

EXECUTIVE

16th November 2023

Report Title	Procurement of Independent Living Care & Support Provision across North Northamptonshire
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Lead Member	Councillor Helen Harrison, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	Not applicable

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from Executive to procure a Care & Support provision within Independent Living schemes (known previously as Extra Care schemes and will, hereafter, be referred to as Independent Living) for adults who are ordinarily resident in North Northamptonshire inclusive of those with mental health needs (including dementia), autism, learning disabilities, and physical/sensory disability. Where required, support will also be available to provide palliative and end of life regulated social care.
- 1.2. Procuring this specialised care and support provision will ensure the continuation of existing services for vulnerable individuals, whilst further utilising the framework for call-off options in association with new developments of

accommodation-related schemes. Alignment with the Council's Housing Strategy will demonstrate a commitment to delivering exceptional housing in North Northamptonshire, tailored to the unique needs of individuals requiring care and support residing within North Northamptonshire.

- 1.3. Independent Living schemes support Adult Social Care (ASC) priorities for individuals in North Northamptonshire by reducing the number of people who go into long term residential care and the number of preventable hospital re-admissions. It also facilitates timely hospital discharge and enables people to die at home with dignity in a supported environment.
- 1.4. Having good quality care and support within specialist accommodation enables the Council to meet the changing needs of existing and emerging communities.
- 1.5. This report is specifically related to care and support provision only. The development of future Independent Living sites and the Council's strategy to stimulate this, sits separately, with this provision laying the foundations for that ongoing work. The Framework for specialist care and support provision ensures NNC is ready with a contractual mechanism to call off care and support at sites as they are built over the length of the contract.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The current Care and Support in Specialist Housing Framework (CSSH), which commenced in April 2019, is due to expire on 31st March 2024.
- 2.2. The total contract value for the proposed seven-year contract is £4.2m
- 2.3. Review of current provision and engagement with both the wider Specialist Care and Support market plus stakeholders has been conducted in preparation for the procurement. In addition, benchmarking of both cost and service model has been undertaken with neighbouring Local Authorities and Councils nationally.
- 2.4. Based on the findings, it is proposed a six-year agreement with the option to extend for a further year is approved in order to provide certainty and stability to the system, whilst tracking the 10-year vision of Social Care Reform within the White Paper: People at the Heart of Care.
- 2.5. A Framework will enable awarded providers, to contract with the Council throughout the term of the agreement, encouraging new and specialist Providers into North Northamptonshire. In addition, the Framework will support a range of providers, to work with the Council, increasing diversity and volume within the market and maximising choice and sustainability in response to new schemes as they are built across the Council. Following a robust procurement process, providers will be awarded contracts having been assessed against a range of quality assurance tools, minimising risk to the Council.

3. Recommendations

3.1. It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Approve the procurement of Care & Support provision within Independent Living Schemes to ensure North Northamptonshire remains compliant in its statutory responsibilities.
- b) Delegate to the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (DASS), to take any further decisions and/or actions required to conclude the procurement and award of the contract.
- c) Delegate to the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (DASS), to take any decisions in relation to future call-off and mini-competitions from the agreement.

3.2 Reasons for Recommendations:

- A Framework will ensure that the Council can efficiently source specialist care and support in Independent Living settings in a timely fashion when responding to new scheme developments.
- The provision of high-quality care and support within Independent Living settings offers a beneficial and impactful alternative to residential care when Home First is no longer a sustainable long term accommodation option for individuals
- Commissioning of Care & Support provision within Independent Living settings, ensures the Council fulfils its statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to provide care and support whilst preventing and influencing the delay of increasing need of ageing individuals.

3.3 The recommended approach maximises outcomes and value for money by supporting individuals with care and support needs to remain living independently for as long as they are able, delaying the need for residential care solutions. The Council is also better able to engage with contracted providers to support quality improvement and the shaping of services to meet the needs of people in North Northamptonshire. Furthermore, the Council is able to make informed decisions about its medium-term financial plan due to the reduction in need to source delivery with rates negotiated on a scheme-by-scheme basis.

3.4 Alternative Options Considered:

- Making use of the Homecare Framework to source care and support provision – acknowledged not recommended due to absence of non-specialised support conducive to Independent Living settings. This would mean we could not influence the development of services tailored to the

provision of extra care and would limit opportunities to target care and support in a way that maximises independence in these settings.

- Negotiating individual contracts for each scheme on a non-framework agreement basis - acknowledged equally not recommended due to likelihood of higher cost impact in doing so. This also reduced our oversight of quality and safety and abilities to stimulate an efficient and effective market and service model.

4. Report Background

4.1. The Care Act 2014 places a statutory duty on local authorities to provide care and support to meet the identified needs of individuals. The current Care & Support in Specialist Housing (CSSH) contract, commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council, expires on 31st March 2024 with no option for further extension. This Contract included other service categories outside of Extra Care schemes' care and support provision which are now inactive/obsolete being superseded by other Contracts such as Commissioning for a Good Life (C4GL). The procurement within this report includes only Extra Care schemes' care and support provision.

4.2. Independent Living (Extra Care) schemes deliver a model of care which promotes independent living for a range of vulnerable people who would otherwise be at risk of social isolation, admission to hospital or residential care.

North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) established a multi-disciplinary project group to review current services, identify North Northamptonshire's future needs and assess the contracting options available to the Council. A range of activities have been undertaken including:

- a) Review of current provision, including capacity and demand mapping (**Appendix A**)
- b) Fee benchmarking with other Local Authorities & Cost Modelling (**Appendix B**)
- c) Specialist Housing with care & support options appraisal (**Appendix C**)
- d) Engagement with current providers, statutory partners and individuals who currently draw on services and those potential future users of services. (**Appendix D**)

4.3 The review evidenced that the number of people in North Northamptonshire aged over 75 is projected to increase by 26,700 (53% increase) over the next 20 years, with the over 85 age group increasing by 16,200 (94% increase). On this basis we expect demand for this model of care to increase.

4.4 At the time of writing¹, there are 52 Council funded individuals receiving care and support within Independent Living Schemes, equating to 516 hours per week of care within North Northamptonshire. 27 of these individuals are aged over 65, eight are between the ages of 55 & 64 and 17 individuals younger than 55 are currently residing in Independent Living schemes.

¹ Data as at 24th July 2023

- 4.5 There will be limited interest from the market should rates not reflect the true costs of delivering care and support within these types of living environments. DHSC has not mandated a requirement to carry out a Fair Cost of Care (FCoC) exercise for this area of the market, however in light of this having taken place in both Care Homes (65+) and Homecare (18+) as a result of the Health and Social Care Bill 2022 already; recommissioning should ensure that the care and support in Independent Living settings is equally supported to remain sustainable.
- 4.6 The market for care services overall remains challenging in terms of recruiting and retaining the workforce, ongoing quality assurance and maintaining financial sustainability for the short to medium term. The Council remains committed to working collaboratively with service providers to develop strategies to address these and future challenges through innovative and hybrid models of care, which high focus on digitalisation and assistive technology.
- 4.7 Based on the identified population increases and current market capacity (**Appendix B**), it is vital that the Council commissions services in a way that encourages the market to develop in order to meet future demand and focus on priorities of prevent, reduce and delay need for higher levels of formal care.
- 4.8 The Council has engaged with current users, future users, providers and statutory partners to maximise engagement and collaboration to ensure an effective service model. Feedback received as part of these processes has informed the recommend approach and specification.
- 4.9 Consultation and a detailed commissioning review has identified a change in delivery model for Independent Living settings is both necessary and welcomed. Engagement with the market surrounding service and fee modelling concluded the current model was difficult to navigate, not fit for purpose, nor financially consistent or sustainable for Providers and the Council alike.
- 4.10 Benchmarking with other local authorities has identified that the proposed service model is progressive in its approach, ensuring service development and use of digital solutions to care and support are included within the specification. Thus, providing support to the system as a whole and ensuring individuals remain connected to their communities.
- 4.11 Fee modelling has been carried out in partnership with Finance colleagues. Recommended rates have been shaped by local authority benchmarking, (inclusive of the Fair Cost of Care exercise (FCoC)), engagement with the market and assistance from the Housing and Benefits team.
- 4.12 The Service Specification aligns with the strategic aims of Northamptonshire's Integrated Care system; increasing health and care provision within the community. All partners including statutory, voluntary and external service providers remain focused on the reduction of unnecessary admissions to hospitals and residential care homes, reducing delayed discharges from hospital and providing a stronger platform of integrated and preventative services.

- 4.13 The benefit to Individuals as well as Health and Social Care as a system are evidential. As an example, the falls rate in Independent Living settings (Extra care schemes) is currently 31%, this is significantly lower than that of those living in their own homes, where this figure increases to 49%. Those Individuals residing in such settings are also identified as having reduced levels of nights spent in hospital than may be expected in an equivalent population living in the community.
- 4.14 Care and support providers and the system collaboratively will:
- I. offer support for individuals to remain living independently and within their local communities safely and as valued citizens. Furthermore, delaying and reducing the need for residential bedded solutions of care.
 - II. continue to listen and involve individuals using services in the future development of these, in turn promoting independence and individual outcomes.
- 4.15 To support this, the specification will ensure support to individuals is delivered with the promotion of self-care where this remains possible and promotes joined up working with colleagues within Health and Voluntary sector agencies across North Northamptonshire for the benefit of individuals. At the same time, assisting providers to deliver the following key outcomes:
- a) Promotion of Independence – delaying and reducing the need for care and support
 - b) Improving Health and Wellbeing of Individuals
 - c) Ensuring a Positive Experience of Care and Support
 - d) Personal Dignity is maintained for Individuals
 - e) Increased choice and control for individuals
 - f) Providing quality of care and support that is person centred, culturally sensitive & strengths based in its focus.
 - g) Achieving good outcomes for individuals, giving support and encouragement
- 4.16 In addition, the specification will include a service development clause enabling the Council, and its partners, to work with providers during the life of the contract, to develop services, including but not limited to, increased use of assisted technology and digitalisation, in support of the transformation towards innovative, less intrusive, models of care and support.
- 4.17 The Commissioning and Quality teams will also work with both internal and external partners to develop the support available to providers. Access to training and an increasingly supportive quality and monitoring function will create added value for those choosing to work with the Council and will support service development and quality.
- 4.18 In line with North Northamptonshire Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Constitution, a report will be presented the Purchasing Gateway Group.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 Officers have reviewed the existing contractual arrangements in conjunction with colleagues from both the Legal and Procurement teams. The maximum extension period for the current Contract will expire on 31st March 2024.
- 5.2 Failure to re-commission an effective contractual framework is not a recommended option due to the risk it presents. These are detailed in section 7.4
- 5.3 The findings of the review identified that an Open Framework was the preferred approach for North Northamptonshire due to ensuring readily available care and support provision within Independent Living settings is available as new schemes are built over the lifetime of the Contract.
- 5.4 In order to create stability in the market, whilst tracking alongside Social Care Reform, an agreement term of six years is proposed, with the option for a one-year further extension period. This further allows continued alignment to the Council's Housing Strategy.
- 5.5 The Terms and Conditions will include an option for Integrated Care System partners to become co-commissioners of the Framework over its lifetime if required.
- 5.6 Engagement with the market commenced on 3rd May 2023 to ensure the new model was viable and sustainable for providers.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 Following approval from the Executive, the procurement will be delivered as per the key timelines below.

