living in the scheme but also to older people living in the local community and to tenants from other sheltered housing schemes.

Although we would like to promote the role of sheltered housing schemes in providing a resource to older people living in the local community we are aware that in some circumstances this may not be appropriate, particularly when communal facilities are too small or not suitable. However, church halls, community centres and other locations may provide a suitable alternative.

Case Study: Brighton & Hove City Council Sheltered Housing Policy

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mary Mears has set up a Chairman's Tenant Focus Group to look at the role and future of sheltered housing. Representatives from the Sheltered Housing Action Group, the High Rise Action Group and the Area Panels are working with council officers to review the council's sheltered housing services and develop a Sheltered Housing Policy.

The profile of older people living in Brighton & Hove has changed since the 2001 Census and will continue to change into the future.

The mid-2006 population estimates indicate a growth in the older people from black and minority ethnic communities and although there is little information on older LGBT people we know from research that there is a significant number who are often very vulnerable but fearful of engaging with state providers

Sheltered, extra care and other specialist housing provides much needed services and support to vulnerable older people. We need to make sure that this type of housing is welcoming to all people irrespective of race, gender, religion & belief, sexual orientation or disability and it is important that as the provision of older people's housing evolves, the needs of all communities are considered.

Case Study: GEMS – Gay Elderly Men's Society

For many years GEMS has run a comprehensive programme bringing older gay people out of isolation. Activities include befriending, home help, shopping help, advice and support on housing, etc. GEMS meets on a monthly basis and has a wide ranging social programme for members, their partners and friends including theatre visits, outings, movie and quiz evenings, Pride events and much more.

5.5 Strategic Goal 7: Work closely with health and other service providers to provide the necessary housing and support that will minimise or prevent hospital or residential care admissions and dependency

The interim findings of the Department of Health funded Partnerships for Older People Projects have highlighted the success of partnerships between local authorities, health and third sector partners (voluntary, community and independent organisations) in improving the health, independence and inclusion of older people.

In 2004 Brighton & Hove was designated as a 'Healthy City' by the World Health Organization (WHO), acknowledging the city's strong commitment to reduce health inequalities and improve health for everyone.

Healthy Ageing is a priority within the 2020 Community Strategy. It outlines the commitment of the Local Strategic Partnership to improve the quality of life and wellbeing for older people living in the city. The Healthy City Partnership is the group which takes forward the Healthy City work of the 2020 Community Strategy. The partnership steers action to improve health for everyone within the city and brings together representatives from the council, neighbourhoods, community and voluntary, health, business and academic sectors.

Our Adult Social Care services are committed to providing preventative interventions and rehabilitation, targeting people living in the community who require assistance to continue to live there. A new reablement programme is being aimed at those who currently receive higher levels of support, to help them develop their strengths and skills to reduce dependence and increase independence.

The success of partnership working can be seen through the provision of transitional care beds in New Larchwood, the extra care housing scheme in Coldean, Knoll House in Hove and Craven Vale Resource Centre in East Brighton.

These transitional care beds have reduced delayed discharge from hospital and prevented unnecessary admission to hospital or long stay care. The resources provide service users with the opportunity to gain the skills and confidence to return to living independently in their local community.

We need to expand joint working between the council, health and the third sector to develop services that are able to help people before the onset of a crisis to prevent the loss of independence. To help with this we need to identify training needs and develop clear ways of sharing information alongside seeking opportunities to extend or remodel services to meet older people's changing needs.

Case Study: Extra Care Housing in Kemp Town

Patching Lodge is the second extra care housing scheme to be developed through a partnership between the council and Hanover Housing Association. This scheme has seventy-six flats; 58 one-bed flats and 18 two-bed flats. The flats are mixed tenure; 26 leasehold, 10 shared ownership and 40 rental.

In addition to the extra care flats, several facilities are provided on the ground floor for use by the wider community of older people. These include amenities such as a hairdresser, a chiropodist, a coffee bar and a shop. Also incorporated in the building is a CareLink office to receive calls from older people using alarm equipment.

Green issues have been given keen consideration and a combined heat and power plant has been incorporated, which serves not only this new building, but also 148 flats in two adjacent buildings.



