

## Care Suites Proposal Adult Care and Wellbeing



**Information** / Action / **Decision**

**V14.10.24**

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Living and Ageing Well Commissioning programme aims to deliver three broad categories of social care support:
  - **Preventative, Enabling and Community Based Support.** This includes services and resources that help to avoid the need for ongoing care and support developing, and where those needs are present, preventing escalation of need.
  - **Ongoing Care and Support at Home.** This is support provided on an ongoing basis in the persons own home which includes home care and supported living.
  - **Ongoing Care and Support with Accommodation.** This includes care and support provided with accommodation, including care homes, extra care and shared lives.
- 1.2 In securing this mix of provision and maintaining high quality standards, the Council also needs to ensure financial resilience of markets, and affordability for those purchasing care (including self-funders and the local authority).
- 1.3 Achieving our aims requires us to develop innovative and transformational models of care and support, such as our Care and Wellbeing Service for the provision of home care.
- 1.4 For those people whose outcomes are best met through the provision of care and support with accommodation, one of the models we are developing, working closely with care and support providers and housing teams, is Care Suites.
- 1.5 This briefing provides an overview of the Care Suites model together with commissioning intentions for Sheffield.

### 2. Care Suites Model

- 2.1 'Care Suites' is a model of care and support for people aged 65 years and over, housing several one to two bed apartments – with private bathrooms, social space so that people's family and friends can spend good, quality time together in their own space, kitchenette facilities and dining space, to that residents can prepare drinks, food and enjoy meals in their own apartments. People would also have access to communal bistros and restaurants and other facilities on the site.
- 2.2 The model is similar to that of Extra Care, though the level of care and support is designed to be able to meet higher levels of need, with the care and support provider able to provide both personal and nursing care to people. With registered nurses available on site, Care Suites offer a

permanent home where residents do not need to worry about moving if their care needs increase.

- 2.3 The key difference with residential care homes, is that Care Suites are based on a tenancy model, designed so that people can maintain their independent living as long as possible and as far as possible in an 'age-friendly' way providing varying degrees of planned and unplanned care and support.
- 2.4 We anticipate that people living in Care Suites may have physical disabilities, frailty and/or dementia. The level of the care and support needs would go beyond what home care can offer, and/or the environment they have been living in would no longer be suitable. Care and support will be flexible and available to people as their needs increase, and the goal is a home for life.
- 2.5 The Care Suite model draws on funding streams such as Housing Benefit and Department of Work and Pension (DWP) income for the person, subject to them being financially eligible to receive it.
- 2.6 Where tenants in Care Suites are entitled to claim housing benefit as well as other DWP benefits, the accommodation related cost will not be funded through Adult Care and Wellbeing as this would fall outside of The Care Act 2014 principle. Where people are not entitled to benefits, they would likely be self-funders due to personal income and pay for the service just as they would do in any other care and support setting.
- 2.7 The Care Suite care and support provider will be registered and regulated with CQC as a personal care and support provider and will work closely with the housing provider.

### **3. Outcomes, Needs and Demand: suitability of the Care Suites model in Sheffield**

- 1.1 Demand for care and support at home is increasing, and this is likely to continue to be the case as we work to keep people as independent as possible, in their own homes and communities.
- 1.2 Demand for standard care home provision has seen an increase of 63 people, or 4.4% over a two-year period from September 2022 to September 2024. Standard residential occupancy rates in Sheffield have been between 80-85% for some time.
- 1.3 The population of people aged 65 and over is also set to increase by c20,000 by 2040<sup>1</sup>. The shift to care and support being provided at home is likely to mean that demand for long-term *standard* care home placements will continue to reduce, but that a greater choice for care and support that can meet higher levels of need, provided in "own home" settings will increase.
- 1.4 New models of care and support such as Care Suites offer a strength-based and person-centred alternative to residential care that both existing and new providers can explore, supporting us to continue to meet the needs of older people in the City.
- 1.5 It is anticipated that Care Suites will offer better health and wellbeing outcomes for people than traditional residential care home models. Often when people move into a traditional care home, they will have things done to and for them, rather than being supported to do things for themselves.
- 1.6 The commitment to maintaining the person's independent living skills, even if it is as small as making a cup of tea or preparing a sandwich, for as long as possible and as far as possible, is key to Care Suites with both the support and facilities made available.

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<sup>1</sup> [Projecting Older People Population Information System \(poppi.org.uk\)](https://poppi.org.uk) – Sheffield projections

- 1.7 In moving from a more traditional model of care to a more empowering and strength-based approach, there will be a need and expectation for care and support providers to train staff differently. This is consistent with our practice model in Sheffield, and will be supported through our [Sheffield Care Sector Workforce Development Strategy](#).
- 1.8 Local care and support providers and housing providers have shown an encouraging interest in Care Suites, and we are developing the model in partnership with providers and with housing colleagues in the council.
- 1.9 We have had a very good response from care and support providers wanting to work alongside the council in innovative models to ensure Sheffield people have access to the best quality care and support.
- 1.10 Extensive engagement and collaborative work with the provider sector and wider stakeholders as well as people with lived experience is underway now. By working with providers in this way, with new innovative ideas, not just operating in a transactional manner but transformational too, we hope that we will develop a co-produced and highly effective care and support service.

## 2. Financial Modelling

- 2.1 In Care Suites, accommodation related costs are not funded through Adult Care and Wellbeing. Where tenants in Care Suites are entitled to claim housing benefit as well as other DWP benefits, the accommodation related cost will be funded via this income. If the service user is not entitled to receive benefits, then they would likely be self-funders due to their personal income and pay for the service just as they would do in any other care and support setting.
- 2.2 Below is an example of what the care suite financial breakdown could look like versus the baseline of the current standard residential care cost.

<i>Example comparative cost of residential care and Care Suite model</i>			
Traditional Residential Care	£ per week	Care Suite	£ per week
Gross fee	£700.00	Gross fee	£700.00
Client contribution (average)	-£216.00	Financial Assessment (average)	-£78.20
		Person fee (typical provider average)	-£185.00
		Housing Benefit	-£209.82
Net care	£484.00	Net care	£226.98

- 2.3 The current cost for the standard residential care is £700.00 per week with the average net cost to Adult Care and Wellbeing after contributions of £484.00 per week. The net cost to Adult Care and Wellbeing through a Care Suites model could be as low as £227.00 per week.
- 2.4 It is proposed that financial benefits be shared between Adult Care and Wellbeing and care and support provider(s), this will promote financial viability in the care sector, and encourage the investment needed to meet the new delivery model – including capital costs.
- 2.5 Further financial modelling will be undertaken as more providers engage in the programme and an update will be provided to committee before the final contract is progressed.

## 3. Timeline for development

3.1 The proposed timeline is set out in the table below, identifying the different stages of the process.

Stage	Task	Timeframe
1	Collaboration and engagement to design the specification and contract with partners. This will include people with lived experience, care and support and housing providers and the ICB.	Autumn2024/Spring 2025
2	Agree and finalise the commercial method of the contract, the terms & conditions of the contract and prepare ITT.	Late Spring 2025
3	Advertise the contract, responding to clarification queries and questions as part of the bidding process.	Summer 2025
4	Evaluation of tenders received.	Autumn 2025
5	Contract award process.	Winter 2025