Executive	16 th November 2023
Tender Published	w/c 20 th November 2023
Evaluation	w/c 27 th December 2023
Contract Award	w/c 12 th February 2024
Contract Start Date	1 st April 2024

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 The total budget of £4.2m has been identified for the term of the contract. This has been based on our current annual expenditure on care and support within Independent Living settings of £551K per annum, with an additional investment required. This additional investment would be £42K and would be a new

pressure on the current draft Medium-Term Financial Plan. This investment will ensure long term savings for the Council. The proposed rates can be seen under **Appendix C**

- 7.1.2 The calculations and projections exclude one existing scheme Carey Street as an Independent Living Scheme as it will transfer to an Intensive Housing management model. Whilst work is still underway, all care and support needs are included in the identified budget, but it is anticipated a nominal charge will be required for emergency pull cord response.
- 7.1.3 An ageing population, with associated numbers of people with care and support needs over the age of 55, is likely to result in an increased demand for care and support in these settings. The Council will continue to work with the market over the life of the contract to develop good practice and efficiencies. Investing in the sector and supporting the market with new developments accordingly.
- 7.1.4 By the utilisation of the Open Framework, it is anticipated the Council will make savings in expenditure over the lifetime of the Contract due to the cessation of high core charges, adoption of consistent payment schedules and by ensuring a reduction in need for higher costing residential bedded provision by offering a viable alternative housing model offering flexible levels of care and support

7.2 Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 Local authorities in England have a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to provide care assessments and meet the resulting assessed needs through the provision of care and support for vulnerable adults.
- 7.2.2 The services described in this report fall within those set out in schedule 3 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR) and are therefore subject to the light touch regime (LTR) described in regulation 74 to 76 of the PCR.
- 7.2.3 Under the LTR, the council can design its own procedure for LTR procurements provided that it -
 - a) complies with the principles of equal treatment and transparency.
 - b) carries out the procedure in conformity with information included in the notice
 - c) sets time limits that are reasonable and proportionate.
- 7.2.4 From section 2.5 of this report, a robust procurement process is to be followed and **Appendix A** (c) details the resources earmarked to ensure that the framework procured is fit for purpose.
- 7.2.5 Given that the Council is not required to use a particular procurement procedure, the selected option 3 can be followed through since the procurement will be designed to follow a compliant procurement process, which is in line with the requirements of the PCR and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Constitution.
- 7.2.6 The Legal team have been engaged throughout the procurement to ensure a full and appropriate contract is prepared to meet the requirement.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1 The proposed service supports North Northamptonshire's Corporate Vision of being: "A place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life".
- 7.3.2 The service also aligns to Northamptonshire's Health and Care Partnerships vision of "a positive lifetime of health, wellbeing and care in our community".
- 7.3.3 An alignment to the Council's continued Housing Strategy.

7.4 Risk

- 7.4.1 There is a risk of over interest from a generic unspecialised market due to Homecare providers with capacity looking to diversify.
- 7.4.2 Should the added investment as identified by finance colleagues not be agreed there will be limited interest from the specialised market. Growing costs associated with increasing business and staffing costs are impacting on providers ability to operate a viable service. The proposed model has attempted to mitigate this risk through regular market engagement, ensuring the service and contract is viable for bidders.

7.5 Consultation

- 7.5.1 Market engagement has taken place with both providers delivering comparable services in other Local Authority areas and those currently on the Care and Support in Specialist Housing (CSSH) Framework to support with the remodelling of the service.
- 7.5.2 A range of internal stakeholders including Adult Social Care, Procurement, Housing and Finance, are members of the commissioning Project Group. This has ensured the service will meet the operational and corporate requirements of the Council.
- 7.5.3 Engagement has taken place with; individuals currently residing in Extra Care schemes, those individuals with autism and learning disabilities, in addition to those living with dementia. Individuals above the age of 50 in receipt of NNC funded Direct payments were sent a survey to capture views and help inform specification development. The same survey has been shared on the Council's public website to gather views of residents of North Northamptonshire.
- 7.5.4 The Service Specification reflects the feedback and needs of individuals, the provider market and other stakeholders including internal and external partners.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel (EAP)

- 7.6.1 This paper has not been considered by an Executive Advisory Panel.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 The procurement process and/or any part of the requirement may be selected for consideration by Scrutiny.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 In line with the Equality Act (2010) an Equality Screening Assessment has been undertaken and included as part of the report to the Procurement Gateway Group.

7.8.2 The Equality Screening Assessment approved by the Council's Equalities Team identifies the service will proactively meet the needs of individuals with protected characteristics.

7.8.3 The service will be relevant for all areas of North Northamptonshire where Independent Living schemes are situated now and equally built in the future. The care and support offered will be reflective of the needs of all diversity within local communities.

7.9 Climate and Environment Impact

7.9.1 Providers will be required to deliver the service in a way that maximises fuel efficiency and limits impact on the climate and environment. Providers will work with North Northamptonshire Council to continuously review the service delivery model over the lifetime of the contract to benefit from new technologies or ways of working to further reduce environmental impact.

7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 The Council will continue to work with providers to maximise employment opportunities within the local community.

7.10.2 The Service will work collaboratively with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector to deliver joined-up and holistic care and support to individuals accessing service.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 No implications identified.

8 Background Papers

8.1 Procurement Gateway Group Form

Appendix A – SLT Business Case- Independent Living Settings (Extra Care)

Recommissioning Independent Living (Extra Care) Care and Support provision is an integral component of our ongoing efforts within NNC's broader Housing Strategy being developed.

The scope of this Business case covers Extra Care Housing only, where its Care and Support provision contract is expiring on 31st March 2024. The total current contract value in scope of this paper is £551K.

Executive summary

This business case serves three primary purposes:

- a) to ensure the continuation of existing services with current extra care providers for vulnerable individuals
- b) to utilise the new proposed framework through call-off options for the development of new accommodation-related schemes, aligning with NNC's Accommodation Plan/Strategy which will demonstrate a commitment to delivering exceptional housing in North Northamptonshire, tailored to the unique needs of individuals requiring care and support.
- c) To inform senior managers of the additional requested investment of £42K in order to procure a framework fit for purpose, that stimulates market appetite in the current climate and most importantly mitigates a higher cost impact from the risk of having no contract in place post 31st March 2024. If NNC were to become out of contract, these placements would revert to spot rates, which would become a much higher cost than the proposed new price increase in cost of £42K.

For context, this additional cost is in relation to a new tariff base of an overall current contract value of £551K. This contract currently supports 52 individuals. A table setting out the new tariffs affected, which has formed part of a detailed piece of work, can be seen under appendix A illustrating the proposed changes by type. This overall £42K cost increase is a change in the historic price structure and does not recognise any wider annual inflation potential uplift from 24/25, which has not yet been agreed.

Background

It is vital that approval is secured regarding this business case, in order to progress NNC's commitment in addressing the evolving housing and associated care and support needs of our aging population whilst ensuring efficiencies and value for money for North Northamptonshire.

NNC currently have 4 Extra Care schemes contracted on the Care and Support in Specialist Housing (CSSH) Framework. This Contract will **expire on 31st March 2024** and carries no further extension period beyond this. There are financial risks identified for NNC should this provision not be reprocurd in time for 1st April 2024.

NNC's primary objectives must be to ensure that forecasted numbers of specialist accommodation and associated services are available across the Unitary offering all people over the age of 55 a living environment which allows them to maintain their

independence within their local communities whilst also being able to receive flexible, responsive assistance as and when required.

These types of specialised accommodation models need developing to ensure individuals are offered real alternatives to residential care homes, whilst in turn offering a cost-effective comparable model of delaying, preventing and reducing the need for formal services, as well as reducing the likelihood of Individuals losing their homes.

The term Independent Living schemes will be used here onwards to cover what is currently known as Extra Care settings. These schemes support Adult Social Care (ASC) priorities for Individuals in North Northamptonshire by reducing the number of people who go into long term residential care, as well as reducing the number of preventable hospital re-admissions. They also proactively facilitate and support timely hospital discharge and ensure people are supported to die at home with dignity in a supported environment where this is their wish. These types of accommodation hold further key benefits in physical and mental wellbeing for a range of vulnerable people who would otherwise be at risk of social isolation.

To achieve the development of this model, NNC will prioritise collaboration, work with the market to develop adaptable housing solutions in bridging existing gaps, including in turn modernising some of the current older provision. At the core of NNC's strategic efforts lies:

- the establishment of a sustainable supply of affordable and accessible housing
- continued promotion of independence
- alignment of housing models with individual tenants' specific needs
- diversification of provision
- exploration of innovative support approaches. NNC will actively encourage engagement from organisations across various housing sectors to drive innovation.

