

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Extra Care Housing – Update on Internal Audit Actions</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>10 March 2020</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Acting Chief Finance Officer</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Dallen</b>	<b>Tel: 29-1314</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Mark.Dallen@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 At the Audit and Standards Committee on the 14 January 2020 the Committee approved a recommendation that the “Executive Director, Health & Adult Social Care reports back to the next Audit and Standards Committee on progress on the actions within the follow-up Internal Audit report on Extra Care Housing”.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with that update. The last report on Extra Care Housing was finalised in September 2019 and was a follow-up of a previous Internal Audit Report on Extra Care Housing (January 2019). The report identified that some of the actions from the previous audit had not been implemented by the deadlines previously agreed.
- 1.3 The update provided by the Executive Director, Health & Adult Social Care is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee note the report.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Internal Audit progress report presented to the Audit and Standards Committee on the 14 January 2020 included the following summary of findings and actions from September 2019 Internal Audit report on Adult Social Care:

**“Extra Care Housing Follow-up – Partial Assurance**

1.41 Extra Care Housing schemes are designed for older people (over 55) who are still able to live independently but require care for low to moderate needs. The units are purpose built self-contained flats, designed to encourage independent living for as long as possible.

1.42 This audit was a follow-up to a 2018/19 audit that gave a Partial Assurance opinion. The purpose of the audit was to provide assurance that the objectives

and rationale of the service model are clear and Extra Care Housing performance measures are aligned. Also that:

- Contracts are in place with third parties that detail service level expectations and performance is monitored;
- Budget monitoring processes are robust and arrangements are in place to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the service model.

1.43 The audit again concluded Partial Assurance and that further action is still required to improve the control environment over this service. Specifically:

- Action is taken to avoid extra care units being left empty or individuals being accepted with lower care or social housing needs than would be expected;
- There is additional review to ensure that this type of accommodation provides value for money, including that all relevant costs are taken into consideration;
- To identify why the care provider's linked to Extra Care Schemes are not always being used by residents;
- To introduce an operational protocol between the Council and one of the Extra Care providers;
- That key performance information is captured by service providers and reviewed by the Council.

1.44 The deadline for implementing these actions is April 2020 and this will be subject to a further follow up by Internal Audit to confirm that sufficient improvement is made”.

- 3.2 This report provides an update on progress in implementing the agreed actions as requested by this Committee.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 This report was requested by the Audit and Standards Committee on the 14 January 2020.

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 None.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

#### **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report subject to any further actions the committee agrees in response to the issues raised.

- 7.2 Implementing the recommended actions of audit reports support strong financial governance and the effective application of council resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 18/2/20

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Victoria Simpson

Date: 19/2/20

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 There are no direct equalities implications.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no direct sustainability implications.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Progress on Actions in the Extra Care Internal Audit Reports

### **Background Documents**

1. Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud Strategic Plan 2019/20.

