

Care, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Extra Care Provision

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Watergate Court



Watergate Court Extra Care

- First new Extra Care scheme in Gateshead for several years
- Residents starting moving in, in 2022
- People moved in from a range of different backgrounds – including a small number who moved out of residential care
- Many people/their families feel the person would have been in residential care now if not living at Watergate Park
- Research undertaken regarding the learning in respect of Watergate Court
- Specific focus on the Dementia element of the service as this is the first dementia specific extra care offer in Gateshead

Watergate Court Dementia Care

- Recognition that some people with dementia need a different model
- Does not mean people with dementia can only live in specialist provision
- But provides an option for those who would struggle in more traditional extra care
- Enhanced and more tailored support
- Additional security doors and quiet lounges
- Ability to support people overnight in communal areas if needed
- Demand for the flats was very high – it was the first wing fully occupied

Watergate Court Case Studies

- The research has identified a number of positive benefits for people including:
 - Improved nutrition
 - Enhanced company and friendships developing
 - Improved cognition
 - Reduction in medication
 - Improved mobility
- There have been some findings about areas that could improve and will inform future developments such as:
 - Technology
 - Activities
 - Utility bills needing to be better arranged

Extra Care – Future Demand

- Extra Care Housing for older People is a self-evident tried and tested model throughout the UK. There are currently 7 schemes in Gateshead with the first one opening over 17 years ago.
- The current demand for Extra Care Housing outweighs the availability resulting in waiting lists and people being moved into inappropriate settings such as Residential Care. Due to the growing population and projected future demands, the Council estimates an additional 435 units of Extra Care Housing over the period to 2040.
- Need to Improve the quality of care and provision available in community settings.
- Based on data, national reports, impact from the pandemic, previous experience of local authority commissioning and placement funding practice, it is reasonable to assume that up to 20% of placements into residential care could be substituted with living in housing with care (extra care housing).

Gateshead Perspective

- Age – Population living longer
- Gender – 2/3rd of tenants are women
- Demand – 324 units, Watergate Court (82 units)
- 100% Nomination rights
- Tenancy requirements – moving from traditional Sheltered accommodation
- Models of supported accommodation evolving

Future Builds

- Need to learn lessons from Watergate Court and other new builds across the Country
- All sites should be Dementia friendly throughout
- Consideration of potential 100% dementia scheme
- Three new builds over the coming years to meet demand
- Locations to be identified by Needs data and consideration of current housing/residential care settings
- Housing and Commissioning Plan to be developed before the end of the financial year, taking into consideration the recommendations from the Housing Lin report and Strategy