

# Report to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

## 21 November 2024

**Item Name:** Adult Social Care Housing Delivery  
**Lead Director:** Geoff Wharton  
**Lead Officer:** Ana De Almeida  
**Lead Executive Member:** Councillor Jay Hayes

---

### 1. Purpose

This report provides an overview of the initial stages of a collaborative initiative between Housing Services, Adult Social Care (ASC) and Children's Services. It aims to address the housing needs of vulnerable individuals and families through coordinated efforts.

---

### 2. Background and Context

Nottingham City Council recognises that safe, suitable housing is a cornerstone of well-being for individuals and families. It plays a critical role in supporting the health, safety and independence of vulnerable populations, including adults with complex needs and children in care or at risk.

Key Drivers for Collaboration:

**1. Addressing Gaps Identified in the Care Act Pilot Assessment:**

The 2023 Care Quality Commission (CQC) pilot assessment highlighted significant housing challenges, including shortages of supported living units and a lack of coordination between housing and care services.

- For adults, these gaps have resulted in delays in care transitions and over-reliance on residential care.
- For children and families, insufficient housing options often exacerbate instability and stress.

**2. Holistic Support for Vulnerable Groups:**

Both ASC and Children's Services have seen increasing demand for integrated approaches that combine housing solutions with tailored care and support. This is especially vital for individuals transitioning out of care, families facing homelessness, and those with health challenges that impact their ability to secure or maintain housing.

**3. Commitment to Long-Term Strategic Planning:**

The Council's broader objectives include aligning housing strategy with health and social care priorities. This requires fostering cross-departmental collaboration to ensure that housing interventions address the root causes of variability and meet diverse needs.

### **Strategic Goals:**

The collaboration seeks to:

- Increase availability of supported and transitional housing.
- Reduce fragmentation in service pathways by fostering seamless collaboration.
- Enhance outcomes by providing person-centred, integrated care and housing solutions.

### **Early Focus Areas:**

The project has initially prioritised:

- Improving care transitions from hospital or other settings to appropriate housing.
- Creating shared protocols for handling urgent housing needs.
- Establishing a framework for joint working, with a particular focus on piloting solutions for young people transitioning from children's services to adult care and those at risk of homelessness.

### **Alignment with National and Local Policies:**

This initiative aligns with key legislation and frameworks, such as:

- The Care Act 2014, which emphasises the importance of housing as part of care and support planning.
- The Children Act 1989, which requires local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including access to appropriate housing.
- Nottingham City's strategic plans for housing and social care, which highlight the need for innovative, collaborative solutions to address increasing pressures on services.

This background sets the stage for a robust response to longstanding challenges, recognising that housing is not just a place to live but a platform for stability, health and independence. The initiative is in its early stages, with a focus on building a framework for collaborative working, identifying gaps and piloting joint efforts.

---

## **3. Current Progress**

While still in development, key early actions include:

- **Identifying Common Goals:** Establishing shared objectives for housing and care services, such as reducing reliance on emergency placements and improving transitions.
- **Improved Communication:** Initial meetings have been held to facilitate information sharing between departments.
- **Piloting Small-Scale Projects:** Initial steps towards integrating housing with care support for families and adults with complex needs.

These actions aim to increase supported living capacity, improve care transitions, and enhance coordination between departments.

---

#### 4. Challenges

- **Resource Limitations:** Insufficient housing stock and care capacity.
  - **Coordination Barriers:** Developing efficient systems for collaboration and referrals.
  - **Policy Alignment:** Ensuring strategies across departments are aligned to support shared goals.
- 

#### 5. Risks and Mitigations

Risk	Mitigation
<b>Housing Shortages: Delays in care delivery due to insufficient housing options.</b>	Long-term planning to expand supported housing options.
<b>Disjointed Systems</b>	Establishing a multidisciplinary team to oversee housing and care pathways.
<b>Resistance to Change</b>	Ongoing engagement and training for staff to adopt new processes

---

#### 6. Next Steps

Next Step	Lead Officer/Team	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Finalise Collaborative Framework:</b> Develop policies and procedures to guide joint working.</li></ul>	Housing Services	2024/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Expand Pilot Projects:</b> Trial new housing solutions integrated with care services.</li></ul>	Housing Services ASC	2024/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Stakeholder Engagement:</b> Work with community organisations and service users to refine approaches.</li></ul>	Housing Services/ASC/Children's Services	2024/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Review Progress:</b> Evaluate the effectiveness of early actions and adjust plans accordingly.</li></ul>	Housing Services	April 2025

---

#### 7. Conclusion

This initiative represents a significant step toward bridging gaps between Housing Services, ASC, and Children's Services. Although in its infancy, the project has the potential to deliver meaningful improvements in housing and care outcomes. Progress will continue to be monitored, and updates will be provided to the Committee.