NNC's success relies upon securing approval for proposed nominal investment in order to benefit from long term savings in the procurement of a framework which will:

1. support when development of new schemes (where gaps exist across the Council) require care and support provision being in situ.
2. Support robust forecasting and promoting financial sustainability for both the market and the Council.

Strategic Goals

To realise these goals, we will work in close collaboration with our partners, prioritise evidence-based strategies, enhance accessibility to housing options, and leverage technology to transform personalised support. Our overarching aim is to make meaningful contributions to the efficient management of housing demand in North Northamptonshire.

Statistics

There are currently 65,357 people over the age of 65 residing in North Northamptonshire equating to 18.1% of the Council’s population made up in the following way;

Age	Population	Percentage
Aged 65 to 74 years	36,408	10.1
Aged 75 to 84 years	21,326	5.9
Aged 85 years and over	7,623	2.1

The geographical location of 65’s and numbers are as follows:

Area	Number of 65+
Corby	10,551
East Northants Rural	6,443
East Northants Urban	13,423
Kettering Rural	5,449
Kettering Urban	13,901
Wellingborough Rural	4,948
Wellingborough Urban	10,642

There has been rapid growth in older populations in the last 5 years. Numbers of over 80’s have doubled in the last 20 years.

Forecasted data indicates that the number of people in North Northamptonshire aged over 75 is projected to increase by 26,700 (53% increase) over the next 20 years, with the over 85 age group increasing by 16,200 (94% increase). NNC must ensure adequate provision is in place for the increase in demand for this model of care.

Additionally, the 2021 census projects there to be a 52% increase in the number of individuals with learning disabilities in the next 20 years. In terms of numbers this amounts to an additional 718 ageing people.

There are currently 118 individuals with learning disabilities aged 65 and above receiving a commissioned service. With an additional 147 individuals between the age of 55 and 64.

There are currently 627 people within North Northamptonshire aged 65 and over who are autistic. Based on the 2021 Census, there is a projected increase of 51.5% in the number of individuals with autism aged 65+ by 2040.

Location	Increase % in number forecasted at 2040
Corby	59.18%
East Northants	56.12%

Kettering	48.09%
Wellingborough	44.00%

Alternatives to supported living and residential care homes also need to be available as choices for these groups of ageing individuals.

Review of current Provision

The current contract for Care and Support in Specialist Housing (CSSH) will expire on 31st March 2024 with no further extension period available. This framework, initially commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), carried an estimated contract value of for NNC of £38.75 million across the whole County and **included all supported living** provision as well as the small amount of Extra Care provision.

The current annual contract value/spend for Extra Care Provision **only** (excluding supported living provision) is £551K in North Northamptonshire.

Launched in April 2019, the CSSH framework aimed to promote independent living and reduce reliance on residential/nursing care placements. It served individuals aged 18 and above with diverse needs, encompassing mental health, learning disabilities, autism, physical disabilities, dementia, and nursing care.

NNC currently commissions care and support provision for individuals in four extra care schemes situated with North Northamptonshire. These 4 schemes equate to 166 units of available accommodation in total.

At present only 18 of these units are vacant, these had been identified as sales only accommodation, however responding to market need the provider is now in the process of these being converted to rental tenure.

Two providers, East Midlands Housing (EMH) and Extra Care Charitable Trust (ECTT) currently deliver the care and support provision within these 4 schemes. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulates these services.

Housing providers manage applicant registers, vacant properties, and waiting lists. under the current contract the Council procured care for all four extra care schemes. The new model incorporates feedback from tenants and carers, focusing on individualised care packages and 24/7 on-site urgent care, available to those with commissioned care.

Currently, 52 tenants across all schemes receive care services commissioned by the Council, amounting to £10,611 per week in total and equating to 516 hours per week of care within North Northamptonshire.

27 of these individuals are aged over 65, 8 are between the ages of 55 & 64, and 17 individuals younger than 55 currently reside in Independent Living schemes. The average cost for these services is £204.06 per week per individual. Other tenants within these schemes may purchase care from the on-site provider or choose their own provider and pay privately.

NNC's aim is to provide attractive alternatives to residential care homes, supporting independence, reducing pressure on social care services, and improving the overall well-being of our residents, ensuring couples remain able to reside together throughout their lives and in support of those associated changing needs encountered with both ageing and increased frailty.

With the introduction of other frameworks since 2019 such as Commissioning for a Good Life (C4GL), many of the categories within the CSSH Framework became inactive as a result and over time obsolete, being no longer required. The exception to this being the Extra Care provision which continues to be well utilised and therefore requires future provision securing.

In North Northamptonshire, we currently offer various Supported Living accommodation models, primarily catering for older people and individuals with learning disabilities, autism, and mental health needs. These services aim to provide individuals with their own accommodation whilst offering necessary support. There is notably a concentration of services in certain areas of North Northamptonshire. NNC plan to diversify and expand upon accommodation models for this group of individuals as part of this recommissioning activity.

Regarding mental health services, current accommodation provision is concentrated in specific areas, notably in suburban areas, which have pockets of deprivation. This does not align with the preferences and community ties of individuals living in other parts of the area. Currently 17 individuals with mental health needs are placed out of NNC's area due potentially to the limited variety of appropriate provision.

Individuals with other vulnerabilities and physical disabilities often access residential care accommodation models due to complexities and behaviours that both accommodation environments and the associated care and support provision have been unable to meet.

NNC recognises the need for more agile support services to meet the needs of these forecasted cohorts of individuals effectively. It is likely there will be an increase in the complexity of care needs as evidenced by other demographics.

There are four Extra Care provisions NNC commission care and support within: Imperial Court (Rushen), Sunley Court (Kettering), Rosewood Court (Wellingborough) and Carey Street (inclusive of both Wrights and Park Court) (Kettering)

Mapping provision verses need

Challenges with our existing schemes:

- Schemes are often not located where forecasted numbers of older people live
- There is currently still limited alternative housing choice for people seeking independent living in older age
- Extra Care schemes have not been designed considering the environmental benefits for all representative groups of older people; i.e. those with dementia, sensory impairment, autism etc.
- Some older supported housing stock does not fit with modern standards of living or be suitable for meeting needs across the area.

NNC’s 10-year accommodation plan will reflect the Council’s commitment to providing housing solutions that empower the residents of North Northamptonshire to embark on a journey of well-being, enriched living, and graceful ageing.

Furthermore, national factors, such as post covid recovery and workforce challenges in social care, impacting the local approach will be addressed in the future Framework for Care and Support provision. Emphasis of the positive equality impact of increasing Extra Care housing availability and affordability for vulnerable community members, whilst acknowledging the requirement in meeting full inclusivity and diversity when considering ethnicity, linguistics, cultural support needs, and religious needs.

Market overview in line with forecasted ageing growth has identified estimated shortfall in extra-care housing in specific areas like Corby and areas of East Northants such as Thrapston / Raunds

Potential new developments shared with NNC are as follows:

Area	No. of Units	Developer	Partnered Care Provider	Forecasted timeline
Oundle	65	Persimmon	Housing 21	By September 2025
Wellingborough	75	Greatwell	Not identified	2025
Wellingborough (Stanton Cross)	75	Deeley Construction	Housing 21	Not advised
Wellingborough (Glenvale Park)	53	McCarthy Stone	Not identified	Not advised

Commissioning Aspirations, Intentions, and Opportunities

NNC's primary goal is to enable independent living for older individuals, providing timely community-based support to prevent hospitalisation or residential care and aiding in their return to independence following episodes of ill health. We aim to:

1. Increase the availability of lifelong general needs housing.
2. Offer personalised and flexible care for sustained independent living, even with increasing care needs.

We also aspire to provide quality, purpose-built independent living accommodation with onsite care (extra care / housing with care) for those who cannot stay in their homes. We aim to:

1. Develop a sufficient supply of independent living accommodation with onsite care (extra care) across various tenures.
2. Locate these facilities strategically to meet growing demand and promote active, independent living with access to health and wellbeing support.
3. Enhance physical and environmental standards in both existing and new older people's accommodation.

We recognise the importance of a skilled care workforce to deliver high-quality services and will collaborate with providers to attract, recruit, and retain such a workforce.

Key Objectives:

1. Work with housing developers to develop affordable extra care schemes offering various tenure types.
2. Share data with stakeholders and the housing and care sector to ensure developed accommodation aligns with demand.

The Independent Living settings (Extra Care) model aligns with the council's strategic approach to enhance well-being and prevent, reduce, delay, and meet individual and community needs. It provides a home for life, fostering a vibrant community where tenants support each other as their own neighbourhood.

NNC aims to encourage more individuals to consider Independent Living schemes as an alternative to residential care. NNC plan to support people with higher care and support needs to move into these types of housing at the right time.

To achieve these objectives, we will closely collaborate with essential partners, prioritise evidence-based strategies, enhance access to housing, and leverage technology to provide tailored support. Additionally, we aim to contribute to the effective management of housing demand in North Northamptonshire.

The new framework will align with North Northamptonshire's regeneration plans, with a strong emphasis on new housing solutions equipped with care and support services.

Link to other strategies

This proposal will be aligned to the forthcoming Adult Social Care Strategy and NNC Housing / Accommodation Strategy for those with care and support and the Council's strategic objectives.

Views of residents

A Public Survey was made available during the month of July through the NNC website. The target audience was any individual residing in North Northamptonshire aged 50 years and over. The online information included a definition of an Independent Living Scheme and a set of questions for completion.

The information was also produced in an accessible format.

Support was made available to individuals who required assistance to complete the survey.

Surveys were also sent by post to all individuals over 50 years old in receipt of an NNC Direct Payment.