Action Plan Summary: Strategic Objective 2: Make sure older people are supported to sustain their independence as members of the wider community

Strategic Action	Target	Current Position	Lead Partner
Goal 4	Support the provision of a greater range of support services to older people in their own homes		
Provide a greater range of floating support service to older people across all sectors	Self directed support and reablement links housing and wider care needs with support, based on need not tenure	Supporting People older people's service pilots being undertaken	Brighton & Hove City Council
Make sure assessments for care and support; consider all wellbeing factors including carer's needs	Maximised use of Single Assessment Process Provide a 'one stop' comprehensive assessment	SAP rollout ongoing across services and Adult Social Care Single Access Point launched	Brighton & Hove City Council
Support the role of families	Improved support to carers	Strategy for Carers in development	Brighton & Hove City Council
Wider access to telecare to improve safety, security and independence	Enhanced role of CareLink including new facilities in Patching Lodge	Lead telecare officer presenting to groups and training professionals	Brighton & Hove City Council
Goal 5	Create safe and accessible communities that meet the needs of older people		
Reduce isolation of older people and make sure they access the services they need	Community services able to identify isolated older people across all tenures and alert support agencies	Discussions around joint local authority /PCT research to identify and assess those not engaging	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group
Make sure older people feel safe in their home and about their local community	Older people reflected in the Community Safety Strategy	Community Safety Scrutiny in progress	Brighton & Hove City Council
Ensuring an accessible urban environment	Needs of older people, particularly those with disabilities, are reflected in the Local Development Framework	Local Development Framework consultation Summer 2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
Goal 6	Develop the role of extra care and sheltered housing to make sure it is inclusive and part of the wider community		
Develop a Sheltered Housing Policy	Policy implemented	Promotion of Service Improvement Plan	Brighton & Hove City Council

Strategic Action	Target	Current Position	Lead Partner
Use existing housing schemes or community centres as a focal point for services to the wider community	Increased range of services in the community using sheltered and extra care housing and community centres as a community hub	Community / Health services in New Larchwood and planned for Patching Lodge and Vernon Gardens	Brighton & Hove City Council NHS Brighton & Hove
Residents involved in decisions affecting their schemes	Shared decision making involving resident groups	Sheltered Housing Action Group, Sheltered Housing Focus Group, Supporting People User Group	Brighton & Hove City Council / Registered Social Landlords / Sheltered Housing Action Group / Tenant Representatives
Goal 7	Work closely with health and other service providers to provide the necessary housing and support that will minimise or prevent hospital or residential care admissions and dependency		
Offer an alternative to residential care and prevent avoidable admissions to hospital	Make sure sheltered housing is allocated appropriately, enabling best use of provision and right mix of tenants Maximise opportunities for transitional beds in extra care and sheltered housing	Sheltered housing integrated assessment panel with Social Care, Health and Housing set up 33 transitional beds across the city	Brighton & Hove City Council
Provide high quality home care services to older people across all housing sectors	Prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and minimise delayed discharges	Adult Social Care personalisation programme being rolled out	Brighton & Hove City Council
Train community services to identify those 'at risk'	Increased referrals to appropriate services and reduced hospital admissions	Adult Social Care personalisation programme being rolled out	Brighton & Hove City Council
Clear protocols between agencies when older people are at risk of homelessness	Provide specialist support to older people through Single Assessment Process between Housing, Social Care and Health	Older Person's Specialist in post and analysis of older people's needs in progress	Brighton & Hove City Council
Prevention clinics in the community	Maximise opportunities to provide additional clinics locally	Clinics held at various locations across the city	Brighton & Hove City Council / NHS Brighton & Hove

Strategy Statement: Equalities and Inclusion

Growing old should be a positive experience however, inequalities that often arise as people age can have a profound impact on the quality of people's lives. We must Make sure that all the city's residents are offered support appropriate to their needs so that they are enabled to be full and active members of the community.

In its basic form, equality is about ensuring that as a local authority, service provider and employer we comply with the various strands of equalities legislation and our duties around race, disability, gender and age. However, we have a professional and moral obligation to go much further to include the other key equalities strands of religion/belief and sexual orientation.

Equalities and inclusion issues are often linked to deprivation. We need to remove the barriers to equality and tackle discrimination but we must also address deprivation to help bring about equity and a city of opportunity for all.

Three strategies are being developed to complement the ***Housing Strategy 2009-2014: healthy homes, healthy lives, healthy city*** to focus on the particular needs and concerns of those communities:

- Older People's Housing Strategy
- Black & Minority Ethnic People's Housing Strategy
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans People's Housing Strategy

As well as recognising the particular needs of these communities we must also recognise and plan for the needs of all the other communities living in the city. Policy statements within this strategy and the other linked strategies highlight the particular needs of carers and those with physical disabilities.

Travellers

Travelling communities can often be overlooked in strategy and service development. Older people living in the travelling communities are more likely to suffer ill health at a younger age and have a higher mortality rate than non-transitional older people. We must make sure that our services are accessible and welcoming to all those in need. The council has recently completed consultation on its new ***Traveller Strategy***.

