

# SPEAKING UP FOR SHELTERED HOUSING

## To all Directors of Adult Social Services The Benefits of Sheltered Housing

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More older people live in sheltered housing (718,000) than in residential and nursing homes (378,000). Research by Cap Gemini for the Communities and Local Government (CLG) department last year demonstrated that Supporting People funding of **£259 million** for older people living in sheltered housing provided a net financial benefit of **£1.1 billion** through reduced need for residential or nursing care, hospital admission and home care.

There are few areas of public expenditure that can produce as much evidence of need, service quality and outcomes as Supporting People investment in sheltered housing. Support to those living in sheltered housing helps to promote health, well-being and social inclusion and prevents anxiety, depression, falls, isolation and admissions to long-stay care.

Sheltered housing offers a preventative, low cost, low level housing and support service for a wide range of older and vulnerable people. ERoSH believes that there is huge unmet potential in sheltered housing that can benefit the whole community in both rural and urban areas. Sheltered housing also helps local authorities, health and social care services to deliver their commitments to the well being and personalisation agendas.

### The ending of ring-fencing

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ERoSH believes that the ending of Supporting People ring-fencing provides opportunities to reinforce and develop this positive role for sheltered housing, for example through the commissioning of innovative and flexible services that cross housing, care and health boundaries. There are concerns within the housing and support sector that some Supporting People funding may be spent on other services, such as those meeting substantial or critical need.

If low level preventative funding declines this will ultimately cost local authorities more, as demonstrated by the Cap Gemini research.

## The CLG department stated in *“Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods – a national strategy for housing in an ageing society”*:

“Local authorities ..... should be clear about the high value of existing stock and not ignore the potential of sheltered housing...”

Sheltered housing schemes ..... can be vibrant community hubs, tackling exclusion and promoting active ageing, even if the accommodation itself is dated.... there should be a strong focus on well-being. High quality health and care services should complement social activity, mutual support and opportunities for active participation in the community. ”

## What we are asking Directors of Social Services to do

- Ensure that the financial and other benefits of sheltered housing are not lost with the ending of ring-fencing
- Get the maximum potential out of all the sheltered housing in your area
- Ensure that your (and your partners’) housing strategy has a direct commitment to providing and maximising the potential of sheltered housing
- Ensure your staff obtain our DVD and other materials and make contact with your local sheltered housing support providers – see [www.housingcare.org](http://www.housingcare.org) for local lists and read below about obtaining ERoSH materials.

## About ERoSH

We exist solely to promote awareness of the benefits of good quality sheltered housing and to promote partnership working between sheltered housing staff and those in other agencies. Specifically for health and social services, and downloadable from our website ([www.shelteredhousing.org](http://www.shelteredhousing.org)), we have produced:

- Checklists to help agencies assess progress in achieving the full potential of sheltered housing
- A DVD that demonstrates the range of health and social care related activities that can take place in sheltered housing

Our recent position statement can also be downloaded from our website [www.shelteredhousing.org](http://www.shelteredhousing.org) which covers:

- needs led services
- the floating support and hub and spoke models of service delivery
- allocations
- the role of sheltered housing stock
- information and consultation with service users.

We are on the Ministerial working group convened by CLG to address current issues in sheltered housing.