HOUSING LIN - GOING FOR GOLD

With the Olympics and Paralympics ever present this summer, a staggering 332 people responded to our online survey and over a hundred gave permission to be contacted to participate in a follow up telephone interview to help us get a better understanding of their learning and improvement goals.

The overwhelming feedback is that the Housing LIN deserves a gold medal. It has grown from strength to strength since gaining independence from the Department of Health, is very well respected for the quality of its output and is a leader in its field. Network members strongly indicated that they place considerable value on being involved with the Housing LIN regionally and having access to high quality information and expert advice. Of particular note was the response:

“Fantastic resources. It is the best forum for sharing ideas, information and new developments in the sector”

The survey also confirmed that the Housing LIN has a unique spread of professional members across housing, health and social care and attracts interest from both senior managers and leaders to front-line staff. Many use the Housing LIN website as a place of “first resort” to search for latest housing with care practice, policy news, research findings and innovative thinking.

In terms of favourite resources, respondents highlighted the usefulness of all products – informative newsletters, thought-provoking viewpoints, in-depth reports, forward-looking case studies, topical factsheets and helpful links to other relevant materials and websites.

(contd. on p.2)
When asked whether they would pay for any Housing LIN service, respondents acknowledged that “nothing is free any more”. While there is no plan to introduce subscriptions, some said that they would consider paying for specific services, especially where the outcome can be shown to advance their professional development, impact organisational change, or help construct new or cement existing partnerships.

We also obtained excellent suggestions on improvements that we can make to further develop our services and the range of topics for future coverage. As a result, we have already introduced changes to our design webpages (see p.5) and will also be drawing on your other suggestions so that we can continue to meet your expectations and build on this winning start.

And finally, congratulations to Stephanie Furness and Alan McMahon who each won £50 Amazon vouchers in our prize survey draw.

POLICY & FUNDING NEWS

Policy and funding news across housing, health and social care since our last enews includes:

New Minister commits more to specialist housing

Norman Lamb, the new Minister of State for Care Services - speaking at the Liberal Democrat conference this week - has reaffirmed the government’s commitment to funding specialist housing and also announced up to an extra £100m capital to the £200m already allocated over 5 years. He stated that the £300m fund will now result in thousands of new homes.

Speaking ahead of the Housing LIN’s capital funding event in Peterborough, Jeremy Porteus welcomed the funding. He added, “This extra investment is great news! It will provide new housing choices for older and disabled people and help stimulate the market to design and deliver innovative and sustainable housing with care solutions.” More at: www.libdems.org.uk/news_detail.aspx?title=%C2%A3100m_extra_funding_for_specialised_housing&pPK=5e350461-ae04-4009-9258-27f77d545e1c

Developing Care Markets

The Department of Health have launched a new programme to help provide more choice and higher quality of care and support services across the country. The Developing Care Markets for Quality and Choice programme will help local authorities to increase their capacity to shape a diverse, vibrant and high quality market for social care services. For more details go to: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/09/dcmqc-launch

The programme will also support local authorities to improve their market shaping capacity, through preparing or improving their Market Position Statements (MPSs). MPSs are important in enabling and maintaining high quality, diverse care markets. To aid those preparing MPSs, the Housing LIN/ADASS Strategic Housing for Older People (SHOP) Resource Pack sets out how commissioners of housing with care should be engaging with providers to forecast future demand and provision, including the supply of new extra care housing. View the SHOP pack at: www.housinglin.org.uk/SHOP_resource_pack

Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework


Supported accommodation exempted

Following a recent Social Security Advisory Committee, the DWP has announced that housing costs for exempt supported accommodation will not be included in Universal Credit for at least 5 years. www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/universal-credit-information/universal-credit-updates

Warm Homes Healthy People Fund

The DH are establishing a fund for 'upper tier' authorities to submit projects by 5 October that demonstrate that they can protect individuals and communities from the effects of severe winter weather. This will of course complement your own work to reduce hardship in winter. Read more at: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/09/warm-homes-fund
Renegotiation of Section 106 planning obligations

With concern about the number of stalled sites, the DCLG are inviting views on the future of section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and any obligations to develop land, in association with the granting of local planning permission. The consultation is available online at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/renegotiationobligationsconsult

Allowing developers to renegotiate Section 106 agreements constitutes but one part of the Government’s wider housing stimulus package, announced this month. The package includes a series of measures aimed at supporting businesses, developers and first-time buyers, while slashing unnecessary red tape across the planning system. To find out more, go to: www.sustainablehomes.co.uk/blog/bid/109008/Government-housing-announcement-stimulus-package