6 Strategic Objective 3: Make sure older people are able to access services and become involved in service development and decisions which affect them

6.1 Engaging Older People

For services to be truly responsive to the needs of local communities and the people they serve, residents, service users and stakeholders must be fully involved in service monitoring, review and scrutiny. Similarly, communities and stakeholders must be able to access appropriate information on the range of support and other services provided to allow them to effectively engage.

Our strategic goals to help engage older people are to:

- Goal 8 Continue to work with the Older People's Housing & Support Working Group to deliver services that have a positive impact on the lives of older people
- Goal 9 Develop systems to monitor service use, outcomes, satisfaction and complaints to identify gaps to help shape service development and make sure services are welcoming and inclusive
- Goal 10 Provide easily accessible and understandable information and advice regarding housing and services which are available to the city's older people, families and carers

Actions to improve access housing services will contribute to the following National Indicators for Local Authority Partnerships:

- N1 2: Percent of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood
- N1 4: Percent of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
- N1 7: Environment for a thriving third sector
- N1 139: People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently

6.2 Strategic Goal 8: Continue to work with the Older People's Housing & Support Working Group to deliver services that have a positive impact on the lives of older people

Government research has highlighted that one of the main concerns and aspirations of older people is to be consulted on issues which affect their lives.

In 2007, the Older People's Housing & Support Working Group was set up to assist in the development of this strategy. The group has a wide range of representatives including the local authority, Primary Care Trust, Community and Voluntary Sector, older people and carers. We want to work with the group to expand its role so that it can effectively monitor and scrutinise implementation of the strategy.

Case Study: Brighton & Hove Older People's Council

The Brighton & Hove Older People's Council (OPC) was established in 2003 and is an independent group of people aged over 60 elected by older people living in the city. The OPC works to make sure that all older people in the city are treated with respect and dignity and have access to services, support and the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life. A representative from the Older People's Council sits on the Older People's Housing & Support Working Group to make sure that the strategy is championed at the highest level.

To make sure we continue to provide and improve services that have a positive impact on older people's lives we need to continue to work pro-actively with groups within the city that actively represent and support the needs and aspirations of older people. Age Concern Brighton, Hove and Portslade is playing a vital role in helping the council come together with community and voluntary sector groups that are providing much needed care and support to older people in the community.

We acknowledge the important role sheltered housing plays in supporting older people living in the city both now and in future, and the council seeks the involvement of tenants in the decisions affecting the future of their sheltered housing through a range of consultation processes, for example the Sheltered Housing Action Group, Sheltered Housing Focus Group and Supporting People User Group.

Case Study: Sheltered Housing Action Group

The Sheltered Housing Action Group works for and represents tenants living in council sheltered accommodation across the city. Its membership is made up of tenant representatives from each sheltered housing scheme. The group is a voice for sheltered housing tenants, promoting tenants' rights, their status and participation in policies. It works with council officers to improve sheltered housing and quality of life for residents, upholding equal opportunities and working for good relations amongst all members of the community.

6.3 Strategic Goal 9: Develop systems to monitor service use, outcomes, satisfaction and complaints to identify gaps and help to shape service development and make sure services are welcoming and inclusive

To enable us to provide services that meet the needs and aspirations of older people both now and in the future, it is important that we monitor how services are being used – such as whether they are reaching the right people, and whether service users are achieving successful outcomes.

In some cases providers of public services also have a legal duty to monitor services and the impact they have on particular communities, to help make sure that services do not discriminate against groups that are often marginalised.

It is paramount that we respect the privacy of service users and it is vital that those involved understand and appreciate how information is to be used. Personal and sensitive information monitored by services about individuals must

be kept secure at all times and anonymous when used for service development and reviewing services.

Although many services have extensive monitoring systems in place, we are aware that there are gaps in the types of information collected. We need to improve the consistency in the information we monitor across services through training and raising awareness, to allow us to fully analyse service delivery and help improve outcomes for older people.

6.4 Strategic Goal 10: Provide easily accessible and understandable information and advice regarding housing and services which are available to the city's older people, families and carers

A main concern highlighted by research and consultation was the importance for older people and their carers of having access to better information to help them make more informed decisions and exercise choice for themselves.

While in general, information and advice is available on almost every subject, in practice accessing the information can be difficult as there is such a wide range of information sources – numerous websites, newsletters, support groups, advice centres, service providers, libraries, community centres, GP surgeries and the media.

To make information easier to access, we also want to look at the potential for creating a single contact point for information and advice that can bring together the combined knowledge and experience of public, provider and third sector agencies.

We also recognise the benefits of the internet in being able to maintain wellbeing – such as by maintaining social networks and accessing advice and information. We want to look at possibilities for increasing the use of computers, the internet and social networking amongst older people.

