



Cheshire West & Chester Council

Ageing Well Accommodation and Support Strategy 2022 - 2026

Consultation



Cheshire West
and Chester

Consultation Information

Ageing Well Accommodation and Support Strategy

What is this consultation about?

Our vision is for people to live great lives. We want people to live healthy, happy and independent lives, achieving their full potential by staying independent in their own homes for as long as possible and make informed decisions about any future care and support services they may need.

We are therefore creating an Ageing Well Accommodation and Support Strategy, to help people over the age of 55 live well in their own home, independent accommodation and Care Homes within the borough.

This strategy will promote:-

- accommodation at the **centre of vibrant communities** for people to live and age well and to promote **independence** and **social inclusion**
- working alongside other services and communities to meet an **individual's needs**
- an infrastructure to deliver **flexible care and support** in a planned, person-centred way
- the provision of **dementia-friendly** environments
- accommodation that is affordable and **sustainable** for the future.

We would like to hear the views of local residents, especially those over the age of 55, local or new care and support providers, developers, and wider stakeholders on the draft Strategy, to make sure that it addresses issues that are important to older aged people living within West Cheshire.

What different types of accommodation are available?

There are many different types and terms used for accommodation for older residents supporting people throughout their life. They can include:

- Own homes – a place in which a person lives whether that be owned, privately rented or social housing.
- Independent accommodation - a place to live that also includes different types of support such as Respite Care, Extra Care Housing, Sheltered Housing, Intermediate care.
- Care Homes – accommodation which provides 24-hour, nutritional and personal support.

Why is the strategy needed?

In 2016, the Council produced a four year Vulnerable and Older People's Accommodation Strategy, of which key achievements included the introduction of 690 Extra Care Housing units. This strategy has expired and a new vision for the way we support older people to live in the borough is being developed.

The draft strategy aligns with the changing way we deliver Adult Social Care following the introduction of the Care Act 2014, with the focus being on people's strengths and abilities, and supporting people for longer within their own homes. It aspires for local accommodation to meet the changing needs of an individual as they age and be flexible to adapt to their changing physical conditions and health.

It is important that the Council not only delivers high-quality, adaptable accommodation, but also that it delivers care and support services to those that use it, and build resilience and connections to the community that they live in. As people age, we want them to have a good life, remain connected with the people they care about and have purpose by enjoying hobbies and interests.

The draft strategy also captures the changing landscape of Health and Social Care, using local data to understand what is happening within the borough as a whole and within the nine care communities outlined below. Cheshire West and Chester is a large borough with differing needs across the area, therefore it has been divided into nine care communities, as follows:

- Ellesmere Port
- Northwich
- Winsford
- Neston and Willaston
- Frodsham, Helsby and Elton
- Chester East
- Chester South
- Chester Central (Fountains)
- Rural Alliance

How was this strategy developed?

The draft Strategy has been developed in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council Adult Social Care, Housing and Planning services, as well as the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership. It brings together the vision of these partners for accommodation with care and support for older aged adults within Cheshire West and Chester.

National research and best practice was reviewed as part of the development of the strategy, to explore alternative ways of delivering Older People's Accommodation, focusing on putting people at the centre of everything that we do. We also gathered local population data which showed that the local population is ageing and therefore the number of older aged residents with frailty related health conditions such as Dementia is increasing. Finally, we engaged with providers of care and support to

gain their feedback on the future priorities for Older People's Accommodation across the borough.

This further consultation is now taking place with service users, providers and other key stakeholders to help shape the final version of the strategy.

What is the vision for the strategy?

Our vision is to support people to live within their own homes for as long as possible, and when this is no longer practical, to live within a place that they can call home, which will adapt with their changing needs.

The key aims for the strategy are for older residents within Cheshire West and Chester to:

- Have improved **health, wellbeing and quality of life.**
- Be able to **access** their local **community.**
- Be able to live in **suitable and adaptable accommodation, with appropriate care** and support, to meet their **changing needs** now and in the future.
- Have **accommodation choices** available to them to meet their range of health and social care needs **flexibly and responsively.**
- Get the **right level of support** at the right time and in the right way.