85 usable responses were received, of which:

42 people were aged 50-64

30 people aged 65-84

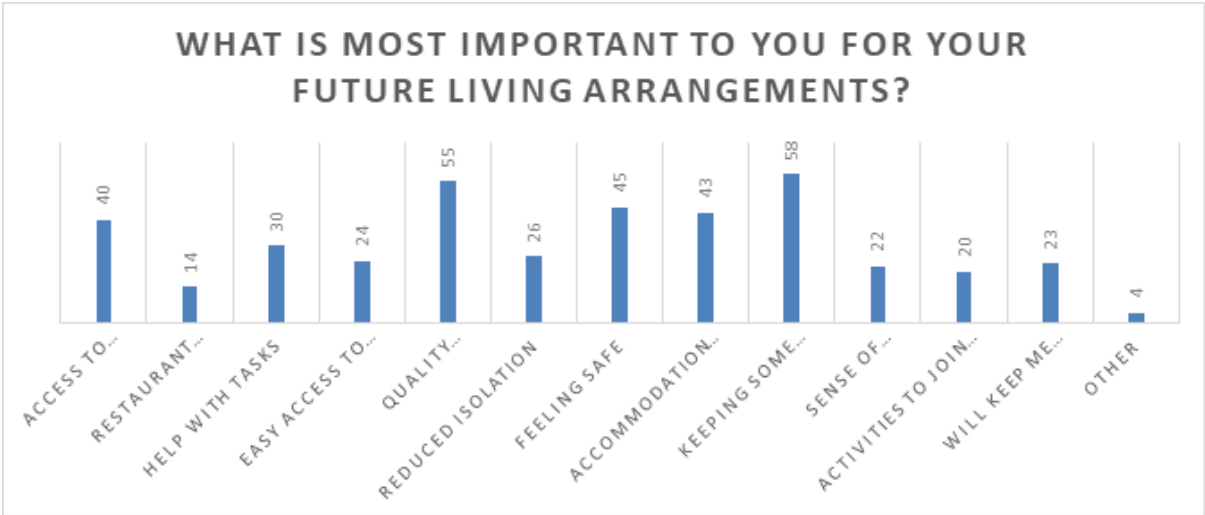
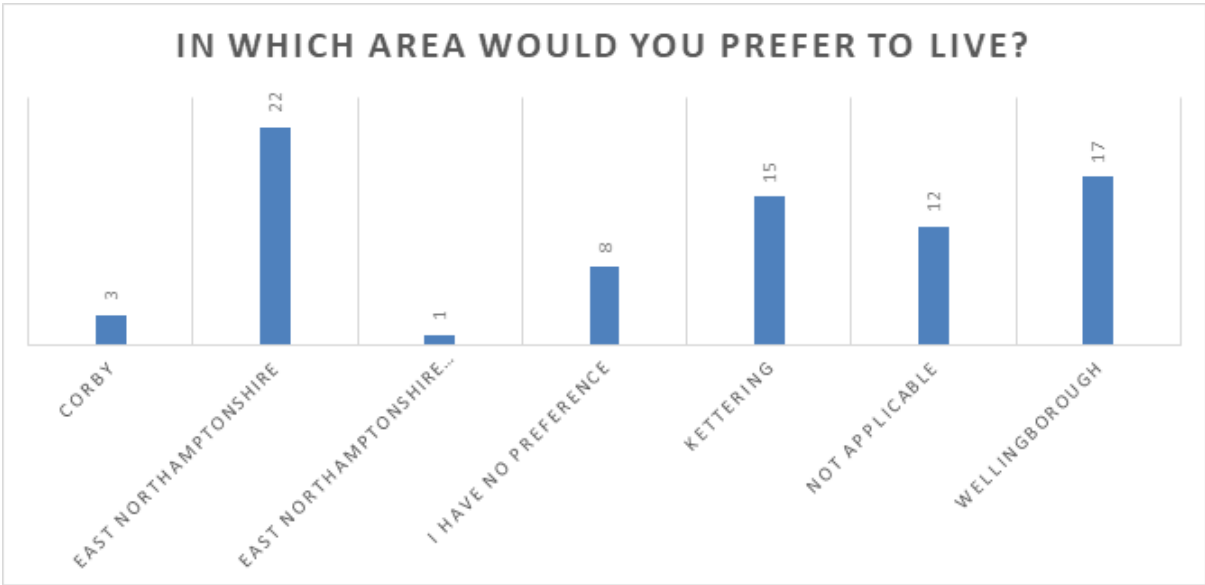
3 people were aged 85+

10 people did not give a response

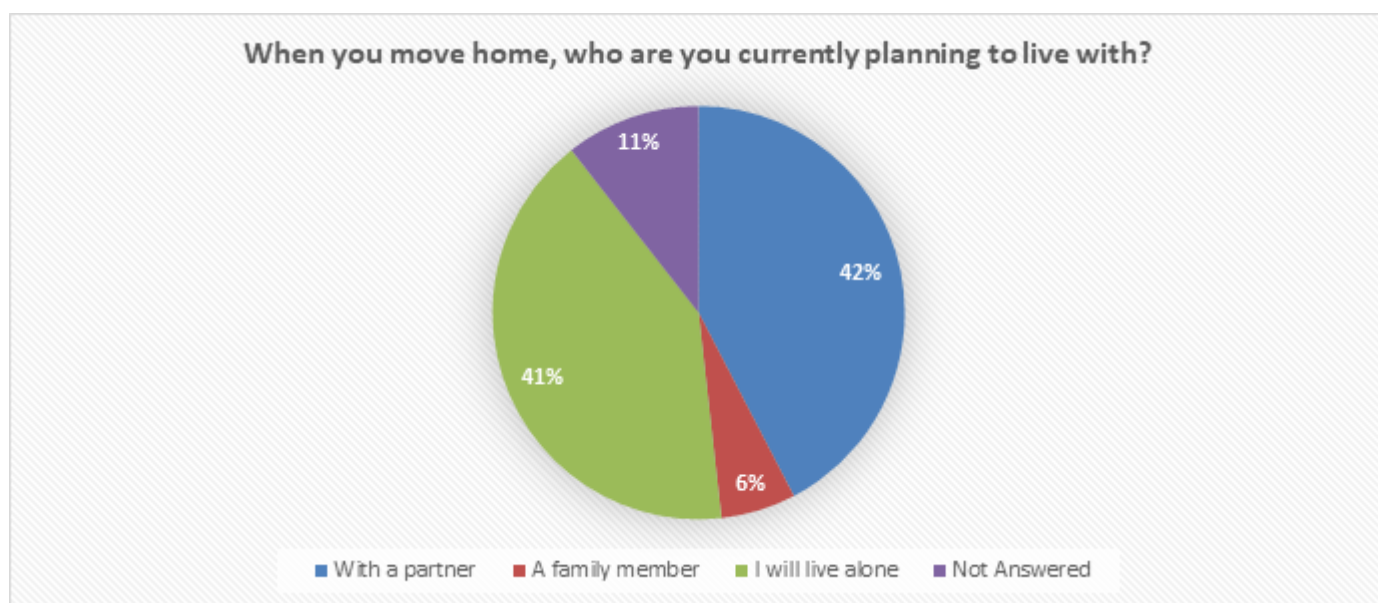
Of those who replied:
 6 people said they were looking to move in the next 1-2 years
 5 people in the next 5 years,
 6 people in the next 10 years.
 48 people were not planning on moving
 20 were unsure or gave no answer.

When asked whether people would consider an Independent Living scheme as an option, 36 (42%) said they would be interested in such a scheme.

A summary of some of the feedback of is presented as follows:



Factors that may deter me from moving into a scheme	Total
Don't want to leave my home	45
Don't want to leave my local community	21
Don't want to move away from friends	19
Not sure whether the scheme would be right for me	29
Not having my own private garden or outdoor space	40
Losing independence and having less control over what I do	41
Losing home comforts	25
Loneliness of isolation	4
Unfamiliar environment	14
Everyone around the same age	14
Environment doesn't meet my needs	16
Affordability	44
Other	7



Additionally

A further survey was offered to all tenants within 2 of the existing schemes across North Northamptonshire for completion, regardless of whether they self-funded their care and support or it was a commissioned service.

28 responses were received.

Key factors of importance in residing within the scheme were unanimously:

- Feeling part of a community, having friends as neighbours, companionship and company
- Living in a safe and secure environment
- Knowing that my well-being is being monitored on a daily basis
-

When asked “**Do you think you will ever leave the scheme?**” responses included:

- I would like to end my life here
- Only in a pine box!!!
- Only in my coffin
- When I depart this earth.
- I won't ever leave. I couldn't wait to come back from hospital

Other comments when asked “**What is the most important thing living here offers you?**”:

- Still able to lead an active life
- Privacy in my flat, company when I need it
- I'm very happy here, it's the best thing I ever did!
- I feel part of a large family
- Independence
- Night staff around

When asked “**is there anything you feel would enhance living here?**”:

- Having a nurse available (blood pressure checks etc)

Options Appraisal

The following options have been looked as part of this proposal:

Option 1: Maintaining the Status Quo.

Choosing to take no action is not a viable option because the existing contract is set to expire on 31 March 2024, which would result in a gap in statutory provision. While placements can still be arranged with providers, it's worth noting that such arrangements on spot purchase may come at a higher cost. An alternative would be to consider placing individuals in residential placements, which would increase the cost.

Option 2: Recommission like for like Framework.

This is not recommended as the findings of the review of the Contract has identified high numbers of the Service categories as now obsolete.

Option 3: Split OP and WAA within CSSH and procure only Independent Living (Extra Care) Support at this time, excluding Supported Living.

Other elements of CSSH area already available within other Framework Contracts.

Option 3 is recommended, ensuring that we utilise the framework to enable flexible and cost-effective procurement of various accommodation-related care and support models, ensuring optimal value for the council.

Costs

Soft market testing and engagement has taken place with providers of NNC's current Extra Care schemes as well as the wider Extra Care market in order to inform both

service and cost modelling but also to further ensure adequate appetite for the new framework.

