

Report from the Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing

Removal of subsidised Meals Service from Sheltered Housing with Extra Care Schemes (SHECs)

Summary

1. This report briefs members on the decision to remove the meals service, the numbers of people affected, alternative provision and ongoing engagement.

Background

2. CYC has four SHECs across the city, these being Barstow House, Gail Farm Court, Glen Lodge and Marjorie Waite Court. There are a total of 170 flats in these schemes that are designed to provide housing and personal care and support to elderly people. Only 64 people are actually in receipt of a care package, the majority not eligible due to insufficiently high care needs.
3. Historically, a hot meals service was provided to those people that wanted it regardless of their level of needs. This service has not proved popular and numbers taking up this service have diminished over time. There are currently a maximum of 71 people accessing the meals service, with an average of around 50 people a day.
4. Those accessing the meals service pay £3.70 a day for a choice of main meal and pudding. The actual service including staffing costs runs at a loss of approximately 50k a year
5. The council's Cabinet and Full Council approved the overall 2014/15 budget, which included the need to make savings in SHECS, with the detailed saving to be finalised by officers. The decision to look at alternative lunchtime provision, ending the £50,000 annual subsidy of the council lunch service, was an officer one. The current meals service was withdrawn on 1st October.

Consultation

6. Previous consultation was undertaken by officers no longer employed by CYC in May and June 2014. It is fair to say that tenants of SHECs and their families do not feel that this was a true consultation exercise.
7. Extensive engagement and consultation on tenants preferred alternatives has taken place and is still underway. These have been joint events organised within H&WB and Housing Officers and have involved one to one conversations with all tenants using the service. Some tenants and their families have stressed the importance of social isolation and the desire for a meal in a communal setting, but on review a number of tenants said they preferred to eat in their own flat. All schemes have a variety of social activities in place and scheme managers have been arranging further social events.

Options

8. All tenants who were in receipt of a care package and accessed meals have had their care packages reviewed and adjusted. All tenants who were in receipt of a care package but did not access the meals service have been reviewed or offered a review. All other tenants have been offered an assessment should they wish to have one.
9. Two ready meals suppliers, two private companies and two voluntary organisations – Age UK and RVS have made offers and tasting sessions have taken place or have been arranged.
10. CYC is not able to commission meals on tenant's behalf either via the Personal Support Service, or housing but have supported and encouraged a range of choices and options as outlined above. The current situation is not equitable for other residents across the city to whom CYC do not provide any sort of subsidised, hot meal option.

Analysis

11. All tenants who accessed the meals service and have a care plan have alternative arrangements in place. Engagement and taster sessions are ongoing in order for tenants to choose their preferred option at meal times.
12. Both voluntary organisations and the ready meals companies state that they are able to provide a service 365 days a year. Negotiations are ongoing with the other private providers.

Recommendation

13. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Reason: To keep Members informed about the removal of the subsidised Meals Service from Sheltered Housing with Extra Care Schemes

Contact Details

Author:

Ian McCartney
Group Manager
Health and Well Being
Tel No. 01904555250

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Guy Van Dichele
Assistant Director

**Report
Approved**

Date 1/10/14

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All