Strategy Statement: Carers

Carers have a vital role in society, providing invaluable support to partners, children, family and friends, but they can often feel overlooked and unvalued. This is recognized nationally and the government is reviewing the 1999 Carers' Strategy

The 2001 Census reported that nearly 12% of people in Brighton & Hove aged 60 years and over provide unpaid care to family members, neighbours or relatives, with almost a third of these (29%) providing more than 50 hours per week. Although the proportion of older people providing care declines with age, for those providing the care, the number of hours increases with age:

Age	Number of people providing unpaid care			Percentage of carers providing 50 or more hours of care a week		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
60-64	802	1,014	1,816	20%	22%	21%
65-74	1,115	1,455	2,570	24%	27%	26%
75-84	681	709	1,390	40%	39%	40%
85+	129	147	276	59%	43%	50%
All 60+	2,727	3,325	6,052	28%	29%	29%

Support is provided to carers by a wide variety of individuals, groups and organisations within statutory, community and voluntary services. These include the local council and health trusts, the Carers Centre (a member of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers), Alzheimer's Society, aMaze and Crossroads.

Adult Social Care services carry out carer's assessments that can result in support being provided such as in helping with the personal care of the person being cared for, to allow the carer to take short respite breaks from caring, to assist with home adaptations or to provide emotional support. The council may also be able to provide grants or loans for adaptations to homes or be able to help with accessing specialist equipment.

A number of sheltered housing schemes and our new extra care sheltered schemes provide some 2-bedroom flats to give greater flexibility for people with a disability to have a carer living with them or to enable the partners of people with a disability needing specialist support to have the extra space of an additional bedroom.

Action Plan Summary: Strategic Objective 3: Make sure older people are able to access services and become involved in service development and decisions which affect them

Strategic Action	Target	Current Position	Lead Partner
Goal 8	Continue to work with the Older People's Housing & Support Working Group to deliver services that have a positive impact on the lives of older people		
Facilitate an Older People's Housing & Support Working Group	Service review and development reflects the needs and aspirations of older people	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group meeting regularly	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group
Work with Older People's Council	Make sure older people's needs and services are effectively prioritised	Regular reports to the Older People's Council	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group
Work with Local Strategic Partnership & Local Area Agreement	Older people's needs appropriately reflected in the Community Strategy	Community Strategy refresh in progress	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group
Goal 9	Develop systems to monitor service use, outcomes, satisfaction and complaints to identify gaps and help to share service development and make sure services are welcoming and inclusive		
Develop and embed common monitoring framework for service provision	Have a common monitoring framework for services	Review of revised Supporting People Contract Monitoring & Service Framework completed	Brighton & Hove City Council
Make sure monitoring covers all groups in need	Monitor our services by age, gender, faith, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability	All Supporting People services monitored and reported on a regular basis	Brighton & Hove City Council
Training for staff in the need for effective monitoring	Improved levels of monitoring across services	Training and guidance has been provided to Supporting People providers	Brighton & Hove City Council
Review monitoring reports with stakeholders to help improve service delivery	Improved outcomes for service users	Action Plans agreed with providers based on outcomes of contract monitoring and service review Service users are interviewed as part of service reviews and feedback informs action plans	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group

Strategic Action	Target	Current Position	Lead Partner
Goal 10	Provide easily accessible and understandable information and advice regarding housing and service which are available to the city's older people, families and carers		
Develop services that are respectful, accepting and inclusive	Services accessed by those of different cultures, faiths, sexualities, disabilities etc	Supporting People funded services required to achieve or work towards meeting Level B on the Quality Assessment Framework on Fair Access, Inclusion & Diversity	Brighton & Hove City Council
Develop a single accessible portal for all information relating to older peoples housing and support needs	Combined internet, telephone, public portal and other media	Single Portal Project Group meeting to develop website and ASC Single Access Point launched	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group
Improve access to information on housing options, rights and social support networks	Improved range of access through different media including 'community hubs' based at housing schemes, Internet, radio, specialist publications for older people and carers	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group to scope effective media and progress	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group
Make sure information is accessible and inclusive	Services clearly promote access and inclusion to the whole community Information accessible in variety of formats targeted at need	Supporting People services are required to achieve or work towards meeting level B standards for Quality Assessment Framework on Fair Access, Inclusion & Diversity Supporting People Equalities & Inclusion Action Plan includes targets to make sure information is accessible and communicated clearly	Older People's Housing & Support Working Group

Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment Summary

The strategy has been developed through a staged process that has enabled us to engage with service users, services providers and the wider community and take into account their views, concerns and aspirations. To make sure that the Older People's Housing Strategy is truly inclusive we carried out an Equalities Impact Assessment to identify the positive and negative impacts our strategic objectives and goals will have on service users, staff and the community. These findings have helped shape our objectives and goals to help mitigate potential negative impacts.