House of Lords Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change - Call for Evidence

In its call for evidence, this recently appointed Committee says that the challenges posed by an ageing population will require us all to reconsider our expectations and attitudes about work, retirement savings and the welfare state. It wants to hear as wide a range of views as possible to inform their thinking and recommendations. To contribute, go to: www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/Demographicchange/CFEvidenceFINAL.pdf
www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee

Have your say on JSNA Draft Guidance

The draft guidance provides a framework for NHS and local government to work together to undertake joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies with the aim of making real improvements to the health and wellbeing of local people. Follow the link here to read the guidance and to submit your response: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/consultation-jsna

Tenant Empowerment Fund

The DCLG has announced a £1.3m fund and issued a prospectus to invite organisations to set up a national scheme to involve social housing tenants in their communities. For details, go to: www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/2154760

Interested in this? Have a look at the recent Housing LIN viewpoint on ABCD at: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8555

FEATURED DH FUNDED EXTRA CARE SCHEME

The official opening of a DH funded scheme has taken place

Brookside Extra Care Retirement Village, Ormskirk, Lancashire

Opened in May 2012 and operated by the Arena Housing Group, Brookside was part funded by the Department of Health in 2009. It comprises of 111 one and two bedroom apartments and is the largest timber framed structure in the UK.

Costing a total of £18m, the scheme was designed along dementia principles by Pozzoni architects, with all spaces designed to be intersecting and include incidental events to help stimulate those few residents with early onset Dementia. Dementia principles were also extended to the landscaping and gardens at Brookside which were designed by Environmental Associates and Chalfont Design, experts in the integrated design of internal and external environments for dementia and the elderly.

For more, go to: www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/ECHScheme/search/Overview/?cid=8319

NEW HOUSING LIN PUBLICATIONS

Keeping you informed on latest policy, practice and thinking, we are pleased to bring you an excellent range of new viewpoints, reports, factsheets and case studies from the Housing LIN.

VIEWPOINTS

Our two new viewpoints build on recent Housing LIN papers on personalisation, coproduction and community development and offer insight on how older people can have a more effective say in the design and delivery of services.
Living Labs – A brave new world of customer driven extra care housing

This new viewpoint by Jeremy Porteus gives a personal view on the need for improvements in the way commissioners and providers of extra care housing involve and engage with existing and prospective residents. It suggests that ‘Living Labs’ offer co-created solutions that can meet residents’ needs and aspirations, help co-design and co-produce related services and products, fuel innovation that translates into resident benefits, save money through reducing dependency, and motivate organisational change by building a closer relationship with residents. Read in full at: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8583

Can tenant self-management thrive in sheltered housing?

This viewpoint by Althea Howarth looks at the potential to deliver value and choice within sheltered housing through tenant self-management. It was prompted by the recent Department of Communities and Local Government consultation that set out proposals to give tenants in local authority housing greater rights to transfer and manage their homes. Available at: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8601

REPORTS

We are pleased to release two major new reports this month. The first came about due to concern about revenue welfare reform, financial viability and market failure and was the catalyst for the Housing LIN to have an in-depth look at managing risk.

The second addresses end of life care and is a fresh look at helping meet the wishes of older people and achieve a good death. Drawing on the experiences of housing, care and medical professionals, this new resource highlights the potential of extra care housing to enable residents to die comfortably within their own homes.

Managing risk: lessons from Southern Cross for the specialist housing with care and support market

This paper by James Berrington ascertains whether the recent failure of Southern Cross residential care homes could occur in the extra care housing sector. It provides a thorough market assessment of the state of specialist housing with care for older people, outlines the sector’s exposure to fluctuating capital and revenue funding levels in the light of the present economic climate and policy reform. It makes a number of practical suggestions that commissioners, developing organisations and providers of specialised housing should consider as part of their approach to risk management. To view, go to: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8602

End of life care in extra care housing: a learning resource pack

The resource pack, published by the National End of Life Care Programme (NEoLCP) and the Housing LIN, and prepared by the International Longevity Centre, covers topics ranging from initial conversations and care planning through to the things staff might be expected to do after a death. For example:

- Identifying opportunities to start talking about end of life care
- The core end of life care pathway
- Diversity issues such as care of the body after death, and
- An individual’s capacity to make decisions as their condition deteriorates.