The Council will work with partners and providers to implement a flexible, reliable, high-quality and cost-effective service to meet the needs of local people.

What are the priorities set out in the strategy?

As part of the draft strategy, there are five main priorities that the Council would like to achieve over the next five years. They are:

- Priority 1: To enable people to stay in their own homes for longer.

The Council wants to support people to live well at home for longer. Its vision and duty under the Care Act 2014, means the Council must provide services which help people maintain good health and wellbeing and promote a good quality of life. To accomplish this, the Council will commission preventative services to reduce people needing long-term care and support. Preventative services include:

- **Information and advice** – Providing information and advice on the services and support that are available, to help people access services to meet their needs.
- **Technology Enabled Care** –Equipment which can be installed in people's homes, to provide remote support such as pendant alarms, falls detectors or Alexa devices.
- **Community Equipment** – Equipment which can be installed in people's homes to aid independence such as grab rails, commodes and hoists.

- **Home improvement works** – Funded or part-funded work to people’s home undertaken by the Housing Improvement Agency, such as provision of an extension to provide a ground floor toilet/ bathroom or bedroom.

To achieve Priority 1, the Council will work with preventative service providers to make a variety of services available. We will also improve access to these services, by updating the way these services are publicised for people living within West Cheshire.

Additionally, the Council will work with developers, to make sure that new homes are accessible and adaptable, meaning that they are homes for life. We will also work with private landlords through the Cheshire West Landlord Accreditation Scheme to improve the quality of existing homes.

The Council will work to ensure that homes are suitably sized for the needs and requirements of all residents of the borough, including promotion of the downsizing scheme. This scheme, supported by Cheshire and Warrington Housing Alliance, helps those who wish to move to a smaller, more manageable accommodation.

Finally, to support people to live comfortably at home and with pride, we will work with the community sector, to increase access to services that might be required to maintain a home, such as garden maintenance, a handy person’s service and cleaning.

- Priority 2: To provide alternative accommodation when home is no longer appropriate

Through Care Act assessments, and close links with health colleagues, the Council will support people to remain at home for as long as possible, but also recognises that long-term care plans can change and a move into more suitable accommodation may be necessary to meet a person’s needs. As part of the strategy, we want to highlight “step up” provisions like independent accommodation, to make residents aware that a move into a care home is not always the only or best option.

There are many different types of independent accommodation which may be appropriate as a next step from living at home, such as:

- **Sheltered Housing** – private independent units, with some shared facilities such as communal halls and access to a housing support staff member. Most Sheltered Housing includes Technology Enabled Care (such as a pendant that can call remotely for help should you need it.)
- **Extra Care Housing** – similar to sheltered housing but with the additional support of a care team on site to assist.
- **Respite care** – is also a time limited service, for people who need supported accommodation on a temporary basis to assist the family or friend caring for them to have a break from their caring role.

The delivery of new independent accommodation options is a critical element of this strategy. We will work with private developers within the local planning framework, and independent accommodation providers, to design accommodation which is flexible and can be easily adapted to meet the changing needs of its occupants as they age.

Working together we will deliver high-quality, inclusive independent accommodation, to assist more vulnerable adults to live within their local community with:

- peace of mind and reassurance
 - flexible care and support designed around their needs
 - suitable integrated digital technologies and adaptations.
- Priority 3: To support people with changing and complex needs within Care Homes

As people's needs continue to change and their health deteriorates, the Council will assess and review their needs to consider more suitable accommodation with higher levels of care and support, such as a Care Home placement.

There are two main types of care homes within Cheshire West and Chester- Residential homes and Nursing homes. Each type also provides support to people with complex Dementia, with Nursing homes supporting more complex needs due to having a registered nurse on site 24 hours a day.

We know that people want to stay in their own homes or independent accommodation for as long as possible, and as such, there is decreased demand for places in Residential homes, in favour of care coming into the family home.