The strategy in itself is aimed at a section of the community that, as a whole, may suffer discrimination due to age; but it is also a group that can easily suffer other forms of discrimination such as in relation to disability, mental health or poverty. There is a comparatively small black and minority ethnic older population that can experience discrimination, isolation and exclusion and older lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities that have also suffered discrimination or had life experiences where they may have had to hide their sexual identities.

There were no fundamental negative impacts identified that directly result from the strategy, a reflection of how the strategy has been developed in response to the overwhelming fundamental disadvantage faced by many older people. Other impacts, such as reaching those who are less likely to engage with services, funding constraints and the changing the nature of support provision will be addressed as respective services are developed and reviewed.

This Equality Impact Assessment was reviewed and approved by the Older People's Housing & Support Working Group. The working group will also review and approve future impact assessments carried out in relation to the actions arising from this strategy.

Appendix 2: Older People's Housing & Support Working Group

This group was set up as part of the housing strategy development process to make sure that representatives or service users, service providers and key communities of interest had an opportunity to help shape the development of the housing strategy. The role of the group will continue following publication of the strategy as it takes on a monitoring and scrutiny role, helping to make sure that partnerships work together in addressing the changing needs of older people.

Stakeholder & Community Champions

- Jim Baker (Chair) Age Concern, Brighton, Hove & Portslade
- Peter Huntbach (VC) Sheltered Housing Providers Representative
- Colin Carden Brighton & Hove Older People's Council
- Louis Loizou Sheltered Housing Action Group
- Peter Lloyd Emeritus Professor, Sussex Gerontology Network
- Betty Davis 60+ Action Group
- Sheila Killick Carers Centre
- Peter Otto GEMS (Gay Elderly Men's Society)
- Michael Mansi Sudanese & Arabic Speaking Elderly Association
- Joan Moorhouse Pensioners' Forum
- Sean de Podesta Brighton & Hove Neighbourhood Care Scheme
- Gill Peckham Anchor Trust

NHS Brighton & Hove

- Charlotte Marples Older People & Mental Health Commissioner
- Angela Flood International Development Manager
- Yolande Watson Health Promotion Specialist

Brighton & Hove City Council

- Andy Staniford Housing Strategy Manager
- Sue Garner-Ford Housing Strategy & Performance Officer
- Narinder Sundar Supporting People Manager
- Alex Dickie Housing Adaptations Technical Team Leader
- Angela Muskett Older People's Community Assessment Team
- Lee Cushin Housing Options Older People's Specialist Officer
- Anne Hagan General Manager, Provider Services
- Guy Montague-Smith Access Point Manager

Our thanks go also to Charles Penrose, former Chair of the Sheltered Housing Action Group, Carolyn Donovan, representing MIND in Brighton & Hove, both founder members of the group who made many valuable contributions to the strategy and to Carolyn Syverson and David Brindley, Health Promotion Specialists, Jacqui London, former Adult Social Care Access Point Manager, and James Crane and Stephen Wraige from Housing Options who have all been at some time members of the group during the development of this strategy.

Older People's Housing & Support Working Group: Stakeholder & Community Champions

- **Age Concern, Brighton, Hove & Portslade**
Age Concern Brighton, Hove Portslade is an important partner and champion for older people living in the city, providing services that are client based and client driven. It works directly with older people and is committed to raising public awareness and improving the lives of older people. The organisation is multifaceted covering a range of initiatives, activities, services and research projects, often working in partnership with other organisations, and provides people with the opportunity to volunteer to help make a difference to the lives of older people. In January 2010 Age Concern England and Help the Aged formally became one organisation
- **Brighton & Hove Older People's Council**
Established in 2003, the Older People's Council (OPC) role is to make sure that older people in Brighton & Hove are treated with respect and dignity, that they receive the services and support they need and have access to opportunities to lead a fulfilling life. The membership of OPC is made up of nine older people who are elected by older people living in the city. The members of the OPC work together to help create a city where; the contribution of all older people is acknowledged and valued, the needs of older people are recognised and met and older people are involved in the making of decisions that affect their daily lives and the communities in which they live.

The OPC is committed to listening to older people in the city, acting on their concerns and keeping them informed of what they do, monitoring the city council, local health trusts and other providers of goods and services ensuring that they take full account of the needs of older people and promoting their human and civil rights.