Furthermore, extensive benchmarking has taken place with local authorities, locally and nationally, the **median** findings of rates were as follows:

Table 1

Hourly rate for Social Care Act eligible needs	Weekly Core charge per person with commissioned care through LA
£20.57	£46.69

NNC’s proposed costs were then further modelled in the following way:

1. Understanding the current charges being paid to existing scheme providers with an acknowledgement that one scheme (Carey Street) is receiving a core charge per individual of £68.88 per week - a significant outlier when considering national benchmarking. Two schemes operated by Extra Care Charitable Trust with outdated banding attributed rates were conversely outliers when considering their long financial viability.
2. Adopting a weekly core charge as being paid by NNC to the Care and Support provider alongside any individual assessed hours from Care and Support plan (only those that fall outside of the support already offered as a condition of living in the scheme) paid at the identified hourly rate.
3. The weekly core charge will only be paid for individuals with commissioned care within Independent Living schemes. Those self-funding within the scheme will pay this core charge through their tenancy agreement directly with the Housing Provider or Care Provider as they have agreed. In one scheme Imperial Court NNC pay £60k per annum presently to cover all tenants of the scheme for waking night / emergency response regardless of whether they have assessed care needs and / or fund these themselves.

Therefore the weekly core charge recommended under this business case of £42.77 is made up of:

1. A percentage; i.e. a scheme of 45 apartments would be 1/45th and a scheme of 65 apartments would be 1/65th of the waking night cost
2. A contribution towards a 5% void occupancy assumption to support & sustain the service
3. One hour per person per week additional funding to cover unplanned care (floating support)

Furthermore £19.18 has been modelled within this Framework as the recommended hourly rate (lower than the benchmarked average identified above **Table 1** by £1.39). This has been modelled using the Fair Cost of Care findings from mandated Homecare 18+ exercise with removal of elements linked to staff travel and associated costs and ensuring that NI and pension contributions are factored in.

In summary:

The proposed rates for NNC's new Framework April 2024 are identified as:

Hourly rate for Social Care Act eligible needs	Weekly Core charge per person with commissioned care through NNC
£19.18*	£42.77*

*Noted as lower than benchmarked average figures in **Table 1**

This suggested new pricing schedule is shown in **appendix i)**. The additional investment would be £42K. The current contract value in total for this contract is £551K. This £42K would be a new pressure on the current draft MTFP.

This investment will ensure long term savings for the Council, and takes into account:

1. By not securing framework rates before contract expiry, the rates demanded by existing Providers for 57 individuals on 1st April 2024 are likely to exceed £42k for 2024-25 as these packages would need to be negotiated on spot purchase agreements.
2. By locking in rates within the framework the Council is able to financially forecast robustly for those current schemes over the contract lifetime and furthermore ensure any new schemes built under the contract lifetime remain financially affordable.
3. Should an Extra Care scheme not be negotiated, these individuals would be likely to require placements in higher levels of formal care such as residential care homes at Expected to Pay rates (for 2023-24) as per table below:

Example:

Care Package Type	Weekly Cost
Residential EPR (Standard)	£655
Residential EPR (Enhanced)- Dementia	£742
Average Community Care package *	£345
Extra Care inclusive of rent (£358 +£201)	£559

*= taken from commitment report 6.10.23

Extra care costs break down	Weekly cost
Rent	£133
Amenities charge	£20
Service Charge	£162
Core charge	£42
Total	£357

In Extra Care - weekly care charges average 10.5 hours @£19.18	£201.39
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Based on the above assumptions (excluding the working age adults residing currently in Extra Care schemes) and considering the 27 Older people currently placed in Independent Living schemes, the additional investment of £42k per annum would ensure the following cost avoidance figures can be made:

	In Residential EPR home	In Independent Living setting	Cost avoidance amount per annum
Per annum cost for 1 older person	£34,060	£29,097	£4,962
Total for 27 current older people	£919,620	£785,636	£133,983

Benefits of Proceeding with the procurement of the service

This proposal offers several compelling benefits for the Council, emphasising the advantages of moving forward with the re-procurement of the Extra Care service:

1. Approving this proposal ensures there is no significant interruption in the delivery of this critical service. It safeguards the Council from any breach of its statutory duties.
2. By giving ample time to collaborate with service providers, NNC can proactively assess and secure the necessary capacity within the market to meet service needs effectively, well in advance of the contract's expiration.
3. Re-procurement enables the Council to address the complex and demanding requirements of vulnerable individuals in a cost-effective manner. This approach avoids potentially higher expenditure associated with placing individuals in residential care homes and ensuring a move away from high weekly core charges, thereby optimising the use of Council resources.
4. Re-procuring the service allows the Council to tailor care and support to the unique needs of vulnerable people, enhancing the potential for improved outcomes and better quality of life for those served.

Risks Associated with Not Approving this Business Case:

1. Failing to approve this business case poses a significant risk for NNC, as it could result in a gap in statutory provision. This, in turn, may lead to potential legal repercussions for the Council
2. Failing to receive approval of this business case could find the Council with increased expenditure on care and support by the necessity to negotiate rates outside of a Contract Framework with the 2 Providers currently supporting 57 individuals.
3. Equally failing to approve this business case could similarly find the Council with increased expenditure on care and support, particularly if individuals were placed in alternative provisions such as residential care. This additional cost could adversely affect the MTFP

4. A failure to secure the necessary services could impact on the Council's reputation. It may negatively impact the individuals who rely on these services, potentially leading to public dissatisfaction and loss of trust.
5. Operating without a valid contract exposes the Council to legal risks. Spot arrangements can be costly and may not align with legal and regulatory requirements, potentially resulting in legal disputes and liabilities for the Council.
6. Handling reviews following contract expiration, if required, placing a heavy burden on NNC officers. This resource-intensive process could strain the Council's capacity to deliver services effectively.

Delivery and planning

Strategic commissioning activity will continue to inform the Council over the next decade, ensuring reviewing is undertaken to support effective business planning.

The following actions will take place:

- Delivery opportunities and partnerships to create innovative Independent Living options supported by outstanding quality of care and support
- Establish an evidence base for integrating health, social care and housing commissioning on future schemes under the framework agreement that delivers economies of scale, promotes a variety of placement and support options and delivers best value

Governance

Monitoring the governance for our delivery will include reporting after SLT to CLT and Executive Committee, to ensure the ongoing required sign offs.

Appendix i)

Payments and scheme differences

The current Extra Care schemes all operate differently under their individual agreements, summary as follows.

Scheme	Type of Rate	Old Rate	New Rate	Change	%Change
Rosewood Court & Sunley Court	Waking night	Bandings used so not comparable as includes night & day support			
	Weekly Core charge	N/A	£42.77		
	Hourly rate	N/A	£19.18		

Imperial Court	Waking night	£1163 weekly whole scheme		-649.76	-56%
	Weekly Core Charge	N/A	£42.77 @12 NNC funded	As above	
	Hourly Rate	£18.47	£19.18	+0.71	+4%
Carey Street	Waking night	N/A			
	Weekly Core Charge	£68.88	£42.77	-26.11	-38%
	Hourly Rate	£18.47	£19.18	+0.71	+4%

Review of Care and Support in Specialist Housing

Useful information

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- Report version number: v01

Summary

The current contract for Care and Support in Specialist Housing (CSSH) ends on 31/03/2024.

The framework was commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC). At the time of publishing the estimated countywide contract value was £38.75 million

The current value for North Northamptonshire Council is £551,787.68 per annum.

Background and Context

The Care and Support in Specialist Housing commenced in April 2019. The key objective being to develop independent living, while reducing the numbers of residential/nursing care placements being agreed through the care pathway.

It covers the provision of care and support for people of all ages (from 18 years) and all needs, up to and including palliative and end of life care. Service categories include:

1. Older People personal care and support
2. Mental Health
3. Learning Disability
4. Learning Disability – Highly Complex
5. Autism
6. Physical Disability
7. Dementia
8. Nursing (Level 3 nursing tasks)

In 2020 the Commissioning for a Good Life (C4GL) Framework for individuals with learning disabilities superseded the CSSH Framework. Categories 3 and 4 at this time became dormant.

The contract stipulates that the council will work in partnership with what was district and borough councils, housing associations and private sector partners to develop accommodation, to be used in conjunction with this framework for care and support.

The umbrella term of 'Care and Support in Specialist Housing' (CSSH) encompasses a range of accommodation with support options which include:

Extra Care (EC) housing - defined as specialist accommodation designed to maximise the independence of older adults by providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment. Customers retain the independence of having their own tenancy or home and at the same time benefit from the availability of around the clock social care and support.

Supported Living (SL) Accommodation - defined as accommodation designed to maximise the independence of younger adults including people with Learning Disabilities, Mental Health needs and Physical Disabilities by providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment where individuals have their own tenancy or home, living space and receive support to meet their individual needs.

Very Sheltered Housing - defined as offering support within a purpose-built accommodation that does not have 24 hour support.