As well as case studies and ‘top tips’, the resource pack includes template local directories of key contacts and support plans. To download, go to: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8615

FACTSHEET

With a growing emphasis on the quality and costs of building design, the importance of interior design can be overlooked.

Can Interior Design Improve the Quality of Life?

This new factsheet by Michael Sandford at PRP Architects is intended to be used as a discussion tool and aid when considering the interior design for a new build or refurbishment housing scheme for older people, including extra care housing. With detailed information and helpful images to illustrate specific design points, the factsheet can be downloaded at: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8603

(contd. on p.5)
CASE STUDIES

This new case study offers a practical example of empowering tenants and local communities.

Individual and Community Empowerment: Getting personal to deliver change

This case study by Vicky James highlights the work of Knightstone Housing Association and the organisation’s drive to greater individual empowerment, resident involvement and community engagement to address challenges they face brought about by reduced public spending and describes the changes made to become more customer driven. To find out more, go to: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8608

NEW HOUSING LIN DESIGN WEBPAGES

With the generous support of Habinteg Housing Association, we have refreshed our pages to improve the way members can access the breadth of materials published and hosted by the Housing LIN website on designing housing for older and disabled people.

Aimed at those involved in the planning, designing and development of housing, the new site now reflects a number of core design themes that relate to extra care housing; housing for older people in general eg, Lifetime Homes standards, HAPPI components, Age Friendly Communities; and wider inclusive design and diversity issues.

Paul Gamble, Chief Executive of Habinteg Housing Association commenting on the new resource said: “the Housing LIN has a great reputation of incubating innovative housing design and showcasing examples of good practice. These impressive new pages provide a vital one-stop ‘design bank’ which will be of enormous benefit to the sector and help inspire a new generation of housing”. To view these pages, go to: www.housinglin.org.uk/Design

Also on design matters, the HCA have published their design and sustainability business plan at: www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/sites/default/files/aboutus/d_and_s_business_plan_final.pdf

OTHER USEFUL REPORTS / RESOURCES

HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

If you are interested in long term trends and demography, evidence of cost effectiveness or how to reform accessibility design standards, the following reports will be of interest:

Who can afford retirement housing?

The study from the JRF and Age UK looked at the incomes, benefits and retirement housing living costs of the UK’s 10 million people of pension age and concludes that not all low-income pensioners are fully and equally helped with retirement housing costs. It notes that tenure variations, income and saving patterns, eligibility to state support, and uncertainty over future housing and care charges, can open ‘trapdoors’ and make it difficult for those considering retirement housing to know if and when they may receive support. Read findings at: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8594

Care Home Sweet Home: care home of the future

This new ‘futures’ report by ILC-UK draws on the challenges facing residential care homes over the next 20 years. It argues for the care home to become a ‘community hub’, integrating services and resources into the mainstream of local communities. www.ilcuk.org.uk/images/uploads/publication-pdfs/Care_Home_Sweet_Home_Care_Home_of_the_Future_1.pdf

HEALTH & CARE

This section covers papers that make the connection between housing, health and social care. They include:

Locked Out

This new report by the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign investigates routes into accessible housing and sheds light on the list of obstacles that younger disabled people and their families experience when seeking to rent or buy a new property. To read, go to: www.mdctrailblazers.org/assets/0000/7774/Trailblazers_LockedOut_WEB.pdf
Transforming the delivery of health and social care: The case for fundamental change

This new Kings Fund report suggests that the current health and social care delivery system has failed to keep pace with the needs of an ageing population, the changing burden of disease, and rising patient and public expectations. It calls for fundamental change including supporting people to live in their own homes and offering a wider range of housing options in the community. For more, go to: www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/case_for_change.html

Making every contact count

A report setting out Government commitments to preventing homelessness has been published by the Ministerial Working Group on preventing and tackling homelessness. View at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/makingeverycontactcount

Older People and Emergency Bed Use

This paper explores factors that might be driving the significant variation in use of hospital beds by patients over 65 admitted as an emergency. Interestingly, the links between hospital bed use and access to community services such as GPs, community nursing and social care are not clear cut, but PCTs with the highest bed use tended to have excessive lengths of stay for patients for whom hospital was a transition between home and supported living. More at: www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/files/kf/field/field_publication_file/older-people-and-emergency-bed-use-aug-2012.pdf

TELECARE UPDATE

This section highlights relevant Telecare and Telehealth items that may be of interest