- **Sheltered Housing Action Group**

The Sheltered Housing Action Group (SHAG) works for and represents tenants living in council sheltered accommodation across the city. Its membership is made up of tenant representatives from each sheltered housing scheme. SHAG aims to:

- promote the exercise of tenants' rights and the maintenance and improvement of their housing conditions, amenities and environment;
- work with council officers to improve the sheltered housing schemes across the city and the quality of life of residents
- provide a valued and influential voice for sheltered housing tenants to promote their status as older people and enable their participation in the policies that affect them
- uphold equal opportunities and work for good relations amongst all members of the community.

- **Sussex Gerontology Network – The Sheltered Housing Group**

The Sheltered Housing Group of the Sussex Gerontology Network was founded in 1991 and is managed by a steering committee which includes residents, managers and others involved in sheltered housing. Amongst other work, the group holds twice yearly workshops, bringing together residents, scheme and line managers to discuss common issues. Many such issues have been raised before they became matters of more public debate. These workshops are apparently unique in bringing together residents and management; they have been welcomed by scheme managers who value meeting peers from organisations other than their own.

- **60+ Action Group**

60+ Action Group is a project which campaigns for appropriate services for older people within Brighton and Hove. The Group works particularly around housing, health, transport, community safety and environmental issues. 60+ Action holds monthly and bi-monthly meetings in five neighbourhoods across the city and also supports older people to take part in consultations on service provision.

- **Carers Centre**

The Carers Centre for Brighton & Hove is a local charity which exists to support anyone caring for a partner, relative or friend who needs help because of any illness or disability. The Carers Centre was established in 1988 as a drop in centre in Hove. Since then the Centre has expanded to cover Brighton & Hove. It is run by a Management Committee of local volunteers and is independent from the local council and NHS services. The Carers Centre is a member of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, a national network of carers centres across the country. This allows the Centre to network with other organisations, share good practice and have access to up to date information about national policy.

- **GEMS (Gay Elderly Men's Society)**

GEMS has cared for older gay men for over 10 years and has a comprehensive programme to take older gay men out of isolation. The society helps with befriending, home help, escorting people to GPs and dentists etc, shopping help, advice and support on housing matters. It also provides a wide ranging social programme for members and their partners and friends including regular monthly meetings held in a safe environment with refreshments provided, theatre visits, outings into the countryside to places of historic interest, movie evenings, quiz evenings in conjunction with sheltered housing, Brighton & Hove Pride events etc. GEMS has representatives on several committees including Sheltered Housing with Brighton Hove City Council, Pensioners' Forum and Older People's Service with Brighton Hove City Council.

- **Sudanese & Arabic Speaking Elderly Association**

The Sudanese & Arabic Speaking Elderly Association helps elders from the Sudanese community, aged over 50 years, irrespective of racial, religious, political and cultural differences. The Association's aim is to relieve need, hardship and distress and it organises meetings and outings, including a regular meeting twice a month.

- **Pensioners' Forum**

The Pensioners' Forum aim is to serve as an umbrella organisation to make sure that older people's views from small pensioner organisations are represented to the statutory agencies more efficiently. The Forum is made up of individual and group members, campaigning on issues of concern to older people and confronting age discrimination. It provides information and opportunities for older people to become involved in social, cultural and educational activities. It works to make sure that providers of services listen to the views of older people. The Forum publishes a quarterly magazine 'The Pensioner'.

- **Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership**

Black & Minority Ethnic Community Partnership's (BMECP) ultimate goal is to be the champions of the black and minority ethnic community in Brighton & Hove.

The BMECP's mission is to 'facilitate the development of a strong and sustainable black and minority ethnic voluntary and community sector by creating an effective and unified voice, addressing the causes of social exclusion and promoting a cohesive community.'

The activities of the BMECP include: resource centre development (developing a resource centre to cater primarily but not exclusively for the needs of black and minority ethnic (BME) people); development and capacity building (supporting and developing the capacity of groups to identify and meet their needs and facilitating and researching into the needs of

groups, organisations and individuals), training for groups and organisations (fundraising, governance, representation, train the trainer); helping people into employment (access to training, access to one to one support, access to job vacancies); access to services (helping groups and individuals to access appropriate and culturally appropriate services); supporting other agencies and service providers (providing support, information and guidance to other service providers on BME specific issues and service provision, including participation relating to Race Equality Schemes).