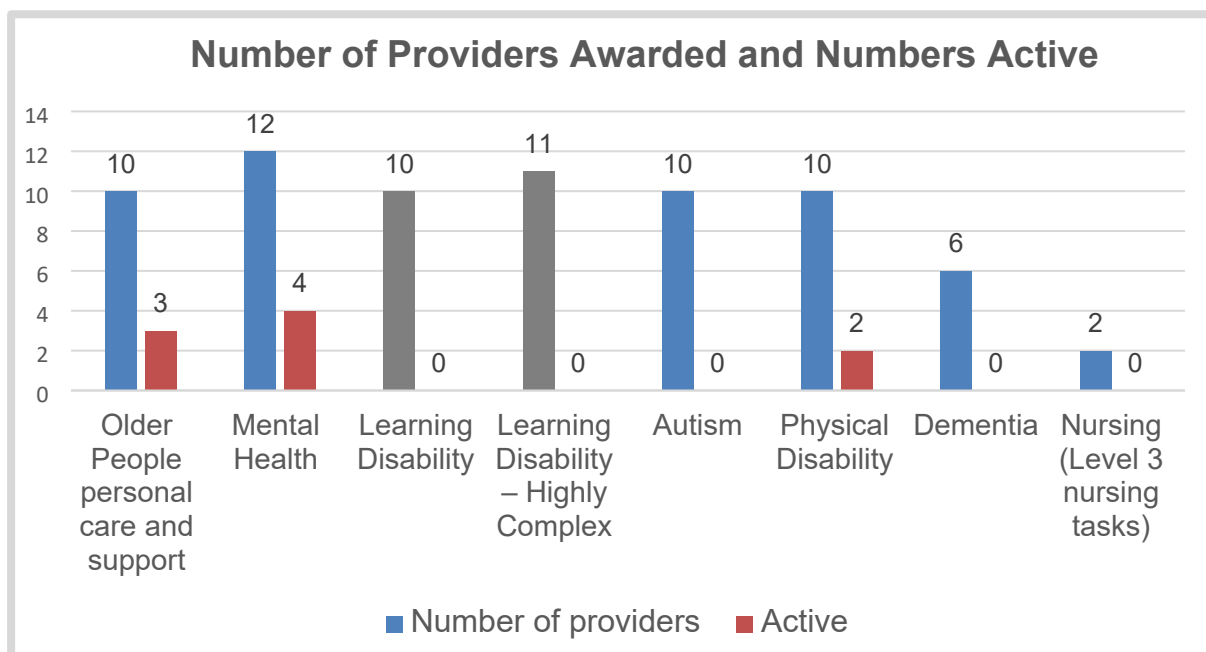
The Key Objectives

- To develop or sustain Customers' capacity to live independently within the community; enabling people to retain skills and develop new skills, reducing reliance on services and carers.
- To reduce the number of people entering residential or nursing care homes and enable people to move from care homes to a community setting, where appropriate.
- To reduce the number of emergencies amongst people living independently, which might result in more intensive services being required.
- To reduce the number of emergency admissions to hospital and reduce repeated readmission.
- To increase the number of people able to remain in the community setting of their choice.
- To reduce the likelihood of Customers losing their homes.
- To facilitate timely and safe discharge from hospital.
- To provide support to carers.
- To maximise the number of people who are supported to participate in community activities; and
- To facilitate and assist communication between the Customer and the Housing Provider.

Overview of Current Contract

The graph below provides details of the number of providers awarded under each of the 8 groups. It was intended that the top 10 scoring providers be awarded.

For both dementia and nursing the lower numbers awarded reflect the initial interest and bids.



There are 9 providers currently active in three of the categories; older persons, mental health and physical disabilities. Whilst the two learning disability categories are detailed, both became dormant in January 2020 when the Commissioning for a Good Life Framework (C4GL) commenced.

Extra Care

Older Persons

There are currently 65,357 people over the age of 65 residing in North Northamptonshire equating to 18.1% of the unitary's population made up in the following way;

Age	Population	Percentage
Aged 65 to 74 years	36,408	10.1
Aged 75 to 84 years	21,326	5.9
Aged 85 years and over	7,623	2.1

The geographical location of 65's and numbers are as follows:

Area	Number of 65+
Corby	10,551
East Northants Rural	6,443
East Northants Urban	13,423

Kettering Rural	5,449
Kettering Urban	13,901
Wellingborough Rural	4,948
Wellingborough Urban	10,642

There has been rapid growth in older populations in the last 5 years. Numbers of over 80's have doubled in the last 20 years. The older population is expected to grow by a further 51% by 2040.

Age Band	Increase % in number forecasted at 2040
90+	124%
85-89	91%
80-84	70.6%
75-79	65.2%
70-74	28.7%
65-69	34.6%

There are currently 27 individuals aged over 65 receiving a commissioned service within Extra Care settings.

The four Extra care schemes below fall under the current CSSH contract:

Name of Scheme	Landlord	Care & Support Provider	Located in
Rosewood Court	Extra Care Charitable Trust	Extra Care Charitable Trust	Wellingborough
Sunley Court	Extra Care Charitable Trust	Extra Care Charitable Trust	Kettering
Imperial Court	Midland Heart	East Midlands Housing (EMH)	Rushden
Carey Street**	East Midlands Housing (EMH)	East Midlands Housing (EMH)	Kettering

** Scheme moving from Extra Care scheme to Intensive Housing Management model

There is no Extra Care provision within Corby at this time. Commissioners have been made aware there are plans for the development of 3 new Extra care schemes in the Unitary as follows:

Area of planned scheme	Housing Provider	Proposed scheme size	Proposed opening date
Oundle	Housing 21	65 apartments/flats	January 2025
Wellingborough-Stanton Cross	Housing 21	65 apartments/flats	Not yet known
Wellingborough-Glenvale Park	McCarthy Stone	56 apartments/flats	Not yet known

There is further redevelopment of an existing sheltered housing scheme in Wellingborough (Hearndon Court) into an Extra Care scheme by Greatwell Homes, it is intended this will consist of 75 apartments/flats and provisional timescales indicate a completion of the end of 2025

Current Extra care provision has not been purpose built for individuals living with dementia. Early discussions have commenced with Health colleagues and representatives of ICB's Dementia brick regarding developing good practice design guidance for Housing developers for future schemes.

Commissioners are in current consultation with EMH surrounding the scheme at Carey Street and a proposal surrounding a change in model to Intensive Management Support only. Those still requiring day time care and support would require this to be delivered by external Homecare agencies as opposed to an inhouse care team should this model be adopted.

Payments and scheme differences

The current Extra Care schemes all operate differently under their individual agreements, summary as follows;

Scheme	Hourly Rate	Weekly Core Cost	Waking night Cost
Rosewood Court-Wellingborough	No hourly rate- individuals are assessed as having care and support needs within one of three tiers: Level 3 (11-15.5 hours) £95.49 Level 4 (16-22.5 hours) £143.20	N/A-Included within the level charge	N/A- Included within the level charge

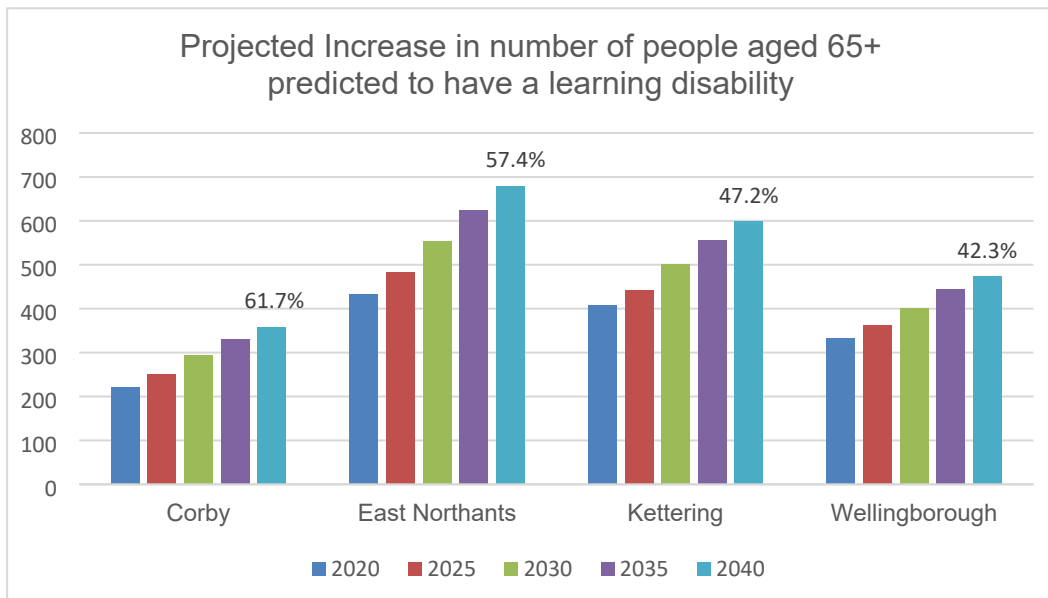
	Level 5 (23-33.5 hours) £234.94		
Sunley Court-Kettering	As above	As above	As above
Imperial Court-Rushden	£18.47	N/A	£166.23 per night (NNC currently block pay this at annual cost of £60,673.95)
Carey Street-Kettering	£18.47	£68.88 per person per week	N/A- Included within the core charge

On benchmarking and analysis of the current schemes and associated costs, it has been identified that:

1. Carey Street does not fully meet its objectives and fulfil the remit of Extra Care living. Voids have become costly for EMH and in addition the core charge paid by NNC is an outlier at significant high cost
2. The 2 schemes managed and delivered by Extra Care Charitable Trust's tiering rates are delivering care and support significantly lower than hourly rate comparables. They are noted to be outliers at extremely low cost.
3. NNC pay a block for the whole funding of a waking night staff member at Imperial Court not a proportion of this cost in association for those with NNC commissioned care and support needs only within the scheme.
4. People who reside in Corby and far-reaching parts of East Northants do not, at this time, have any alternatives to residential care home settings.
5. NNC need to raise awareness of Extra care settings (both internally and externally) and the benefits of these to older people at the right time, so as to act as a preventative model rather than a reactive one
6. NNC need to work with developers offering desired build types and specifications to meet individuals needs long term
7. The term Extra Care through consultation is considered outdated and not strengths based, the preferred term to refer to these schemes moving forward will be Independent Living Schemes (with care and support available on site)

Learning Disabilities

The 2021 census projects there to be a 52% increase in the number of individuals with learning disabilities in the next 20 years. In terms of numbers this amounts to an additional 718 people.



There are currently 118 individuals with learning disabilities aged 65 and above receiving a commissioned service. With an additional 147 individuals between the age of 55 and 64.

Service Type	Number of Packages (aged 55 – 64)	Number of Packages (aged 65+)
Direct Payment	26	26
Support at Home	24	20
Residential	3	34
Supported Living	69	37
Shared Lives	5	6
Day Support	66	23

Autism

There are currently 627 people within North Northamptonshire aged 65 and over who are autistic. Based on the 2021 Census, there is a projected increase of 51.5% in the number of individuals aged 65+ by 2040.