Board Assurance Prompt – older people living in general housing

This report from the Housing LIN in partnership with Nigel Appleton of Contact Consulting and the GGI (Good Governance Institute) focuses on the application of assisted living technology to support independence of older people living in general housing. It aims to assist leaders of organisations managing general housing in ensuring that their organisation is taking full benefit of the opportunities presented by technologies such as telecare and telehealth, providing the means by which the Board and senior executive team can develop a programme for improvement. Available at: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8614

Get with the programme?: A look at health and wellbeing boards through the lens of telehealth and telecare

This viewpoint by Ed Harding and Michelle Kane for the Housing LIN assesses the progress of health and wellbeing boards in making headway with the adoption of telecare and telehealth, and what this tells us about their readiness to live up to their new
expectations as system leaders. It is part of a series of papers commissioned by the Housing Learning and Improvement Network on telecare and telehealth to help system change and improve capacity in the sector to support people to live well. More at: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8607

Exploring barriers to participation and adoption of telehealth and telecare within the Whole System Demonstrator trial: a qualitative study

This is the second academic paper to be published on the Whole System Demonstrator Programme. It makes a detailed evaluation of the requirements for technical competence and operation of equipment; threats to identity, independence and self-care; and expectations and experiences of disruption to services. To read in full, go to: www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6963/12/220

How to ... make effective use of assistive technology in housing

This new guide by the Chartered Institute of Housing provides an introduction to housing professionals on how to harness telecare and telehealth, and the implications for housing organisations if using assistive technology. Available at: www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Policy%20free%20download%20pdfs/How_to_briefing_make_effective_use_of_assistive_technology.pdf

Care and support at home: an audit of telecare services in England

This report by GGI is aimed at those with an interest in adult social care, local authority directors of adult social services, and health and wellbeing board members. Its purpose is to encourage decision-makers to understand the current provision of telecare services in England and how services can be improved for the future. For more, go to: www.good-governance.org.uk/archive/care-and-support-at-home-an-audit-of-telecare-services-in-england

Have we got even more news for you!

If you are switched on to the above items, the recent Telecare LIN newsletters are packed with everything you need to know about latest policy, practice and product developments. To view, go to: www.telecarelin.org.uk

CALLS FOR INFORMATION

Funding extra care housing

The Housing LIN has commissioned an update of this Technical Brief, which was first issued in 2005. There have been major changes in the policy and funding frameworks since then, and further changes are in the pipeline with the implementation of the Welfare Reform Act, and funding of supported housing.

The Brief will be updated by a review team comprising Ian Laight (focussing on capital funding), plus Jon Head and Sue Garwood (covering revenue funding), and will be available in December 2012. They are keen to ensure that the Brief builds on the experiences and knowledge of Housing LIN members, and reflects what is happening ‘on the ground’ as well as covering the technical position. Please send any examples to Jerome Billeter at info@housinglin.org.uk

Community Right to Build

To gain a better understanding of CRTB and its implications for the provision of older people’s housing and care, the Housing LIN has commissioned HACT to produce a Viewpoint on the subject, which will draw on inspiring examples of housing and care projects, which have been initiated and led by groups of older people and by local communities.

To help with the Viewpoint, HACT would like to hear from members of the Housing LIN network if they are involved in or have knowledge of any community led or inspired housing and care projects for older people (or for other vulnerable groups). HACT also want to hear from housing providers if they are interested in exploring with local community groups how to use the CRTB powers to benefit older and vulnerable people in their communities.

If you have any information, case studies, examples, or are interested to know more about the CRTB, please contact Andrew van Doorn at: andrew.vandoorn@hact.org.uk

Coming in and Going out

Kingston University London conduct inclusive design research related to design and disability and are currently running an innovative research programme entitled ‘Coming in and Going out’, which is funded by the Thomas Pocklington Trust.

The project wants to find out about the independence of visually impaired people, and problems they may have with lighting and contrast in the entrances and exits of domestic buildings.
If you are involved in housing provision (specialist and non-specialist), and wish to learn more specific details about adaptations/improvements to entrances and exits of buildings or can supply examples, please email Hilary or Alessio at h.dalke@kingston.ac.uk or a.corso@kingston.ac.uk

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

This section contains updates from our regional ‘leads’. For further information of what’s happening in your region, go to the Housing LIN regional pages, and remember, contribute to your regional noticeboard so we can share latest developments!

