

Report to:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Vikki Piper, Head of Housing and Kate Aldridge, Head of Commissioning
Date of Meeting:	26 January 2023

SUPPORTED HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL – UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform scrutiny of the progress against the recommendations from the Supported Housing Scrutiny Review report, and the ongoing work in this area.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree that the recommendations from the report in January 2023 have been completed, and to note the current position and ongoing work.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the Committee retains oversight of the scrutiny issues and provide confidence that work continues in this area.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Council priority:

- 5.1 The relevant Council priority is
- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool
 - Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Scrutiny Committee completed a review of supported housing during 2021/22, concluding in January 2023.

6.2 The review took place both before and during a government pilot in 2021, and the final report contained two recommendations:

- 1) That the Supported Housing Scrutiny Review Panel endorses the Supported Housing Standards for Adults and separate Youth Standards and Charter for adoption by the Executive.
- 2) That the Council continues to lobby the Government to introduce regulation or legislation to allow the Council to enforce its approach to supported housing as set out in the agreed standards.

6.3 Both recommendations are complete, and the Council has now received further funding to continue the work of the pilot as part of the national Supported Housing Improvement Programme, which is funded for three years, and is detailed further on.

6.4 The Pilot

The original pilot concluded in October 2022 and produced a number of outcomes, which were endorsed by scrutiny, notably, the development of several key documents including:

- A clear process for new providers to follow
- A clear set of quality standards which we expect providers to follow
- A comprehensive Needs Assessment and accompanying Market Position Statement
- A single point of contact for supported housing enquiries, supported by a multi-disciplinary team of officers to provide expert advice and guidance.

All documents are now located on a single dedicated page on the Council's website:

[Supported housing \(blackpool.gov.uk\)](https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/supporting-housing)

6.5 As part of the pilot the multi – disciplinary team also conducted a comprehensive inspection programme (within covid limitations), with the following outputs:

- Over 100 building inspections
- Approximately 30 support plan reviews for young people
- Over 200 support plan reviews from adult providers.
- Approximately 30 interviews with service users, including young people (conducted jointly between officers, and people with lived experience).
- Feedback sessions to 10 providers, and additional workshops for young people's providers

6.6 **The Supported Housing Improvement Programme (SHIP)**

Dialogue continue with DLUCH following the end of the initial pilot, and a further three years of funding was contained within the Levelling Up package announced for Blackpool in March 2023.

The funding and programme was confirmed in Summer 2022, and the original pilot cohort of five, has now been expanded to approximately 22 Local Authorities.

6.7 The main objectives of the Blackpool SHIP include:

- Build on the pilot activity and continue to use all our existing powers and the expertise developed by individuals in HB, Planning, and Enforcement to bring supported housing providers up to a standard across the town which provides genuine value for money.
- Track from allocation through the three year period the welfare and progress of people using supported housing in different forms with different providers and work with an academic research partner to draw together a comprehensive and coproduced social research piece.
- Mapping, visiting and inspecting over the three year period all current and new Supported Housing schemes housing more than 4 people.
- Aligning the review of the Market Position Statement for supported housing with the Place Based Partnership and Integrated Care Partnership to ensure good quality housing with support is an enabler for improving wider population based health outcomes.
- Working alongside the wider DLUC and Homes England housing intervention and private rented sector programme across inner Blackpool to maximise impact and positive outcome for residents

6.8 **Legislation and Regulation**

As per the recommendations, Blackpool have engaged in all opportunities with government and others to continue to support the review of legislation and regulation in this area, which is ultimately needed to ensure sufficient oversight and value for money.

6.9 A private members bill, sponsored by Bob Blackman MP, and supported by homeless charity Crisis, is currently working its way through the parliamentary process and has reached the committee stage in the House of Commons. The bill is described as:

“A Bill to make provision about the regulation of supported exempt accommodation; to make provision about local authority oversight of, and enforcement powers relating to, the provision of supported exempt accommodation; and for connected purposes.”

6.10 We will be closely following the progress of the bill, to ensure we are well positioned to respond to any changes that come from it.

6.11 Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

7.0 Appendices

None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 Three year funding received to continue the work of the pilot.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None – but to note potential for future legislative change as a result of the supported housing bill.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 The relevant strategies have been through equalities impact assessments.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None at this time, but note that work will continue with providers, and research will be co-produced.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None