Location	Increase % in number forecasted at 2040
Corby	59.18%
East Northants	56.12%
Kettering	48.09%
Wellingborough	44.00%

Extra Care enables individuals to remain independent for longer and can be a positive next step for those currently living within the community. Advantages include:

- staying independent for longer
- own living space
- help being available in an emergency
- flexible care and support

Research indicates positive and improved outcomes for people which include general wellbeing, social interaction and confidence.

For ageing younger adults, it is recognised that there are barriers to this type of support model.

A) minimum age of 55 - individuals with learning disabilities can age more quickly than the general population and with this may develop specific health needs such as early onset dementia.

B) individuals who have lived in their own home or in a shared or family setting can find an extra care scheme over whelming both in terms of size and model design - single flats, limited communal space

C) staff teams within extra care settings traditionally provide generic domiciliary support to those over the age of 55. More specialist training would be required to meet the needs of those who have learning disabilities, early onset dementia, dementia.

D) where individuals haven't the right support or environment it can be disruptive for other individuals living within the scheme.

Supported Living

Framework providers currently support 18 people within 7 supported living settings.

The table below shows a breakdown of those supported under categories 2, 5 and 6 (Mental Health, Autism, Physical Disabilities)

Provider	Number of People Supported	Number with PSR Autism	Number with PSR MH	Number with MH & PD	Number with PD	Number other
Advance	3	0	3			
Creative	4	2	1	1		
EMH	11	2	1	5	2	1

In addition to the CSSH the following frameworks also include supported living:

Commissioning for a Good Life Framework (C4GL) – for individuals with learning disabilities. Due to end January 2025. A review is currently in progress.

Any Qualified Provider (AQP) - for individuals with Mental Health needs including Autism.

There are a total of 425 people currently living within a supported living arrangement. 66% of these individuals have a learning disability and have their needs met through the Commissioning for a Good Life Framework. Working Age Adults who don't have a learning disability make up the remaining 34% of the total. 4% of these individuals have a supported living arrangement via the CSSH Framework and the remaining 30% via the AQP or spot arrangements.

Supported Living Placement	Total Number
Learning Disabilities	280
Inclusions – including Mental Health, Autism and Physical Disabilities	145

Engagement

All Contracted Providers under the CSSH framework were invited to a recent forum to offer feedback on the current contract from their perspective and to start dialogue on requirements for future commissioning of the provision.

Attendance was disappointingly low, however follow up slides offered a further opportunity for Providers to engage outside of this event.

This feedback supported a preference to divide cohorts (older persons and working age adults) in future commissioning activity.

Current users of Extra Care schemes have been invited to participate in supplying feedback on their current care and support provision via a survey, in order to help inform new specification development. This data is currently awaiting return.

Recommendations

1. To commission a framework for Care and Support provision within Independent Living settings (e.g. Extra Care)
2. Ensure the specification offers flexibility in relation to minimum age requirements

3. Incorporate into the specification the potential for these schemes to design and offer accommodation and support that meets the needs of those requiring more specialised support (i.e. those with learning disabilities, mental and physical Health needs and those with dementia and sensory impairments)
4. NNC need to raise awareness of Independent Living schemes (both internally and externally) and the benefits of these to older people at the right time, so as to act as a preventative model rather than a reactive one
5. Complete a deep dive of the data to understand the current living arrangements of working age adults aged 55 plus and project future need.
6. To avoid duplication and confusion, supported living should be incorporated into other framework recommissioning arrangements e.g.: C4GL. This will provide one contract for supported living for each of the cohorts, incorporating housing requirements and expectations.
7. NNC need to work with developers offering desired build types and specifications to meet individuals needs long term
8. To work with housing colleagues and providers to understand current accommodation arrangements and appraise future options as part of this recommissioning.
9. Ongoing engagement with all residents of North Northamptonshire via a Council Public survey as we work through the recommissioning. Furthermore, specialist engagement and inclusive documentation to support this to be carried out by commissioners.

Conclusion

The current contract for the CSSH Framework ends on 31/03/2024.

This Framework has not delivered the volume of specialised support arrangements as was originally intended. The data confirms that there are at the time of review 52 packages of support, with a contract value of £551,787.68 per annum. The original award (although a county wide tender) indicated an expected greater uptake of support under this Contract.

We may assume that the impact of both COVID and a Unitary split immediately following Contract start date may have impacted on the delivery under this Contract. Likewise the move to an alternative Framework arrangement for adults with learning disabilities will have been a contributing factor.

Having conducted this review and completed an options appraisal (Appendix C) it is recommended that NNC re procure specialist housing arrangements separately rather than combined under one single framework.

For Extra Care, (to be referred to hereafter as Independent Living) this will be re commissioned with a contract award date of 01/04/2024. For Supported Living, the intention is to meet the need for care and support in specialist housing through the recommissioning of other existing frameworks.

Future commissioning activity will allow for a fuller review and will include more detailed market and tenant engagement to co-produce and shape future offers.

Appendix C- Benchmarking and Cost Modelling

2023-2024 Rates	Hourly Rate	Weekly ***Core Charge	Waking night
Local Authority 1 schemes	£23.84	N/A	£171.23
	£21.14	N/A	£185.99
	£19.46	N/A	£175.17
	£19.19	£25	N/A
	£20.73	N/A	£186.56
Local Authority 2 schemes	£20.13	N/A	£181.17
	£20.81	N/A	£187.29
Local Authority 3 schemes	£21.28	£46.35	N/A
	£20.49	£47.16	N/A
	£21.28	£46.35	N/A
	£20.49	£43.59	N/A
	£21.57	£50.00	N/A
Local Authority 4 schemes	£18.23	N/A	£164.07
	£19.40	N/A	£174.60
Mean Values	£20.57	£46.69	£178.26

NNC Proposed New Contract Rates from 1st April 2024

NNC	£19.18	£42.77	N/A
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** Weekly core charge is paid by NNC to Care and Support Provider alongside individual assessed hours from Care and support plan paid at identified hourly rate.

Weekly core charge is only paid for individuals with commissioned care within Independent Living schemes. This weekly charge paid is made up of:

1. A percentage - i.e. a scheme of 45 apartments would be 1/45th and a scheme of 65 apartments would be 1/65th of the waking night cost
2. A contribution towards a 5% void occupancy assumption to support & sustain the service
3. One hour per person per week additional funding to cover unplanned care (floating support)

4. £19.18 is the current hourly rate and is likely to increase from 1st April in line with National Minimum Wage. Similarly the Weekly Core Charge will increase if National Minimum wage increases.

Appendix D: Options Appraisal

Option	Benefits	Disadvantages	Comments
1. Recommission the CSSH Framework like for like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tight timeline, hence easier to produce like for like contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the service categories are obsolete- so like for like doesn't currently cover all areas • Feedback from Provider engagement the Framework is confusing particularly when there are other frameworks in place which are able to meet the same requirements • Lack of clarity around Housing partnership arrangements 	Not recommended
2. Recommission the CSSH Framework but with some variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can make changes in response to lessons learnt from provider feedback and review of the framework • Can have a clear distinction around expected accommodation arrangements and support. • We can ensure that it covers the needs of all groups of individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tight timescale for amendments • Could lead to confusion for Providers where other frameworks are already in place offering a similar remit. • Tendency for duplication of time and resources alongside the re-procurement of similar contracts 	Not recommended
3. Split OP and WAA under CSSH and tender for care and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can uniform payments rates • Can develop new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified 	Recommended

<p>support in Independent Living (Extra care) settings only</p>	<p>collaborative specification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As over 55 provision will also be available for WAA should they prefer extra care housing • Clearer for Providers on expectation under a Contract • Allows care & support in supported living to be considered more fully in its own merit 		
<p>4. Include care and support in specialist accommodation in the recommissioning of the Learning Disabilities Framework for supported living</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One framework that meets the overall need- i.e. no duplication • Gives clarity to the Provider market as to the specification they are working under. • Define housing expectations- partnerships with Housing Associations versus private landlords. • Potential to call off for specialised schemes as required. • Consistency of pricing structure • Consistency in terms of KPIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limitations surrounding accommodation available 	<p>As part of the LD review consider having a tiered approach: Tier 1: care and support in specialist accommodation Tier 2: care and support</p> <p>The framework could have an option to add if required separate lots for Individuals who are Autistic</p> <p>Recommended</p>

	<p>and measurables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps with shaping availability within the market that matches need. 		
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APPENDIX E: Engagement

1. North Northamptonshire Public Survey Findings:

A Public Survey was made available during the month of July. The target audience was any individual residing in North Northamptonshire of the age of 50years and over. The online information included a definition of an Independent Living Scheme and a set of questions for completion. The information was also produced in an accessible format. Support was made available to individuals who required assistance to complete the survey. Surveys were also sent by post to all individuals over 50years in receipt of an NNC Direct Payment.

85 usable responses were received, of those:

42 people were aged 50-64
30 people aged 65-84
3 people were aged 85+
10 people did not give a response

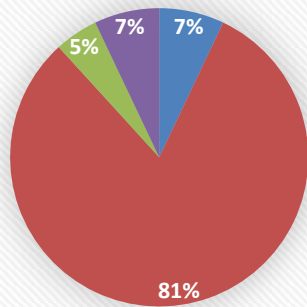
Of those who replied:

6 people said they were looking to move in the next 1-2years
5 people in the next 5years,
6 people in the next 10years.
48 people were not planning on moving
20 were unsure or gave no answer.

When asked whether people would consider an Independent Living scheme as an option- 36 (42%) said they would be interested in such a scheme.

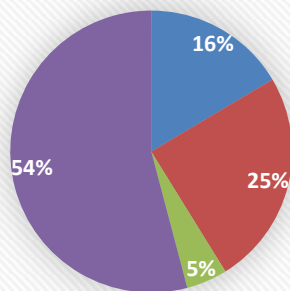
A summary of feedback of which is presented below:

Who are you completing this survey on behalf of?



