

**REPORT TO:** Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community

**SUBJECT:** Halton Learning Disabilities Partnership -  
Housing and Support Strategy 2008-2011  
And Housing Allocations Policy

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present to Board the draft Housing and Support Strategy and Housing Allocations Policy for people with learning disabilities.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **Members note and comment on the Housing and Support Strategy 2008-2011**
- ii) **Members note and comment on the Housing Allocations Policy**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**3.1 Housing and Support Strategy 2008-2011**

This Strategy sets out the plans for delivering housing and support services for Adults with Learning Disabilities (ALD) known to Health and Social Care services in Halton. It covers the period 2008 to 2011, which reflects the timeframe of the Council's Draft Housing Strategy. It aims to influence mainstream housing policy in Halton so that people with learning disabilities have greater choice and are, where possible, in control of their housing and support needs.

3.2 The Strategy promotes a range of housing and support options. This term refers to any accommodation for or used by people with learning disabilities, where support is provided. It includes supported housing, residential care, adult placements and others, but does not refer to people living with their families.

3.3 This Strategy and Action Plan was developed over several months under the steer of the Adults with learning Disabilities Partnership Board Subgroup relating to Housing. Membership of this group includes Council officers from Commissioning, Supporting People, Housing Strategy and Planning, Health and Social Care staff from the learning disabilities team and Halton Speak Out.

- 3.4 Consultation was undertaken through the Council's Housing Needs Survey 2005 and learning disability stakeholder events with people with learning disabilities, carers and families, care and support providers and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). Summaries of what people told us are in Appendices 2 and 3 of the document.
- 3.5 The following aims were developed after this consultation and the detail of how these will be delivered is contained in Section 3 of the strategy.
- Plan for the future
  - Increase the range of Housing options available to give people the opportunity to live alone, with a partner or with friends
  - Support people to reach their full potential
  - Increase the opportunities for choice and control over where people live and who they live with
  - Support people to be included and be aware of their legal and civil rights and duties
- 3.6 The Learning Disability Executive Commissioning Board (ECB) promotes this strategy and is responsible for ensuring that actions are taken forward.
- 3.7 **Housing Allocations Policy**  
The allocation of tenancies for ALD has historically been co-ordinated by the lead Occupational Therapist in the ALD Specialist Community Team at The Bridges. The development of a Housing & Supporting People Co-ordinator post within the ALD team led to the review of the procedures for allocating tenancies and has culminated in the existing Policy and Procedure being revised.
- 3.8 The Policy aims to promote the efficient use of resources whilst recognising the individual's needs for timely support in transition to more independent living and to ensure the fair and equitable allocation of resources to individuals based on eligible need. To this end, service level indicators will be developed to determine priority levels of need and incorporated into the Service Level Indicator Policy. In essence, these will determine that where an individual is unable to access generic housing provision then only under FACS eligibility criteria where housing requirements meet a Critical or Substantial level of need will an individual aged 18 or over have their name placed on the waiting list for access to tenancies administered by the Specialist Community Team.
- 3.9 The allocation process itself will now be managed and co-ordinated by the Housing & Supporting People Co-ordinator, who took up post on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The Co-ordinator will also manage the waiting list.

## 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### 4.1 **Housing and Support Strategy 2008-2011**

A key objective of this strategy is to influence mainstream housing development within the Borough to ensure the housing needs of adults with learning disabilities are considered. Links with Planning Officers within Environment Services have been established to progress this.

### 4.2 **Housing Allocations Policy**

The Service Level Indicator Policy will be reviewed over the summer to incorporate indicators as outlined under Supporting Information. These will ensure the fair and equitable allocation of resources to individuals based on eligible need.

## 5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Halton is in the top quartile of Authorities for supporting adults with learning disabilities in their own home. The retraction of Supporting People funding requires existing resources to be targeted at those people with the most complex needs. People with learning disabilities and their families will be provided with information to help them explore all housing options and will be encouraged to take control of finding a home.