London
Margaret Edwards reports that there is still no news on the GLA’s housing for older people strategy. However, in Hackney, planning permission has been granted on the redevelopment of Bayton Court by PRP Architects into an extra care housing scheme.

She also reports that One Housing Group and Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust have launched a partnership at the opening of Tile House in North London.

North West
Jean Bray represented the Housing LIN at the Age-friendly Manchester Design Group meeting this month. She and Libby Spencer also report on Manchester’s forthcoming conference to celebrate their WHO age-friendly city status (see events on p.9).

In St Helens, the home improvement has helped to free up an entire 30 bed ward at Whiston Hospital. This will feature in a forthcoming Home from Hospital Resource Pack due next month.

And finally, ourlife has published an information pack to improve the wellbeing of residents: www.ourlife.org.uk/silo/files/wellbeing-month-pdf.pdf

East Midlands
Debbie Waldron reports that the joint East Midlands and East of England regional Housing LIN event on 25 September in Peterborough was a great success. Copies of the presentations will be available shortly at www.housinglin.org.uk/Events/ArchivedEvents/ArchivedHousingEventDetail/?eventID=744

West Midlands
Anne Bailey reports that at a housing summit in Birmingham this month, Jack Dromey MP and shadow housing minister Liz Kendall MP, pledged to put a strong focus on the needs of the elderly and deliver more homes for older people as part of The Labour Party’s emerging housing policy.

South West
Pat Palmer reports on the new Housing LIN case study on Knightstone Housing Association on their Individual and Community Empowerment work (see new Housing LIN publications on p.3).

Yorkshire & Humber
Paula Broadbent reports that North Yorkshire Council are planning to develop extra care facilities in Thirsk. For a copy of the Housing LIN case study on the Council’s strategic plans, visit: www.housinglin.org.uk/pageFinder.cfm?cid=8559

Eastern
Sue Garwood reports that the Abbeyfield have opened a housing with care housing scheme in Girton, Cambridgeshire. The Housing LIN are planning to feature this 76 unit mixed tenure scheme in a future case study.

South East
Sue Terry reports on a recent new publication by the Kent Housing Group (KHG) which provides a framework for delivering older people’s accommodation across Kent and Medway. It is intended to be used by a wide range of local
stakeholders involved in the provision of older people’s accommodation including local housing and planning authorities, care providers, health authorities, adult social services, private and public sector developers, Parish Councils, landowners and local communities. View at: www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/uploads/OPFrameworkFINAL.pdf

Sue also reports that the launch of the KHG framework coincided with Housing 21’s official opening of their new £8.7m extra care scheme in Gillingham. Prospect Place, a partnership with Medway Council and Berkeley Homes, provides 60 one and 20 two bedroom apartments for people aged 55 and over.

REGIONAL ‘LEARNING LAB’ MEETINGS

Registrations for our regional meetings are open to members of the Housing LIN. Details of those confirmed for your area are listed below, or go to: www.housinglin.org.uk/Events. To receive an automatic invite, register your interest by region at: www.housinglin.org.uk/userAccount/register

North West HLIN, 3rd October, Ruthin, Wales
South East HLIN, 11th October, Staines
West Midlands HLIN, 18th October, Dudley
South West HLIN, 7th November, Exeter

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Delivering personalisation – 11 October, Cambridge
A free event to support improvement and encourage positive outcomes.
http://events.eoe.nhs.uk/all/2354

Foundations Annual conference – 15/16 October, Stratford upon Avon
Two day conference for the home improvement agency and handyperson conference.
wwwFOUNDATIONS.uk.com/events/events-diary/home-improvement-agency-and-handyperson-conference-2012

Age-friendly Manchester programme launch – 24 October
Register your interest by email to: vop@manchester.gov.uk

Workshop on thermal comfort – 26 October, Manchester
This workshop will explore the impact of energy-efficient heating technologies.

Housing with Care – 13/14 November, London
This two-day course from Oxford Brookes University is aimed at housing with care managers and senior staff from schemes across the UK. Book at: http://ipc.brookes.ac.uk/courses/housing.html

ABOUT THE HOUSING LIN

Now with over 46,000 registered subscribers, the Housing LIN is the leading ‘learning lab’ for a growing network of housing, health and social care professionals in England involved in planning, commissioning, designing, funding, building and managing housing, care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults.

We welcome news items for consideration in our next issue. Please email these to: info@housinglin.org.uk

We are grateful to Willmott Dixon for their support of Housing with Care Matters