



HOUSING VISION

Durham Older Persons' Accommodation and Support Services Strategy

Client: Durham County Council and County Durham Partnership
In collaboration with HGO Consultancy and HQN

INTRODUCTION

A strategy was developed for older persons' housing and support services. The strategy was supported by detailed analysis and mapping of the characteristics of County Durham's older people and the services available to them.

A 'Need for Services' toolkit was developed to assess the extent to which the supply of services matches present and future needs and demands of older people.

Level of Need	People
Universal Need	55,177
Low Need	19,838
High Need - Frail Elderly (FE)	3,322
High Need - Mental Health (MH)	3,506
High Need - Learning Disability (LD)	1,661
High Need - Health & Social Care Need	8,766

Total Services Required (all Levels of Need)	People	Households
Advice Services	6,263	4,380
Assistance required to Repair/Improve Owner Occupied Homes	9,069	6,342
Designated Housing (including Sheltered)	13,673	9,562
Handyperson Services	13,885	9,710
Community Alarm Services	15,893	11,114
Home Improvement Agency Services	2,300	1,608
Floating Support Services	5,842	4,085
Telecare Services	864	604
Extra Care Services	732	512

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The main output was a strategy for Older Persons' housing and support services, which would then be subject to a consultation, organised by the client.

The development of the strategy was supported by detailed analysis and mapping of the characteristics of County Durham's older people and the services available to them.

The project was undertaken by the Housing Quality Network (HQN) and HGO Consultancy, with Housing Vision providing the needs and supply mapping and analysis, including the development of a bespoke interactive 'Need for Services' toolkit (see illustration above). The project was completed in June 2010.

PROJECT APPROACH

A key element of the study was to establish the evidence on which the strategy was to be based. This included a review of current policies nationally, regionally and within County Durham, reflecting where possible the views of older people as expressed through enquiries and surveys.

Census and other national, regional and local data were used to develop a profile of needs in the county, with an emphasis on emerging as well as existing needs. These were mapped to show concentrations of need and other 'hotspots', the profile of the older population and households, and the incidence of issues such as deprivation and poor health affecting older people.

Housing demand was examined in part through the use of local authority information derived from the choice-based lettings scheme.

A similar approach was used to establish a comprehensive picture of the availability of services for older people, including accommodation, communications, and assistance with activities such as gardening and decorating. Using guidelines from a range of sources, projections were made of the likely demand for these services in future.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 'Need for Services' toolkit was developed to assess the extent to which the supply of accommodation and support services meets the assessed levels of need across County Durham both now and in the future. Different levels of need and the total services required can all be indicated, either at a county level or for any geographical area, provided the elderly population and the units of supply of services are known.

The ability to project future requirements for accommodation and services over the next twenty years was central to the team's ability to develop a strategy for enabling older people to 'live as independently as possible in homes that support good health and wellbeing'.

SO WHAT?

All Housing Vision output has to pass our simple “So what” test – “So what does this mean for the client or householder?” and “So what practical applications can this information be used for?”.

This test means that everybody is able to understand how the research and analysis has been conducted **and** the final results; how conclusions have been reached **and** how they can best be applied.

So, it's as simple as that.

So what for this project ...

A strong evidence base enabled the County Council and its partners to plan service appropriate provision and options to meet local residents' needs with confidence over the next 20 years.

TESTIMONIAL

“Although the timeframe for this project was extremely challenging, it was successful in all respects and has already informed our Delivery and Investment Plans.”

WHAT WE OFFER

Established in 2001, Housing Vision has completed over 100 projects for local authorities and housing associations; for the private sector and for sub-regional consortia, regional and national bodies including the CRC and HCA. We can offer the following core services:

Dynamic Area Profiles

GIS-based profiles of user-defined areas incorporating demographic, housing, health, education and socio-economic data to provide 20 year projections of change.

Site/Place-Based Housing Market Assessment

We have undertaken over 50 Assessments to determine the market potential of sites proposed for

development, including affordable housing requirements.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment

We have completed analyses of housing need and housing market dynamics at local authority and sub-regional levels throughout the country.

Neighbourhood Sustainability Appraisals

We construct social, economic and housing profiles to determine the sustainability of local housing areas, then identify the interventions required to secure their future.

Research and Intelligence

We undertake challenging and original research, for example a sheltered housing sustainability toolkit and analysis of the interrelationship between housing and health.

Policy Review, Analysis and Revision

We specialise in reviewing and refining policies, for example, a project to evaluate the effectiveness of delivering affordable housing in the Bristol sub-region.

Strategic Development

We work with officers and stakeholders to develop housing and related policies and strategies at sub-regional, local authority and neighbourhood levels.

Testimonials

We work hard for and with our clients, and here are just a few of their views:

“The report produced by HVC was very, very good. It was clear, could be read and understood by a wide range of people”.

“One of the most successful aspects was the working relationship and communication; the sense of joint working and good engagement”.



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