

Agenda Item No.6 (q)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

16 March 2020

Report of the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health

DERBYSHIRE SECOND HOMES PROGRAMME

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Cabinet approval for the programme covering the use of the £0.566m Second Homes budget for Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and South Derbyshire District Councils for 2019–20 and 2020-21.

2. Information and Analysis

The rules on levying Council Tax on people's second homes were changed in 2004. The County Council agreed with the four District Councils most affected: Derbyshire Dales, High Peak, Amber Valley and South Derbyshire that 75% of the additional income raised for the County and District/Borough Councils would be used to enhance housing and support for people with the highest need. Cabinet 8 June 2017 (Minute 177/17) agreed a two year investment programme for 2017-19. The review of the Second Homes programme for 2017-18 and 2018-19 showed the value of delivering services for people with the highest need, reducing demand, and meeting the Borough's, District's and County Council's Housing, Health and Adult Care strategic policy objectives.

3. Second Homes Investment Programme for 2019-20 and 2020-21

Many of the District and Borough Councils' housing customers also receive services from the County Council and vice versa. By supporting people through the services outlined in the Second Homes programme (Appendix 1), Councils are able to reduce demand on their own services by providing enhanced housing and support services to people who are the most vulnerable.

The Second Homes programme and its schemes, as set out in Appendix 1, will assist the County Council to deliver on its strategic plans and priorities as

set out in the Council Plan, Adult Care and Public Health plans, the Health and Well-being and Prevention strategies.

4. Financial Considerations

The projects for 2019-20 and 2020-21 are detailed in Appendix 1. The total costs are £0.566m per annum which will be met from the Second Homes budget.

Amber Valley	£0.080m
Derbyshire Dales	£0.309m
High Peak	£0.115m
South Derbyshire	<u>£0.062m</u>
Total	<u>£0.566m</u>

4. Legal Considerations

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all housing authorities to have a homelessness strategy that seeks to prevent homelessness and to ensure that sufficient suitable accommodation is available. The County Council must assist with the development of these strategies.

The Care Act 2014 places a duty on the County Council to provide a range of preventative services that it considers will prevent, delay or reduce the care and support needs of adults in its area. The availability of suitable housing, and housing support, via the Borough and District Councils, can assist the County Council in meeting this duty.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

6. Key Decision

Yes

7. Background papers

Cabinet report of 8 June 2017, Derbyshire Second Homes: Council Tax.

8. OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approves the programme covering the use of the £0.566m per year Second Homes for Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and South Derbyshire District Councils for 2019-20 and 2020-21.

**Helen Jones,
Executive Director – Adult Social Care and Health**

Appendix 1

SECOND HOMES PROPOSED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
2019-21**AMBER VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL - £80,000 p.a**

Amber Valley proposes to split the second homes allocation of £80,000 between the provision of extra hours for the Home Improvement Agency Project Worker (£21,000) and the redevelopment of a domestic property in Ripley (£59,000).

The redevelopment will include both provision of temporary accommodation (which could include Adult Care clients) with the provision of a separate purpose built unit designed to provide short term accommodation for households with a disability. This could serve a number of purposes that might be seen as an alternative to residential care including temporary accommodation during redevelopment, provide accommodation after life-changing operations until the home can be adapted or a suitable can be found. The second homes contribution will support the costs of the new extension. The terms of the use of the unit will be subject to negotiations.

The scheme has been approved by the Council's senior management team.

DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL - £309,000 p.a.**Life Time Home Bungalows Scheme**

To increase the number of new bungalows – in line with the Older People's Housing, Accommodation and Support Strategy 2019-2035

Housing Options Service for Older People

The project helps older people to either remain at homes or secure more appropriate accommodation; together with a multitude of other benefits relating to healthcare, hospital discharge, tenancy issues and mental health.

Rural Housing Enabler

This post supports the development of new affordable homes across the district, including the bungalow programme above. This provision supports the construction sector, local jobs and adds to the overall affordable housing stock of the district.

Escape Project

Escape Project provided by Derbyshire Dales CVS. The project supports vulnerable adults, predominately from the Matlock area and helps to provide access to social, sports and educational opportunities. The project complements the work of the Hurst Farm Estate Regeneration Project. The aim is to employ a Community Development worker and support the community with running community assets such as the community centre and social club, helping with the development of bids for projects and generally supporting residents to improve their estate.

Housing Related Support Services Programme

This project will contribute towards funding a number of schemes including: Housing Related Support Services for people with learning disabilities, mental health problems and support services for older people.

Supporting vulnerable adults

Provided by Adullam Housing Association. This project supports vulnerable adults and provides intensive 1:1 support to those who are homeless or facing homelessness to access and maintain accommodation and to support other specialist services. The service helps clients access food banks, the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund, Debt Relief Orders, PIP, ESA, Housing Benefit, Tax Credits, Council Tax Support, support from utilities, budgeting, engaging with housing providers, drug and alcohol issues and rent in advance payments from the district council.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL - £115,000 p.a.

Abor Project

A supported accommodation project for high risk offenders. Jointly funded by local authorities, Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership and Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the project supports individuals to develop skills to live independently, establish and manage their tenancy, engage with appropriate health and prevention services, with a high proportion of clients having mental health needs.

Support for families in crisis

Continuation of a project which enables women to access accommodation with intensive and flexible support, including drug and alcohol treatment. The aim of the project is to help women and families in crisis, who are homeless, and need support due to a range of issues ranging from chaotic lifestyles,

substance misuse, alcohol dependency, mental health or are at risk of domestic abuse.

