
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 5
DATE OF MEETING:	17th FEBRUARY 2003	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	DAWN DAWSON (EXT 5797)	DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee reports\community scrutiny\17 feb 2003\sheltered housing services.doc
SUBJECT:	SHELTERED HOUSING SERVICES	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: CS03

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That members note the report.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To inform Members of the progress made against the Improvement Plan for the Sheltered Housing Service.

3.0 Detail

3.1 At Community Services Committee on 19th August 2002, Members were advised of the steps being taken to ensure the Improvement Plan was implemented, in order to both achieve an improved Best Value rating from the Housing Inspectorate and ensure improved service delivery to Sheltered Housing tenants.

3.2 Following the Best Value re-inspection during the week of the 9th December 2002, a rating of 'one star with promising prospects for improvement', has been awarded. The Best Value report will be published by the Audit Commission during the week commencing 17th February 2003.

3.3 Attached as Annex A is the updated Improvement Plan. Once the vision for the Sheltered Housing Service has been completed, a new three year plan will be developed. This plan will be reviewed annually, and will incorporate any outstanding actions in the existing Improvement Plan, and will be a tool to reflect short, medium and long term priorities, designed to ensure continuous improvement of the Sheltered Housing Service.

3.4 In addition to the actions highlighted in the Improvement Plan, the service has also delivered the following improvements;

- Increased Grounds Maintenance specification.
- Increased cleaning of the communal areas.
- Window cleaning to all communal areas.
- Security lighting installed in Woodville and Hatton.
- Additional door entry systems ordered for Woodville and Church Gresley.
- £100,000 approved for the year 2003/04 to carry out improvements to bring Schemes up to an agreed standard of accommodation.
- Establishment of a Sheltered Housing Maintenance Inspector.
- Partnership working with stakeholders to increase the number and range of social activities available.
- Completion of neighbourhood assessments designed to target a proportion of Crime and Disorder monies to the enhanced security of properties and the physical environment.
- Tenancy sign-ups conducted by Community Wardens.
- Agreement with the Pensions Agency to run surgeries aimed at maximising income.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The allocation of an additional £100,000 has been agreed via the Capital Bidding Round.