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**REPORT TO: JOINT COMMISSIONING BODY**  
**REPORT FROM: HOUSING SUPPORT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**  
**DATE: 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**

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DISTRICT & LOCALITY OLDER PERSONS HOUSING GROUPS

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Joint Commissioning Body (JCB) to:

1. Be advised of the emerging roles of the district & locality groups overseeing the local implementation of the older persons housing and support strategy.

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Following agreement of an overarching older persons housing & support strategy in January 2008, local implementation of this strategy is being developed in each of Devon's localities. A group now exists for each of Devon's Districts.
- 1.2 The role of these locality groups has not been prescribed, as the make up and purpose of groups adapts to fit local circumstances. However, some generalised expectation for locality and JCB roles is likely to be useful in supporting the achievement of milestones set out in the strategy.

**2. ROLE OF LOCALITY GROUPS**

2.1 Generally, locality groups will:

- Provide a joint agency forum for the planning and development of high quality, cost effective person centred housing and housing support to older people.
- Develop the dialogue between providers, commissioners and service users over how access to housing support will work in the future.
- Share good practice from the locality and other localities of Devon.
- Review the suitability of existing sheltered housing stock and explore opportunities for future development of new housing.
- Co-ordinate own organisation's and wider group's communications to service users, the public and the press.
- Support partners in considering solutions to any problems experienced with the implementation of Devon's strategy.

- Maintain an overview of local progress towards the key milestones for implementation of Devon's older persons housing & support strategy.

### **3. ROLE OF JCB**

#### 3.1 Generally, the JCB will:

- Critically evaluate the progress and quality of locality group implementation.
- Acknowledge best practice led by locality groups
- Maintain overview of national and local challenges to the implementation of Devon's older persons housing & support review.

### **4. BEST PRACTICE & CHALLENGES**

#### 4.1 Best practices within the last quarter include:

- Inclusion of an elected member in the locality group make up at Torridge and South Hams meetings.
- Use of provider mapping tool to create a pictorial view of local provision on town maps, for the Teignbridge area.
- Attendance of health & social care staff at South Hams, Torridge and Teignbridge meetings.

#### 4.2 Challenges within the last quarter include:

- Publication of 'Nobody's listening'. ("king, N"; "Pannell, J."; "Copeman, I.": *Nobody's listeing*. Housing & Support Partnership, 2009. Help the Aged. U.K)
- Receipt of letters from Hossacks solicitors. The letters have been sent to Devon County Council, and providers in Mid Devon and Exeter. An article on Yvonne Hossack is available at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/may/21/interviews.society>

### **5. CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS**

5.1 Locality groups have successfully been established in all of Devon's districts. All localities have meetings scheduled for 2009.

5.2 The Housing Support Strategic Partnership (HSSP) has recommended that the JCB be made fully aware of the legal challenges made via Hossacks. A response from Devon County Council to Hossacks is Appendix one to this report.

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Your ref: YH/ND/

Our ref:

Date: Wednesday, 18 February 2009

Dear Yvonne,

**Re: Tenants in Sheltered Housing**

Thank you for your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

Devon's vision for the provision of housing support is for high quality, cost effective preventative services that are available to people irrespective of the type of tenure in which they live. The aims are to help service users sustain their current accommodation, and avoid the need for high care residential or health services through partnership working with other agencies.

The delivery of this vision involves generally ceasing to commission any new housing support that is restricted to one type of tenure, and delivered by 'live in' wardens. Instead, Devon is developing multi skilled teams that work across housing, health and social care. These teams jointly provide a personalised service to help people continue living independently for as long as possible. It is of course recognised that there will be some community services that will be better delivered with on site staff, and Devon's Housing & Support Strategies include the development of Enhanced and Extra Care schemes where 24 hour staffing is a feature.

Devon has a clear pathway for assessment of health & social care needs. Any persons concerned that they are at risk, or inadequately provided for should contact Care Direct on 0845 1551 007 without delay.

Yours sincerely



**Max Sillars**  
Manager, Devon Supporting People