Support given to each women/family varies depending on individual circumstances; this may include the development of support plans, work with family support workers, parenting guidance, participation on group sessions, work skills projects and assistance to find alternative independent accommodation when ready.

Domestic Abuse Project

This project enables the provision of supported accommodation specifically for young women aged 16-24 years and their children who are escaping domestic abuse. In recognition of the age of the young women and their complex needs, a high level of support is provided with workers present 24/7. The refuge is more than just a place of safety - supporting people to develop basic skills, confidence and resilience against future harm, parenting, access training and employment and improve their understanding of healthy relationships.

The project also provides floating outreach support to young women aged 13-24 in High Peak and across North Derbyshire who have experienced abuse or display risky behaviour. The support is delivered through one-to-one sessions and group work based in the community to women who have experienced a variety of abuse issues ranging from forced marriage, sexual violence to domestic abuse within the family. The programme also works to raise awareness in schools across the High Peak, to encourage healthy relationships and safe online behavior. Sessions address what domestic abuse is, how to recognize the patterns of an abuser and how to stay safe. The sessions also look at sexual exploitation including the use of social websites, and the effects of domestic abuse on any children of these young women. The project provides a place of safety and supports girls and young women to make appropriate choices about their well-being, develop basic skills; to stop the cycle of abuse and prevent young women and their children from suffering abuse.

This service addresses the age gap between children and adult services and is the first of its kind in England by specifically providing a tailored refuge and rehabilitation service for younger women. It is acknowledged that while the main support issue the women seeks support for is domestic abuse they often need additional support for a variety of issues including drug/ alcohol dependency, parenting, mental illness (including depression, self-harm and suicide idealization), support into employment or education.

Action Housing Project

A supported accommodation and housing related support project for offenders with a connection to the Derbyshire area and supports key partners, Derbyshire Police and Derbyshire Probation Trust with public protection. National research finds a clear evidenced link between accommodation and reduction in re-offending rates. Jointly funded by local authorities, Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership and Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner the project supports individuals to engage with appropriate health and prevention services, develop skills to live independently, establish and manage their tenancy.

Vulnerable adults affected by the welfare reforms

The constantly changing framework around the benefits regime means vulnerable households require additional financial assistance to assist them to successfully retain and manage their tenancies or secure a move to alternative affordable accommodation. Support will be made available to older/younger people, families with children, those with domestic abuse, mental health or drug & alcohol issues, physical or learning disability or engaged with support/ statutory services.

Meeting the accommodation needs of Disabled people including Disabled Facilities Grant (DFGs)

This will provide additional grants to achieve the Lifetime Homes standard in new build affordable homes/ bungalows or adaptations through additional DFGs which will allow vulnerable households to remain and receive care at home for longer.

Debt and money advice and budgeting/ financial capability

The debt and money advice project with financial capability training is delivered to vulnerable households that may be at risk of repossession due to debt, rent or mortgage arrears. The project helps to tackle problems before they reach crisis point and help people to manage their finances more effectively. The project is jointly funded by High Peak borough Council to reflect the ongoing impact of welfare reforms and the growing financial difficulties affecting vulnerable households.

Move-on officer

The role assists people to move-on from supported accommodation (mental health, domestic violence, young people and vulnerable adults) into independent living to avoid silting up of accommodation based services. Move-on guidance is shared with support providers. Homeless, housing and

support provider meetings are facilitated to ensure that any issues are discussed and resolved at the earliest opportunity and good practice is shared, for instance information is delivered about Welfare Reform and the impact that this will have on people moving on from supported accommodation.

Housing Related Support Services Programme

This project will contribute towards funding a number of Derbyshire County Council schemes including: Housing Related Support Services for people with Learning disabilities, mental health problems and support services for older people.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - £62,000 p.a.

Homeless support to young people with complex needs

This project provides support to those young individuals across South Derbyshire that are at the risk of homelessness and who have complex needs. The support can include the provision of temporary accommodation, key worker one-to-one support to assess independent living skills, and then work with individuals to assess their suitability for move on accommodation. The project also provides employment support, advice on financial wellbeing and support in managing a tenancy and resettlement. As part of this project up to 15 clients who are either homeless or at the risk of homelessness and have complex needs will be supported at any one time.

The Project will be monitored using the following measures:

- The support provided to under 24's across the district
- Repeat Homelessness / number of people referred to P3 that have previously been accommodated by P3 within the last two years
- Number of clients moved on (in 3 month period) and % of which were planned
- % utilisation of P3 units in district
- Number and % clients accommodated aged between 18-24
- % and number of clients transferred to independent living (in SDDC tenancies)

Housing Options Support for young people

There has been an increase in tenancy turnover that goes against the national trend of tenancy turnover declining

This project would put in place a dedicated resource to address the issue of tenancy sustainment and housing advice for young people in order to prevent youth homelessness, This will be done by bringing in an additional Housing Options Officer to provide support to young vulnerable residents threatened

with homelessness and offer housing advice/support to prepare them for their first tenancy. This post will also work alongside homelessness prevention outlined above and provide support to applicants to find alternative suitable accommodation whether that be in the social or private rented sector or remaining in the parental home.

The impact of this project will be measured relating to under 24's across the district.

- Reduction in the Tenancy Turnover Rate
- Reduction in repeat presentations to the service
- Increase in the number of introductory tenancies sustained
- Number of applicants offered housing advice.