

**Council – 29 September 2021**

**Public Questions**

**1. From Mrs M Lawes to Councillor Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects**

FHDC has allowed young people with mental health issues, into Council owned Sheltered Housing for over 55 or over 60 years old. . Which brings its own problems to places that were thought to be safe for the elderly.

Is it now Councils policy to reduce sheltered housing for the elderly especially in the deprived areas of East Folkestone & Harbour Ward?

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your question.

It is certainly not the Council's policy to reduce sheltered housing across the District. Following the housing landlord service returning back in-house last October, we are undertaking a full review of the district's Independent Living schemes in order to ensure that the service and accommodation the Council provides is fit for purpose now and into the future. The outcome of this detailed review is expected later this year.

We do make a small number of allocations to younger people where they have a disability, as the service that the Independent Living schemes can provide will meet their housing needs. Although a tenant may have a mental health condition, this does not automatically mean that they cause problems. However, where any tenant breaches their tenancy agreement, we will take the appropriate enforcement action. The safety of all our tenants and residents across the district is a priority for this council.

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

Is there a waiting list and what priority is given to elderly and disabled people for sheltered housing?

**ANSWER:**

I will get this information and provide a response for you.

*Following the meeting, the response below was provided:*

*All applicants on the Council's housing waiting list, who are eligible to move into sheltered housing are able to bid/express an interest in a vacant sheltered housing property, when the properties are advertised through Kent Home Choice. Once the bid/expression of interest period ends, the Council receives a*

*short list of eligible applicants. The Housing Options Team carry out a final verification of all the applicants on the shortlist. The property is then offered to the person at the top of the short list, as this will be the applicant in the greatest housing need. If the first applicant turns the property down, the team work down the shortlist and offer the property to the next verified applicant.*

*Details of how to apply for Council homes via Kent Homes Choice is available on the Council's Website [www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/housing/kent-homechoice](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/housing/kent-homechoice) or by telephone 01303 853300.*