- **Brighton & Hove Neighbourhood Care Scheme**

The Brighton & Hove Neighbourhood Care Scheme is a good neighbour scheme, committed to the values of good neighbourliness. It operates in local communities around the city and supports people aged 60 or over who live at home and may be at risk of social isolation, adults with a physical or sensory disability aged under 60 and carers. It does this by recruiting local volunteers to support them in a variety of ways; social visiting/befriending, accompanying out (to the shops, to the doctors, for pleasure), reading aloud, form filling, arts and crafts, dog walking, simple DIY, painting and decorating, shopping, assistance with wheelchairs, gardening, playing games, one-off tasks, falls prevention advice. The scheme operates in nine neighbourhoods of Brighton & Hove, embracing a population of around 100,000 people.

Appendix 3: Glossary of Terms

- **Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)**

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) has been used to refer to all those who do not classify themselves as White British. BME includes people who classify themselves as being Irish, Other White (for example European), Caribbean, African, Asian, Chinese and other groups.

- **Brighton & Hove, East Sussex Together Partnership (BEST)**

The Partnership, led by Brighton & Hove City Council brings together the local authorities of Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne, Hastings, Wealden, Lewes and Rother. The partnership received the largest allocation of funds in the region from the South East England Regional Housing Board to tackle some of the region's worst housing conditions.

- **Brighton & Hove Housing Partnership**

Brighton & Hove Housing Partnership (BHHP) is a partnership of preferred Registered Social Landlords (RSL), the City Council and the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) working together to deliver the affordable housing programme in the City.

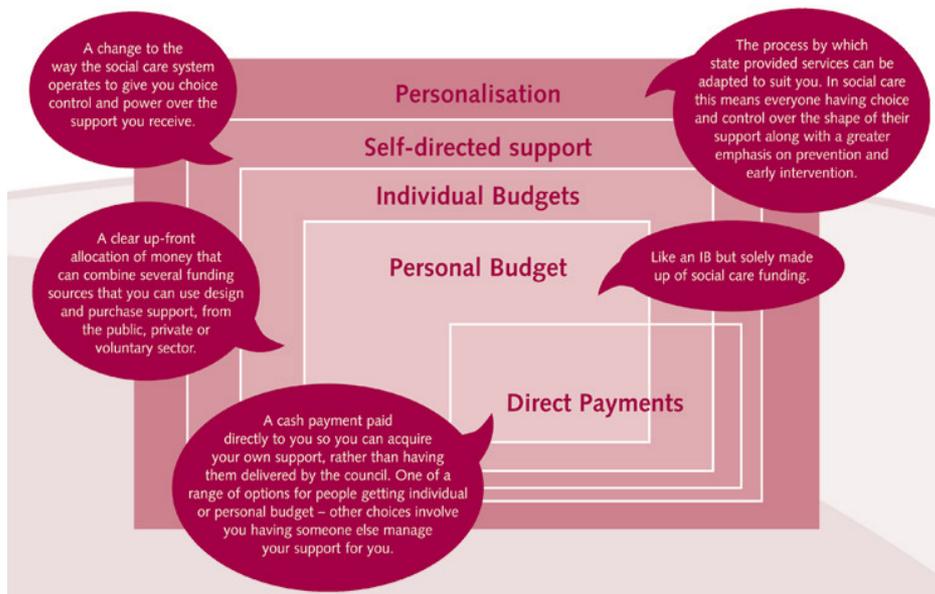
The BHHP is accountable to the 2020 Community Partnership and each member is jointly accountable to each other for delivering the agreed actions.

- **City Inclusion Partnership**

The City Inclusion Partnership oversees and leads the strategic direction of equalities and diversity work across the city, to support statutory agencies to meet their duties within the different equality schemes. The Partnership sits under the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) as one of the 'family of partnerships' and links to the existing groups focusing on each of the equality strands.

- **Extra Care Sheltered Housing**
 Extra care sheltered housing is designed for more frail and less independent older people and comes in many built forms, including blocks of flats, bungalow estates and retirement villages that can be rented, owned or part owned/part rented. In addition to service found in sheltered housing, extra care sheltered housing provides varying levels of on-site 24-hour personalised care and support and has extra facilities like a restaurant or dining room, health and fitness facilities, hobby rooms and computer rooms. The communal facilities in many extra care sheltered schemes are open to the local community.
- **Floating Support**
 This is support that is provided to people by visiting them in their own homes irrespective of the type of housing they are in.
- **Local Area Agreement (LAA)**
 This is an agreement that sets out the priorities and targets for a local area agreed between government, the local authority and other partners through the **Local Strategic Partnership**.
- **Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)**
 This is a single body that brings together at a local level the public, private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that services work together to deliver on local priorities.
- **Partnerships for Older People Projects (POPP)**
 POPP is a Department of Health led initiative providing funding to council-based partnerships to set up innovative pilot projects to provide person-centred and integrated care for older people and to encourage investment in preventative approaches which promote health, well being and independence for older people.
- **Personalisation (cross reference Self Directed Support)**
 Personalisation is the transformation of the social care system developed locally to put people at the centre to achieve specific outcomes. This work includes quality provision that gives

dignity, choice and control; universal information, advice and advocacy; single and self assessment; self directed support including personal budgets and direct payments; and strengthening user and carers' 'voice'.



