

Public Questions

The following public question was received following the publication on the Scrutiny Blog of the Inquiry Call for Evidence.

Question received

I am concerned with the lack of provision of housing for the Learning Disabled community. Is the council using the best/ most ethical companies for LD housing? Example – gentleman aged 44 still waiting for supported living within his own community.

Reply from Dave Howes

All of our service providers are charitable or not for profit organisations who are experienced in LD design and development. We actively encourage tender submissions from not for profit organisations and are working with regional partners to develop approaches to commissioning services which promote social value and similar ethical considerations.

We have systems in place for assessing accommodation needs and developing appropriate housing, care and support solutions. We are also developing a regional policy to ensure the support and accommodation needs of young people transitioning from children's services to adults services are anticipated. This will help to achieve more effective future planning. We are currently exploring the possibility of re-shaping some of our existing specialist adult Learning Disability services so that they can offer care and accommodation to younger people. This may expand the range of accommodation options available.

New opportunities are sometimes dependent on the availability of capital grant funding from Welsh Government as well as property that is suitable for adaptation, or availability of land for new build within the county. In some instances the mix of people within a shared setting is considered integral to the longer term wellbeing of tenants and these considerations can sometimes lead to delays in finding suitable options. However, we presently manage over 100 properties accommodating over 250 people. Later this year an additional 8 x 1 bedroom flats, and a further 4 beds within a shared house will become available. I am advised by colleagues that this is more than any other LA in Wales.