## 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The strategy applies to young people with complex needs in transition to Adult Services.

### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The links between poor housing conditions and poor health are well documented. Most people with learning disabilities live with their families and often only leave the family home as a result of crisis such as illness or death of the carer. This strategy will ensure that people are able to plan for their future accommodation needs and they and their carers will maintain their emotional well-being.

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None

### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Equality Impact Assessment for both the strategy and the allocations policy are attached and will be subject to review by the Directorates Equalities Group.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.



**EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**SCREENING DOCUMENT**

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Health and Community</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Service Planning and Commissioning</b>	<b>Person Responsible for Assessment</b>	Liz Gladwyn Joint commissioning manager – Adults with Disabilities
<b>Name of the Policy/Strategy</b>	Housing Strategy for ALD 2008-2011	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	30.4.08	<b>Is this a New or Existing Policy?</b>	Existing
<b>1</b>	What are the aims and objectives of the Policy / Strategy?	To promote a range of housing and support options which will enable people to plan for the future and have choice and control over where they live and who they live.			
<b>2</b>	What outcomes are wanted from the Policy / Strategy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People will be provided with full information about the housing options open to them.</li> <li>• People will be supported to reach their full potential</li> <li>• People will have choice and control over where they live.</li> <li>• Resources will be targeted at those people with the most complex needs</li> <li>• People will be supported to be included and aware of their civil rights and duties.</li> </ul>			
<b>3</b>	Who is intended to benefit from the Policy / Strategy, and how?	HBC, Halton PCT, service users, carers, Providers, Landlords			
<b>4</b>	Who are the main stakeholders in the Policy / Strategy?	HBC, Halton PCT, service users, carers, Providers, Landlords			
<b>5</b>	Who implements the Policy / Strategy and has responsibility for it?	The ALD Partnership Board through the Executive Commissioning Board and Housing Strategy sub-group			
<b>6</b>	Are there any associated Policies / Strategies or objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALD Joint Commissioning Strategy 2003-2008</li> <li>• Housing Allocations Policy</li> </ul>			
<b>7</b>	Could the Policy / Strategy have a differential impact (positive or negative) :				

		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
<b>a</b>	On Racial Groups	X		The needs of all individuals will be assessed on an individual basis and therefore any needs arising from race or cultural issues will be addressed through appropriate care and support.
<b>b</b>	Due to Gender	X		The needs of all individuals will be assessed on an individual basis and therefore any gender needs will be addressed appropriate through appropriate care and support.
<b>c</b>	Due to Disability	X		This strategy only applies to Adults (age 18+) and Older People with learning disabilities who meet FACS criteria.
<b>d</b>	Due to Sexual Orientation	X		The needs of all individuals will be assessed on an individual basis and therefore any needs arising from sexual orientation will be addressed through appropriate care and support.
<b>e</b>	Due to Age	X		The strategy will help support young people with complex needs and their families in transition from children's services, to plan for future accommodation.
<b>f</b>	Due to Religion	X		The needs of all individuals will be assessed on an individual basis and therefore any religious or cultural needs will be addressed through appropriate care and support.
<b>8</b>	Available statistical/qualitative information relevant to the Policy / Strategy and equality issues			A record of tenancies allocated is maintained; statistical information maintained by Contracts. Data on ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation should be collated as part of the monitoring process.
<b>9</b>	Could the Policy / Strategy affect relations between different groups in the Borough?			Yes. There is the potential for an adverse reaction to the accommodation of people with learning disabilities in the community.
<b>10</b>	Could the Policy / Strategy damage relations between groups in the Borough and the Authority?			Yes. There is the potential for an adverse reaction to the accommodation of people with learning disabilities in the community.