- **Regional Housing Board**

Regional Housing Boards (RHBs) were established in February 2003 to make sure that housing policies would be better integrated with the regional spatial, transport, economic and sustainable development strategies and to make sure delivery of the policies set out in the Sustainable Communities Plan. The functions of the RHBs have now been devolved to Regional Assemblies.

- **Self Directed Support (cross reference Personalisation)**

This puts the individual at the centre of support assessment, planning and deciding the services they would like to receive. This could include a personal budget or direct payments and a wider range of choice about the types of support they receive.

Personal budgets will enable people who are eligible for services to receive them through a more flexible approach, putting them in control. People are allocated a personal

budget, based on their needs that will enable them to purchase services which relate directly to those agreed needs.

Direct Payments are a scaled-down version of 'self directed support' where cash payments are given to people assessed as eligible for social services support. This gives more flexibility in how services are delivered. The payments enable people to buy the services they have been assessed as needing, giving them greater choice and control over their lives, and enabling them to make their own decisions about how their care is delivered.

- **Reablement**

Reablement is about giving people the opportunity and confidence to relearn/regain some of the skills they may have lost as a consequence of poor health, disability/impairment or going into hospital or residential care; and to gain new skills that help them to maintain their independence.

The service offers a stepping stone of intensive reablement for people to further develop their daily living skills, to enable them to live as independently in their own homes as is possible. Reablement also provides an opportunity to carry out extended and detailed assessment of an individual's abilities and needs so that the appropriate services and support will be available to meet their ongoing care needs.

- **Sheltered Housing**

Sheltered housing provides rented or leasehold flats, predominantly for older people, grouped together in schemes. Some schemes have on-site scheme managers and some have visiting managers. Schemes generally have a call system for emergencies and are generally provided by the local authority or a housing association. Some schemes are now providing accommodation for people with learning disabilities.

- **Single Assessment Process**

The Single Assessment Process (SAP) aims to make sure that the NHS and social care services treat older people as individuals and enable them to make choices about their own care. It aims to make sure older people's needs are assessed thoroughly and accurately but without procedures being needlessly duplicated by different agencies and relevant information is shared appropriately between health and social care agencies.

- **Strategic Housing Partnership**

The goal of the Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP) is to improve housing, access to housing and support to maintain the independence of vulnerable residents within the city. It reports to the 2020 Community Partnership (Local Strategic Partnership). The membership includes representatives from Brighton & Hove City Council, Brighton YMCA and Hove YMCA, The Business Forum, Primary Care Trust, University of Sussex, Probation Services, Estate Agents, Brighton & Hove Housing Partnership and National Landlords Association

The SHP is also linked to the Brighton & Hove Home Energy Group (BHHEG). The aim of the BHHEG is to develop and support the implementation of action plans to reduce fuel poverty and to promote energy efficiency and sustainability.

- **Supporting People**

Supporting People funding is provided by central government to local authorities and is given to organisations that support vulnerable people to enable them to move into independent housing or to assist them to maintain their independence.

- **Telecare**

Telecare services are provided by local authorities, housing associations, independent, third sector and commercial providers. The services range from pendant alarms through to more complex sensor arrangements to enable people to remain independent in their own home.

- **Third Sector**

The Third Sector represents non-governmental organisations that play a key role in helping shape and deliver local services. The sector encompasses voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals both large and small.
- **The World Health Organization**

Established on 7 April 1948 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system. Membership is made up of 193 countries and 2 associate members. WHO experts produce health guidelines and standards, and help countries to address public health issues. WHO also supports and promotes health research. Through WHO, governments can jointly tackle global health problems and improve people's wellbeing.
- **Shared Ownership**

Shared ownership homes offer a low cost way to get on the home ownership ladder by part buying and part renting a home. The share bought can vary and a small rent is payable on the share not purchased. More shares in the property can be gradually bought until the home is owned outright. The schemes are managed locally by Housing Association 'Agents'
- **Transfer Incentive Scheme**

The Transfer Incentive Scheme (TIS) is for council tenants with one or more spare rooms who would like to downsize and move to a smaller home. It is also for tenants who want to leave council housing altogether and tenants living in wheelchair-adapted properties that they no longer need. The scheme offers support to help tenants find and move to a new home and free up the property for another household in need.

Copies of our strategies are available from:

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