

MEETING	Services Scrutiny Committee
DATE	28 January 2016
TITLE	Older People Accommodation Strategy
PURPOSE	Scrutinize the Draft Strategy
AUTHOR	Arwel Wyn Owen Senior Housing Manager, Adults, Health and Well-being Department

1. Context

Drawing-up an Older People Accommodation Strategy (appendix 1) is an aim within the current Strategic Plan and the result of collaboration work with the Housing Department and the Commissioning Team within the Adults, Health and Well-being Department. The project is accountable to the Accommodation Board and as a Board they were eager to share some of the main messages / priorities in order to seek an agreement on the way forward.

The main priorities of the Strategy are to:

- Support individuals to stay in their homes for as long as possible
- Find specific geographical areas where it is likely that the demand will be high
- Ensure suitable accommodation for older people
- Ensure that Gwynedd's older people are aware of the accommodation options that exist within the County and that accessible information is available.

A discussion was held with Cabinet Members in March to discuss the main messages and priorities of the Strategy and it was felt that further work was required on areas that have been identified as those with the highest density of older people and for recommendations to be put forward in order to facilitate a discussion in due course.

2. Purpose of the report

The aim of this paper is to:

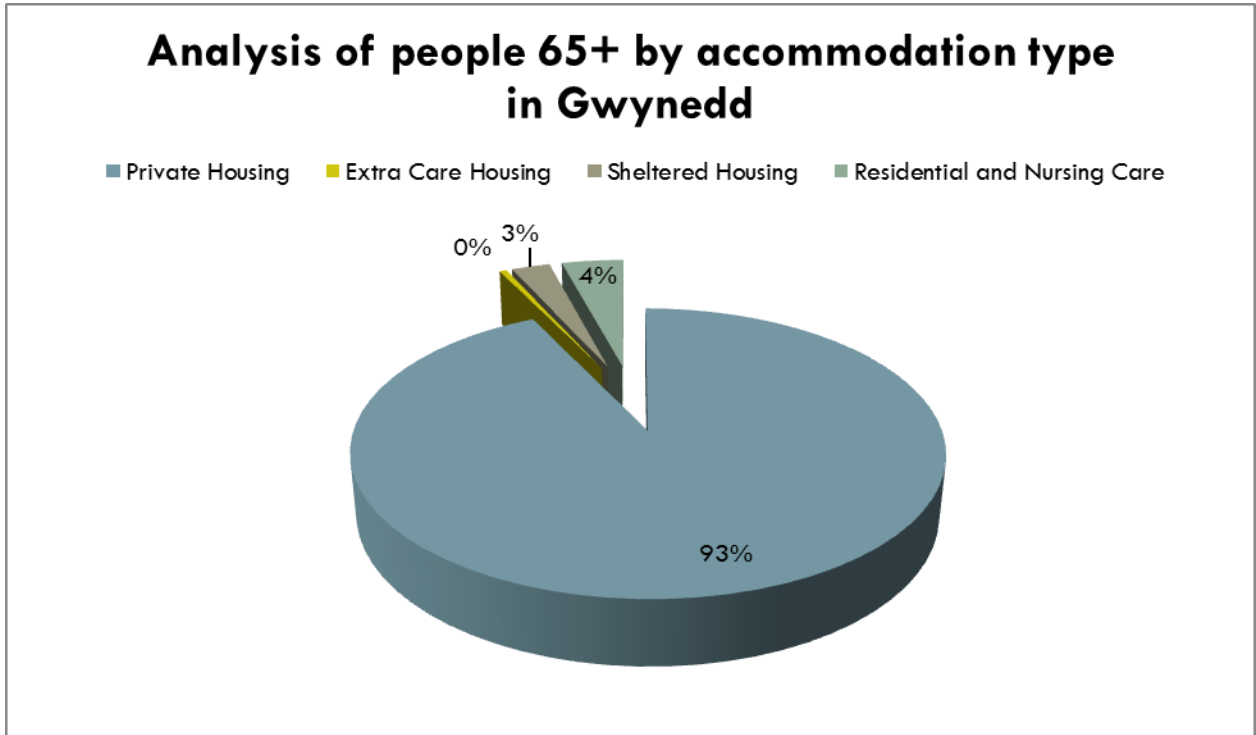
- briefly present some of the main messages and matters that will encourage a discussion
- provide an overview of factors that have been identified as the main areas with the highest density of older people and recommendations on the way forward
- receive any observations before the Strategy is presented to the Cabinet in March

3. Main messages to be considered

Some points can be generalised such as:

- main growth in the population is expected amongst the 85 year old age group
- a high percentage of older people will be living on their own

- the areas tend to be of coastal nature with several people choosing to retire within these areas without support network links
- dementia rates will increase as well as depression and anxiety
- the table below notes the occupancy of older people in the County



- 55% of service users receive residential care or nursing care within 5 miles of their home. 88% have travelled less than 15 miles to residential or nursing care.

4. Identifying areas with the highest density

In order to identify the areas that have the highest density of older people, a number of data sources have contributed to the creation of a comprehensive picture of the need that exists in those areas and the likelihood of future tendencies.

The Findings Paper notes the areas below as those with the highest density of older people:

- 1 Tywyn 1
- 2 Porthmadog West
- 3 Aberdaron, Botwnnog and Tudweiliog
- 4 Aberdyfi, Brynchrug and Llanfihangel
- 5 Llanbedrog and Abersoch
- 6 Llanbedr
- 7 Dyffryn Ardudwy
- 8 Menai, Caernarfon

Appendix 1 provides brief recommendations in terms of the next steps regarding further work in these areas:

- **Tywyn 1** – look to increase sheltered housing provision or to have extra care housing provision in the area
- **Porthmadog West** – extra care housing provision will be available from 2017 onwards. Traditionally, there has been a dependency on residential and nursing homes within the area.
- **Aberdaron, Botwnnog and Tudweiliog** – seek to promote preventative and support services in the area.
- **Aberdyfi, Brynchrug and Llanfihangel** – seek to promote preventative and support services in the area.
- **Llanbedrog and Abersoch** – would Extra Care Housing be an option by clustering the parishes of Aberdaron, Botwnnog and Tudweiliog as one area?
- **Llanbedr** – a rural area that appears to be maintaining itself
- **Dyffryn Ardudwy** – remodelling work on sheltered housing by CCG is underway – opportunity to promote the sheltered housing model
- **Menai, Caernarfon** – an area that appears to be able to maintain itself and is not a priority to target.

5 Matters to be discussed further:

The Strategy sets the direction for the provision of accommodation for older people in the County and the data report forms a basis for creating a position statement so that providers and partners are clear what the accommodation needs are in the future.

There are implications to the direction set within the Strategy which is, to increase the number of extra care schemes, reduce the dependency on residential beds and increase the choice for people to be able to maintain their independence within the community.

The Strategy also sets a precedent to target specific areas to identify solutions which will avoid higher costs to the Council in terms of care in the future. There are also financial obligations to providing Extra Care Housing should this be identified as an option within a specific area.

It is recognised that there is a lack of residential and nursing care within the County with many providers have difficulty in recruiting staff in some areas which in turn place additional pressure on the internal services of the Council.

There is an opportunity to make the connection with suitable housing, nature and type of care services and how the Council can influence / shape demand in the future.

6 Next steps

- To receive feedback on the direction of the Strategy from the Scrutiny Committee
- Discussions to take place with our main partners such as housing and health to formulate a comprehensive work plan in early February
- Strategy to be formally adopted by March 2016