**DECISION**

<b>Does the Policy / Strategy:</b>	<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>No</b>	
	<b>Promote equality of opportunity</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>No</b>	
	<b>Promote good relations between different groups in the community</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Impact Assessment: High</b>					
<b>Agreed By</b>				<b>Date</b>	
<b>Actions to Be Taken:</b>					
				<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>1</b>	Collect more evidence				
<b>2</b>	Conduct formal consultations				
<b>3</b>	Reconsider Policy / Strategy				
<b>4</b>	Resubmit Policy / Strategy				
<b>5</b>	Adopt Policy / Strategy				
<b>6</b>	Make monitoring arrangements				
<b>7</b>	Publish assessment results				

<b>Additional Comments:</b>



**EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**SCREENING DOCUMENT**

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Social Care, Housing &amp; Health</b>	<b>Division</b>	Adult Learning Disabilities	<b>Person Responsible for Assessment</b>	Davinder Gill Service Development Officer (Adults)
<b>Name of the Policy/Strategy</b>	Housing Allocations Policy for ALD	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	30.4.08	<b>Is this a New or Existing Policy?</b>	Existing
<b>1</b>	What are the aims and objectives of the Policy / Strategy?	To promote the efficient use of resources whilst recognising the individual's need for timely support in transition to more independent living and to ensure the fair and equitable allocation of resources to individuals based on eligible need.			
<b>2</b>	What outcomes are wanted from the Policy / Strategy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People will be provided with full information about the options open to them.</li> <li>• The allocation of tenancies will be organised in a cost effective and person-centred way.</li> <li>• As smooth a transition as possible from family or other care to a more independent way of living will be achieved.</li> <li>• The efficient management of vacancies and allocation of tenancies.</li> </ul>			
<b>3</b>	Who is intended to benefit from the Policy / Strategy, and how?	HBC, Halton PCT, service users, carers, Providers, Landlords			
<b>4</b>	Who are the main stakeholders in the Policy / Strategy?	HBC, Halton PCT, service users, carers, Providers, Landlords			
<b>5</b>	Who implements the Policy / Strategy and has responsibility for it?	The Housing & Supporting People Co-ordinator based in the ALD Specialist Community Team.			
<b>6</b>	Are there any associated Policies / Strategies or objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALD Housing and Support Options Strategy</li> <li>• Housing Strategy</li> </ul>			

<b>7</b>	Could the Policy / Strategy have a differential impact (positive or negative) :			
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
<b>a</b>	On Racial Groups	X		The needs of all individuals will be assessed on an individual basis and therefore any needs arising from race or cultural issues will be addressed in the allocation of the tenancy.
<b>b</b>	Due to Gender	X		The needs of all individuals will be assessed on an individual basis and therefore any gender needs will be addressed in the allocation of the tenancy.
<b>c</b>	Due to Disability	X		Supported housing tenancies covered by this Policy are only for people with learning disabilities.
<b>d</b>	Due to Sexual Orientation	X		The needs of all individuals will be assessed on an individual basis and therefore any needs arising from sexual orientation will be addressed in the allocation of the tenancy.
<b>e</b>	Due to Age	X		Tenancies are only allocated in the 18 – 65 years age range.
<b>f</b>	Due to Religion	X		The needs of all individuals will be assessed on an individual basis and therefore any religious or cultural needs will be addressed in the allocation of the tenancy.
<b>8</b>	Available statistical/qualitative information relevant to the Policy / Strategy and equality issues			A record of tenancies allocated is maintained; statistical information maintained by Contracts. Data on ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation should be collated as part of the monitoring process.
<b>9</b>	Could the Policy / Strategy affect relations between different groups in the Borough?			Yes. There is the potential for an adverse reaction to the accommodation of people with learning disabilities in the community.
<b>10</b>	Could the Policy / Strategy damage relations between groups in the Borough and the Authority?			Yes. There is the potential for an adverse reaction to the accommodation of people with learning disabilities in the community.

**DECISION**

<b>Does the Policy / Strategy:</b>	<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>No</b>	
	<b>Promote equality of opportunity</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>No</b>	
	<b>Promote good relations between different groups in the community</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	<b>X</b>
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<b>Additional Comments:</b>