

## REPORT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

(Meeting held on 8 November 2019)

### 1. ARTHRITIS AND RELATED CONDITIONS MOTION

The Private Sector Housing Task and Finish Group, having discussed and considered the motion from Councillor Malcolm Wade on arthritis and related conditions, is reporting back to Council. The Group at a meeting on 8 November were provided with details of how this Council and Hampshire County Council supports sufferers of arthritis in terms of minor aids and adaptations.

The Group were provided with details of the work the Council currently does in relation to each of the six recommendations in the Versus Arthritis report, "Adapted Homes, Empowered Lives". As part of this, the Group considered the work proposed to be carried out to improve the current service provision, this included for example; reviewing how data would be collected, ensuring that data fields were added to record the types of conditions which receive assistance, which would help to better plan the service for the future, as well as reviewing the Council's publicity material and that of the New Forest Disability Information Service, a partner of the Council, to ensure that the information available on aids and adaptations is applicable to all, including those with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions.

The majority view of the Group was to support the motion. Concern was expressed regarding the focus on arthritis rather than other types of disability. Cllr M Wade explained that according to research many arthritis sufferers were not aware of the support local authorities can offer to them. It was agreed by the majority of the Group to support the motion and to include an extra sentence making it clear that the Council will continue to be all inclusive and support those with all types of disability.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

***That the Private Sector Housing Task and Finish Group, advise the Council that it is supportive of the following motion:-***

***This Council notes that:***

- ***Arthritis and related conditions of muscles, bones and joints affect 17.8 million people across the UK.***
- ***People with these conditions often need access to the social care system.***
- ***Versus Arthritis' policy report 'Adapted Homes, Empowered Lives' details the positive impact home aids and adaptations can have on people with arthritis. Their quantitative research among 1059 people with arthritis found that:***
  - o ***60% of people with arthritis used an aid or adaptation***
  - o ***95% felt that aids and adaptations have had a positive impact on their lives***
  - o ***79% felt that aids and adaptations had helped them maintain their independence.***
- ***Services that provide aids and adaptations are proven to be cost-effective and can result in health and care savings.***

- ***Only 16% of people with arthritis with eligible care needs surveyed knew of the support that their council can offer them.***

***This Council believes that an effective provision of the Disabled Facilities Grant and community equipment services can help people with arthritis achieve a better quality of life and reduce pressure on the social care system.***

***This Council endorses Versus Arthritis' policy report 'Adapted Homes, Empowered Lives' and its recommendations.***

***This Council will evaluate its information and advice services about aids and adaptations and housing in line with best practice guidance to ensure they meet the needs of people with musculoskeletal conditions.***

***This Council will continue to be all inclusive and support those with all types of disability.***

**COUNCILLOR JILL CLEARY  
CHAIRMAN, PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TASK AND FINISH GROUP AND  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING SERVICES**