

REPORT TO THE CABINET

15 March 2016

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Roberts

Subject: Older Peoples Accommodation Strategy

Contact officer: Eiliw Llŷr

The decision sought

Adopt the Older Peoples Accommodation Strategy

Views of the local member.

Not a local matter

1. Introduction

1.1 Vision

The aspirations and vision of Gwynedd's older people and Council are consistent; which is to promote and maintain the independence of older people within their indigenous communities. The Council has facilitated this by increasing the number of Extra Care Schemes, increasing the number of nursing bed sin certain areas and increasing the number of beds placements for those with memory problems in residential and nursing.

Therefore, the aim of Social Services for the future is to commission:

- Less traditional residential beds, while providing more services to support individuals to live at home or in accommodation which is suitable to their circumstances
- Opportunities for people to have an extended recovery period
- Flexible opportunities to receive respite care
- More residential care beds for people with dementia

The Older people Accommodation Strategy outlines how Cyngor Gwynedd will ensure a choice of suitable housing for older people with varying needs. Refer to Appendix 1 for a full copy of the Strategy.

1.2 Aims of the Strategy

I. Support individuals to stay in their homes as long as possible

What we hope to achieve is:

- Encourage people to consider and to plan their accommodation wishes sooner
- Make older people's homes appropriate for them to be able to stay in their homes when suitable and possible
- Promote the use of equipment and possible adaptations e.g. telecare equipment
- Retain respite care provision / temporary beds within the County

II. Ensure suitable accommodation for Gwynedd's older people

In line with supporting older people to stay in their homes, we are going to ensure that there is a range of accommodation options available for Gwynedd's older people.

What we hope to achieve is:

- Ensure that full use is made of the Sheltered Housing provision that exists in the County
- Increase the Extra Care Housing or similar provision within the county
- Reduce the need for beds in the County's residential homes by implementing on the above. Following a likely increase in demand, it will be necessary to consider increasing the general nursing accommodation provision
- Following a likely increase in demand, it will be necessary to research increasing the EMI nursing care accommodation provision

III. Find specific geographical areas where it is likely that the demand will be high

What we hope to achieve is:

- Investigate the possibility of creating specific plans to the following areas in light of being identified as areas to prioritise in terms of developing accommodation options
- Hold a discussion with partners to discuss and co-plan accommodation provision within the County

IV. Ensure that Gwynedd's older people are aware of the accommodation options that exist within the County and that accessible information is available.

What we hope to achieve is:

- Improve the quality and provision of information by ensuring that accessible information is available for people regarding all accommodation options for the older people of Gwynedd along with accommodation adaptations.
- Collaborate with relevant partners to form and distribute this information

2. Reasons for recommending the decision

2.1 Relevant matters to be considered in the context of the Strategy:

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.

2.2 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 comprehensive Data Report notes the areas below as those with the highest density of older people based on evidence that there will be a demand for services in the future:

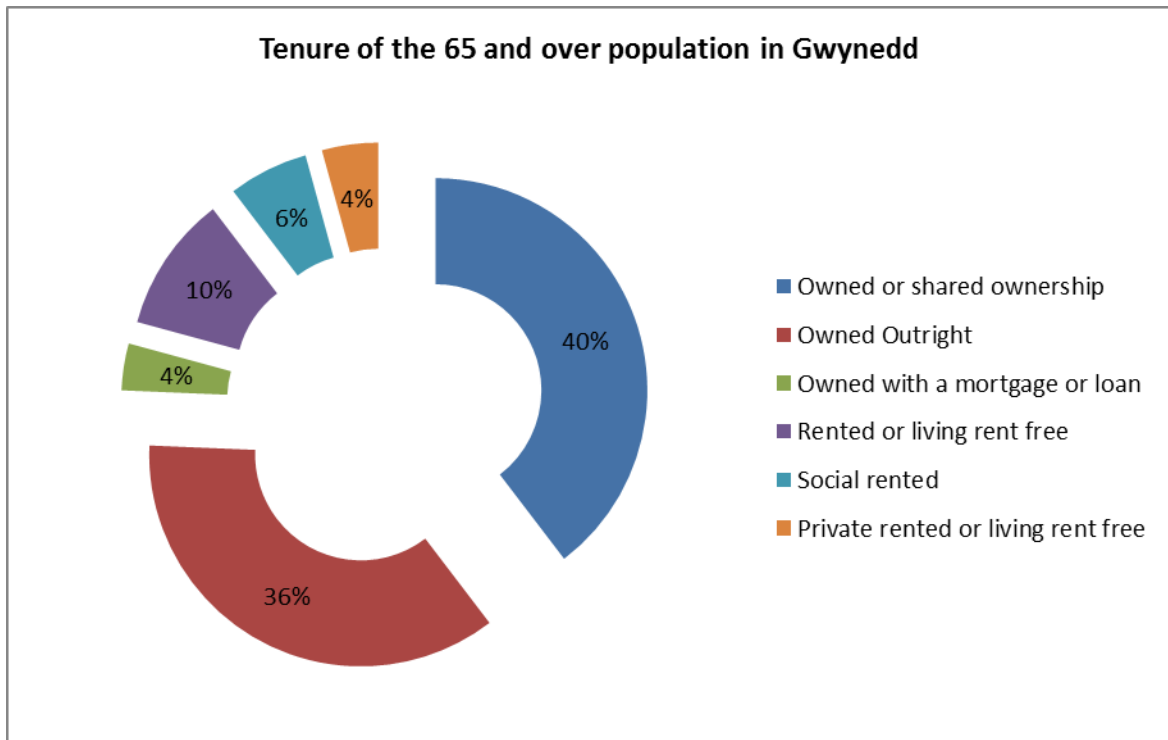
- 1 Tywyn 1
 - 2 Porthmadog West
 - 3 Aberdaron, Botwnnog and Tudweiliog
 - 4 Aberdyfi, Brynchrug and Llanfihangel
 - 5 Llanbedrog and Abersoch
 - 6 Llanbedr
 - 7 Dyffryn Ardudwy
 - 8 Menai, Caernarfon
- (they are not in any particular order)

The Data Report states the factors which have contributed to these areas being identified as being highest demand for support in the future.

3. Relevant considerations

The Strategy responds to factors which we will face in the future in Gwynedd, which are mainly:

- main increase in the population within the age group of 85 years old is expected
- a higher percentage of older people will be living alone
- the areas tend to be coastal areas where a number choose to retire without support networks
- the dementia rate will increase as well as depression and anxiety conditions
- there is a higher percentage of older people who live within the private sector i.e. own their home or rent privately, the table below states:



3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 an equality impact assessment has been carried out, which can be found in appendix B. This assessment highlights the possible impact and response which will be put in place. The assessment concludes the following possible impact:

Response positively to the General Duty of the Equality Act and the protected characteristics as the survey identifies the need for pitches in the next 5 years as identified by the respondents.

4. Next steps and timetable

The Gwynedd Housing Partnership adopts the Strategy and takes responsibility for drawing up and updating the work programme annually.

Views of the Statutory Officers

The Chief Executive:

The strategy presented, which has been scrutinized on its way to the Cabinet, sets the direction for the important work of trying to ensure the provision of suitable accommodation for an ageing population. The four objectives of the strategy are sound and important and it is now important that the Housing Partnership moves on to implement an Annual Implementation Plan for the strategy.

The Monitoring Officer:

One of the main objectives of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 is to try to stop people from needing or becoming dependent on services. Therefore this strategy, whilst seeking to support independence for as long as possible, is in keeping with the objective of the Act. No further comments regarding propriety.

The Head of Finance:

The report asks the Cabinet to adopt an 'Accommodation Strategy for Older People' which includes a vision and concrete objectives in the context of the ideal direction for the future, and especially in an era where there are reduced financial resources. The report does not recognize any potential financial implications for the Council as a result of implementing the Strategy. Therefore, pending the receipt of full relevant details for consideration, the Strategy and the vision could be accepted in principle, without prejudice to any financial commitments by the Council.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Older Peoples Accommodation Strategy

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment