
Mental Health Accommodation Strategy 2018-2023

Action Plan Review

Action		Timescale	Performance Measures	Progress at February 2022 Blue = Complete and finalised, Green = Complete but ongoing, Amber = Off track will recover, Red = Off track, will not recover)	Additional actions
1	Promote the development of the most suitable housing options for people with mental health issues.	Sep-18	Appropriate schemes and partners identified to bring forward development.	Two schemes, one at Brickhill (11 dwellings) and one at Dennis Court (6 dwellings) have been completed and are occupied. Wootton Vale and Wixams provides housing for a wide range of people and those with mental health needs can be catered for in these schemes.	Schemes have been identified and delivery of them is ongoing. See target 2 and 3 below. Promotion of development of the most suitable housing options for people with mental health issues is ongoing and additional work with housing services and adults will take place.
2	Identify site and partner for development of a scheme of 6-10 flats with access to 24 hour support.	Mar-19	Site and partner identified.	Two sites were identified - Brickhill Flats and Dennis Court, both with bpha. Brickhill flats (11 dwellings) has been completed and is now occupied. Dennis Court (6 flats) was completed in 2021.	
3	Promote development of a scheme of 6-10 flats with access to 24 hour support.	Within lifetime of Strategy	Scheme developed with 24 hour support.	Completed as part of action 2.	
4	Improve access to accommodation with floating support to increase the provision of move on accommodation.	Mar-19	Site and partner identified for 1-2 scheme(s) of 6-10 units with access to floating support.	Completed as part of action 2. Two schemes have been completed: Brickhill Flats and Dennis Court.	

5	Improve access to accommodation with floating support to increase the provision of move on accommodation.	Within lifetime of Strategy	Promote development of 1-2 scheme(s) of 6-10 units with access to floating support.	Brickhill flats (11 dwellings) has been completed as move on accommodation and has floating support. Dennis Court (6 dwellings) also provides floating support and move on accommodation and completed 2021. Clarence House has been developed to provide two levels of support allowing for move on within. Hollman house has also been developed to provide move on accommodation. The East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) has created a Tenancy Sustainment post that will offer tenancy support to people within mental health schemes.	Although two schemes have been identified, work will be ongoing to improve access to accommodation with floating support to increase the provision of move on accommodation. As part of this the council's Commissioning Manager for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities will investigate any further need for mental health move on accommodation.
6	Support completion of Complex Needs Project.	Apr-18	Scheme completed and occupied.	Complex Needs scheme is complete and in occupation	
7	Identify pathways for people transitioning from residential care to a lower level of support allowing more independent living.	Apr-18	Transition model developed that informs scheme developments and allocations.	Transitions model in place. Transition tracking group meet every 2 months. Transitions of those with Learning Disabilities and Physical Disabilities identified and adjustments to who is coming through made. This is managed by the Learning Disabilities team although there is multi disciplinary discussion.	Whilst the model is in place, identifying people transitionoing is an ongoing process.

8	Consider how residents will have access to support including flexible support, and reasonable levels of support at weekends or out of normal hours where required.	Aug-18	Pathways to access support identified.	Where clients are in residential schemes they can receive a personalised one to one plan if required. 24 hour support is provided in a residential setting. In supported living schemes people can receive additional care hours on a flexible basis, if required through their personalised care package. Weekend support is available if needed. One Housing Group provide floating support. Places for People provide older people's visiting support. Stonewater provide visiting support for older people.	
9	Work with NHS partners to ensure there is early identification of housing needs for those admitted to wards or crisis units to enable housing needs to be addressed (fully or partially) prior to discharge.	Apr-19	Agreed process for early assessment in place.	Robust processes have been established with NHS partners. The CCG attend a weekly panel so that they are aware who is coming through the system and awaiting discharge or soon to be discharged.	

10	Establish how many people currently supported by carers are likely to require alternative accommodation within the next 10 years, and what their accommodation and support needs are likely to be.	Dec-18	10 year forecast of the accommodation needs of people currently supported by carers produced.	The Council has a commissioner for MH and LD. Britannia Gate supported living scheme opened in October 2021 for individuals with MH needs. a wholesale review of the Supporting People services has taken place. Recommendations have been made in relation to mental health provision both floating support and accommodation based services, to increase available supported accommodation and suitable 'move on' provision. The level and type of mental health provision also has recommendations attached to shape services to meet need	
11	Identify improvements required to existing supported housing schemes.	Dec-18	Improvements required to schemes outlined.	Rivermead and Southway (specialist dementia residential homes) were identified as needing an upgrade. Both schemes have had the work completed. Puttenhoe has a dementia unit that has also had upgrade works.	There will continue to be ongoing reviews of schemes and improvements will be carried out as necessary.
12	Work with partners to determine resource availability/ funding to complete identified improvements to existing supported housing schemes.	Apr-19	Resource availability / funding determined.	The above schemes in action 11 were funded by the Council under capital expenditure.	

13	Investigate the number of clients unable to access social housing due to rent arrears and the origins of these arrears, and then look at how this barrier to social housing could be removed for some current clients and avoided for future clients.	Apr-19	Work completed on the number of clients affected by rent arrears and a procedure developed to avoid this issue for future clients.	The allocations team has investigated the number of non-qualifying applicants to the Housing Register due to rent arrears. Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine the number of non-qualifying applicants who were not accepted due to rent arrears and whom had mental health needs.	
14	Produce better referral protocols and improve information sharing.	Sep-19	Referral protocol and information sharing procedure developed.	A referral protocol and information sharing procedure have been developed and a Mental Health Board will be established early 2020 which will monitor them.	
15	Implement the recommendations arising from the housing review completed by Bedford Borough Supporting People Partnership Board.	Sep-19	Recommendations actioned.	The Bedford Borough Supporting People Partnership Board has been disbanded.	Target no longer relevant.

Additional Achievements

A	Bedford Borough Council opened the 24 hour somewhere safe to stay hub on Harpur Street in October 2019. This provides for rapid assessment of housing and support needs for people who are, or are at risk of, sleeping rough as well as emergency beds.
B	Bedford Borough Council secured Government funding in 2019 for a dual diagnosis outreach worker who will be working with people sleeping rough with mental health problems and other complex needs to support them into an accommodation pathway.