However, we also know that there will be an increase in people with more complex needs over coming years, and therefore an increased demand for nursing home places, particularly given the predicted prevalence of Dementia. This is due to people living longer and the increased health risk this brings, meaning that the provision of more nursing homes will become a priority.

The Council would therefore like to work with providers who provide high-quality services for people with more complex needs in those areas of the borough where the data shows there are gaps in residential homes who support people with Dementia and nursing homes that support people with Dementia.

- Priority 4: To ensure our residents feel part of the community that they live in

We want to be able to offer residents a choice of accommodation options to meet their changing health and wellbeing needs, be that care at home, independent accommodation or residential or nursing homes. Our priority across all types of accommodation is to ensure that people feel part of the community in which they live, by promoting independence and good health and connecting people with the community they live in, their friends and family they love.

A priority for independent accommodation and residential and nursing homes will be to play a role in the community in which they are based, by both inviting local residents in, and supporting people living in these types of accommodation to access their local community.

Whilst the data clearly indicates that older residents want to stay in their own homes for longer, we understand that there is a need for residents to stay connected within their communities and would welcome suggestions from community organisations and home support providers about new models and new ideas to achieve this.

- Priority 5: To ensure there is affordable accommodation with care and support across the borough to enable people to stay in their homes for longer

Cheshire West and Chester has a mixture of wealthy and deprived areas, therefore the Council wants to make sure that accommodation with care and support options available are sustainable, affordable and accessible for all. To do this, the Council will work with key stakeholders to ensure that all accommodation options provide value for money.

Adult Social Care is means tested, meaning those who receive support from the Council are required to have a financial assessment to check if they contribute to the care and support that they receive based on their income and capital. Not all contribute, but for those that do and for those whose care and support are Council funded, we need to ensure that we have the right resources to meet people's needs.

From October 2023, the Council's responsibility for those who fund their own care will change as part of the Government's new plans under the Social Care charging reform. To support this, the Council recently undertook a cost of care review with care homes to agree a recommended rate. The Council would like to work with partners to ensure similar transparency takes place across all services.

We will continue to review the cost of provision across all accommodation and support services, to ensure we receive value for money and are able to invest in services required to meet our vision. As we move to a preventative way of delivering care and support, the shift in Council spend will reflect this vision.

We also recognise that people who wish to remain at home will require major adaptations to their property and therefore will look at available grants including Disability Facilities Grants, Decent Homes Loans and Home Safety Grants to support this.

How people can feedback their views

Cheshire West and Chester Council would value your feedback to ensure that the strategy addresses the issues that are most important to Older Age people living locally.

There are a number of ways that you can get involved and share your views.

- Complete a survey online **here** <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/CWCC-AWAS>
- Email your views to: info@askforresearch.co.uk
- Share your views by telephone: please call Ask for Research on 01630 658000 and quote 'Ageing Well Accommodation and Support Strategy consultation' (standard phone charges apply or we will be happy to call you back)
- Send your views by letter to: Ask for Research, Pell Wall Court, Pell Wall, Market Drayton, TF9 2AD (please email or phone above to be sent a Freepost envelope if preferred)
- Request a copy of our consultation in alternative formats, including paper and easy read, using the contact details above.

(Ask for Research is an independent market research agency working with us on the consultation.)

For further information, please see the Ageing Well Accommodation and Support Strategy consultation page

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/ageingwellconsultation

This consultation is open until 28 August 2022.

What will happen next

The feedback from this consultation will help shape the Ageing Well Accommodation and Support Strategy, which will change the way we deliver and commission accommodation and support for Older People living in Cheshire West and Chester. The Strategy will be reviewed by the Council's Cabinet alongside the findings of this consultation during the Winter period, to make a decision about whether to implement the strategy. The results of the consultation will be available on the Council's website at this time alongside the decisions taken.

Council information is also available in audio, Braille, large print, or other formats. If you would like a copy in a different format, in another language or require a BSL interpreter, please email equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk, telephone 0300 123 8 123 or textphone 18001 01606 275757.