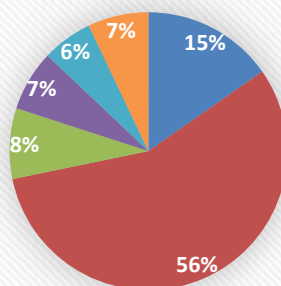
■ Family Member ■ Myself
■ Not Answered ■ Someone I care for

Before today were you aware of Independent Living Schemes?



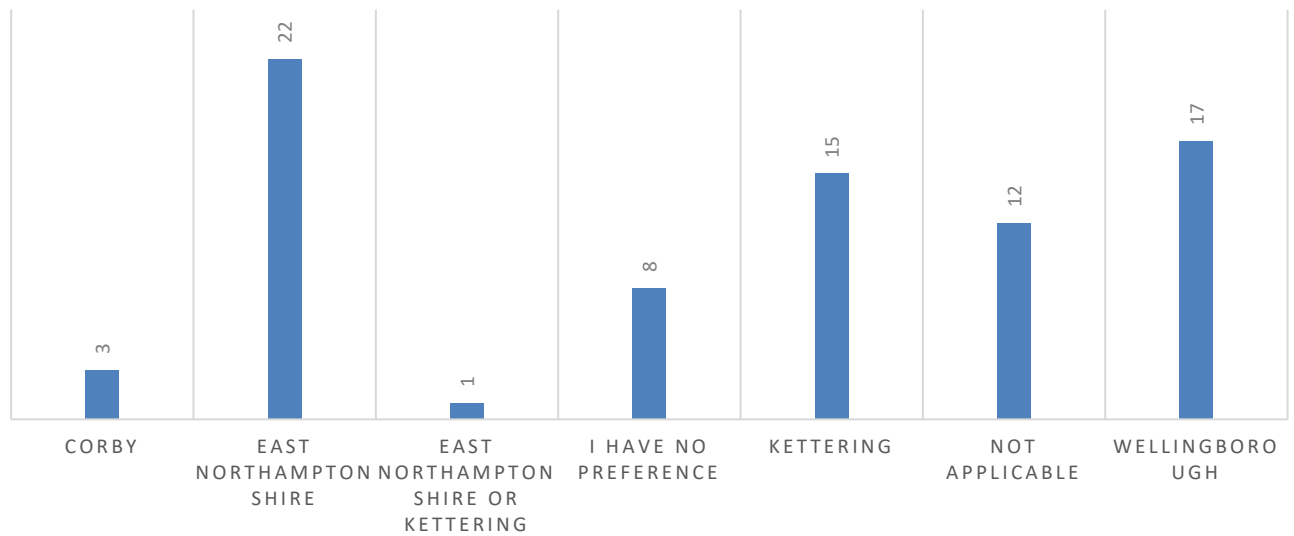
■ I'm not sure ■ No ■ Not Answered ■ Yes

Are you planning on moving from your current home in the next few years

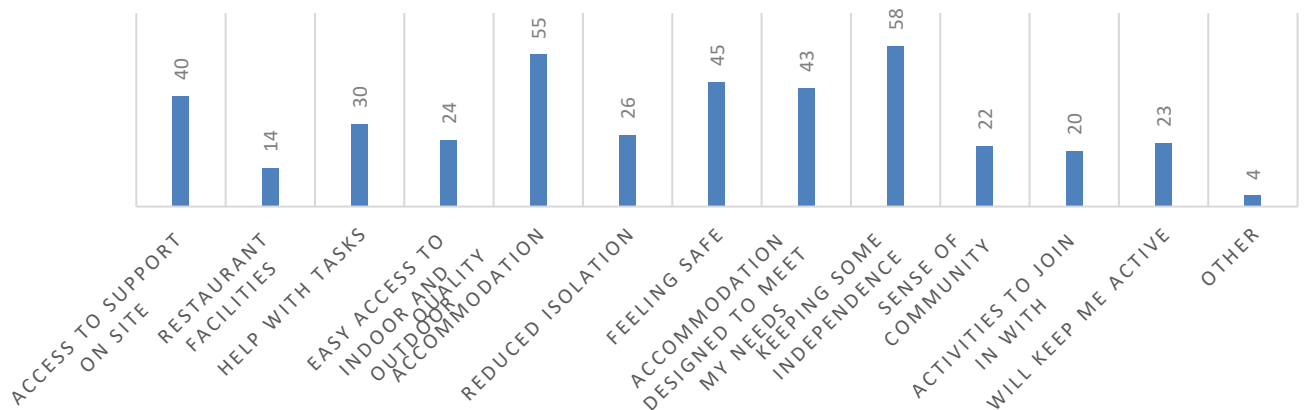


■ I'm not sure ■ No, I have no current plans to move ■ Not Answered
■ Yes, in one to two years ■ Yes, in the next 5 years ■ Yes, in the next ten years

IN WHICH AREA WOULD YOU PREFER TO LIVE?

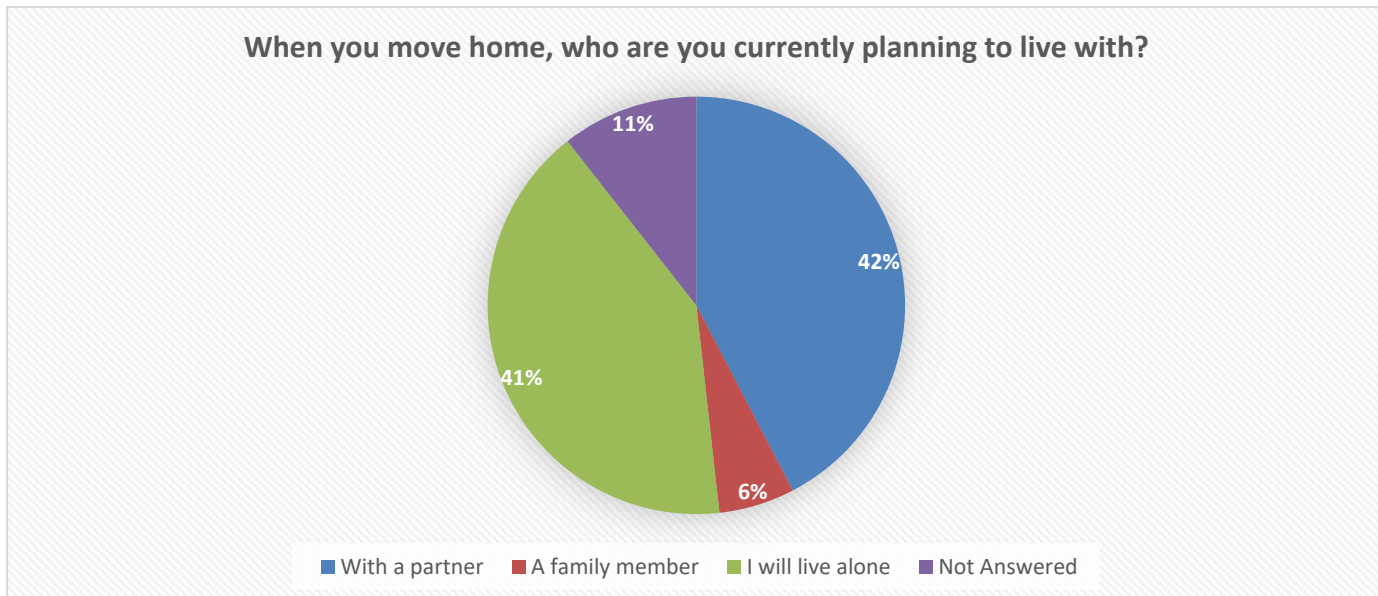


WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU FOR YOUR FUTURE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS?



Factors that may deter me from moving into a scheme	Total
Don't want to leave my home	45
Don't want to leave my local community	21
Don't want to move away from friends	19
Not sure whether the scheme would be right for me	29
Not having my own private garden or outdoor space	40
Losing independence and having less control over what I do	41
Losing home comforts	25
Loneliness of isolation	4

Unfamiliar environment	14
Everyone around the same age	14
Environment doesn't meet my needs	16
Affordability	44
Other	7



2. Engagement with current individuals residing in North Northamptonshire's schemes:

A survey was offered to all tenants within 2 of the existing schemes across North Northamptonshire for completion, regardless of whether they self-funded their care and support or it was a commissioned service.

28 responses were received.

Key factors of importance in residing within the scheme were unanimously:

- Feeling part of a community, having friends as neighbours, companionship and company
- Living in a safe and secure environment
- Knowing that my well-being is being monitored on a daily basis

When asked “**Do you think you will ever leave the scheme?**” responses included:

- I would like to end my life here
- Only in a pine box!!!
- Only in my coffin
- When I depart this earth.

- I won't ever leave- I couldn't wait to come back from hospital

Other comments when asked **“What is the most important thing living here offers you?”**:

- Still able to lead an active life
- Privacy in my flat, company when I need it
- I'm very happy here, it's the best thing I ever did!
- I feel part of a large family
- Independence
- Night staff around

When asked **“is there anything you feel would enhance living here?”**:

- Having a nurse available (blood pressure checks etc)

3. Engagement with Autism Enablers Group:

A representative of the commissioning team was invited to Northamptonshire's monthly Autism Enablers group to present information on the re-procurement of Independent Living schemes.

There was opportunity to discuss scheme layouts and criteria for eligibility. Good open discussion around the environment and the need for reasonable adjustments to ensure comfortable living arrangements for autistic individuals took place. Members of the group were offered an opportunity to visit schemes to fully understand what they look and feel like. Furthermore, discussion centred around members of the group co-producing the design of new developments.

Individuals welcomed the discussion, and some were already aware of Independent Living schemes (Extra Care schemes) with some individuals expressing they would consider this as a housing option providing the environment was suitable for their needs.

Questions important to some individuals included the permission of bringing pets to reside with them at schemes and individual responsibilities as a tenant.