

Kent Older Persons Housing Research

Working Paper 2: Review of Housing Need in Existing Policy Documents

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1. Introduction

This working paper provides a summary of information on older people's housing needs contained in existing policy documents produced by the Kent local authorities. The existing local authority assessments on older persons housing need use a variety of methods and timeframes to determine need. Consequently they cannot be drawn together to give a definite pattern of current and future need across Kent. Therefore, while relevant information from these documents has been drawn out to build a picture of likely future need, DTZ has also produced a separate demographics working paper (Working Paper 3) including an independent projection of housing need by tenure using ONS and census data.

2. Summary

The main points in relation to older persons housing need from the various relevant local authority documents are:

- The 65+ year old population in Ashford is expected to increase by 92% by 2031, while the 80+ age group is expected to increase by 128%
- In Canterbury the number of over 65 households in housing need is estimated to increase from 532 to 679 (a rise of 147 households) between 2006 and 2026
- The Dartford Housing Needs Survey estimated that 1,295 units of supported accommodation would be required, 891 in the affordable sector and 404 in the private sector by 2016.
- In Dover there is a need for almost 190 additional units of extra care housing: half for people with high dependency levels and half to provide a more mixed and lively community. While there is un-met demand for affordable rented homes among older people, there is no apparent current unmet need for market retirement housing in Dover.
- Population increase in Gravesham is projected to be greatest amongst "older older" people, i.e. aged 80+ (up 36% over the next 10 years). The demand for sheltered housing is estimated to be 948 units – 390 private and 558 affordable.
- The older population of Maidstone is predicted to increase over the next 20 years by 44% (over 65) and 66% (over 80). There is an estimated demand for 1,632 sheltered units in the borough, though there is evidence of an oversupply of accommodation with shared facilities.
- In Medway, demand from existing households is primarily for sheltered housing in the social housing sector and independent accommodation with external support. The Housing Needs Survey indicated demand for sheltered housing for 1,929 units (727 private and 1,202 affordable).
- By 2026 the over 65 population of Sevenoaks is forecast to rise by 41.8% and the 85+ population by 90.9%. Data suggests a combined demand for Sheltered Housing of 1,679 units. 778 units are required in the affordable sector and 901 in the private sector.
- The number of over 65 households in housing need in Shepway is estimated to increase between 2006 and 2026 from 3,011 to 4,337 (a rise of 1,326 households).
- In line with national trends the most dramatic change in Swale up to 2026 is the projected increase in the very elderly age groups (a 124% increase for those aged 85-plus).



- In Thanet, the number of over 65 households in housing need is estimated to increase between 2006 and 2026 from 7,204 to 9,604 (a rise of 2,400 households).
- The data suggests a combined requirement of 1,220 units for sheltered accommodation from older people currently living in Tonbridge & Malling (210 households) and those who may in-migrate to be beside their family (1,010 households). 542 units are required in the affordable sector and 678 in the private sector.
- In total, data suggests a combined requirement of 1,060 units for sheltered accommodation from older people currently living in Tunbridge Wells - 392 units in the affordable sector and 668 in the private sector.
- Across Kent, demographic trends forecast an increase of 36% in the population of over 65 year olds from 2005-2020. East Kent (41%) will be more affected than west Kent (30%), with the greatest increases expected in Thanet, Shepway and Dover. There is a likely future need for more extra care accommodation for frail elderly people across the districts/boroughs where the highest proportions of older persons live.
- A sharp increase in those with severe dementia is forecast and increased longevity will mean that more older people are affected and the intensity of the condition will increase as people enter advanced old age (85+).



3. Review of Existing Documents

Figure 1 below sets out information by local authority on the identified current and future housing needs of older people. Information is drawn from local housing strategies, local and sub-regional housing market assessments, vulnerable persons housing strategies and housing needs assessments. While the methods and timeframes for analysing older peoples housing needs differs widely across the Kent authorities, the information presented below provides a useful overview of identified need.

Figure 1: Kent Local Authority Document Review

Local	Information on Older Persons Housing Need						
Authority							
Ashford	Ashford Housing Strategy 2008-11 -With an increasingly older population the requirement for sheltered housing will increase. The Housing Needs Survey 2005 identified that between 2005 and 2008 there would be a demand for 678 sheltered units (280 affordable units and 340 private units). -To help meet this, the council has negotiated the provision of three new sheltered housing schemes for older people on new housing developments around the town; resulting in 96 new flats for older people over the Housing Strategy period to 2011. A further 40 flats are being developed as part of a PFI with Kent County Council on land owned by Ashford Borough Council with capital funding from the government's Private Finance Initiative. Ashford Vulnerable Adults Housing Strategy Jan 2011 -Ashford has seen a 20.3% increase in the population over 50 years old in the 10 years between 1997 and 2007. Ashford is also expected to have the greatest increase, of all the Kent Districts, in over 50s over the 10 years from 2006, an increase of 10,200 people. Owner occupiers account for 79% of the older population with 12% renting from the council. 20% of older people in the borough are living alone.						
	-The Council currently has 450 units of sheltered accommodation.						
	Ashford Housing Needs Survey Update 2010 -The 65 year old and over population is expected to increase by 16,300 people (+91.6%) by 2031. The 80+ age group is expected to increase by 6,500 (+127.5%) up to 2031.						
Canterbury	East Kent SHMA -The number of over 65 households in housing need is estimated to increase from 532 to 679 (a rise of 147 households) between 2006 and 2026.						
	Kent CC Supporting People Needs Analysis -Canterbury has 163 long term accommodation based units for older people.						
Dartford	Dartford SHMA -17.3% (6,500) of the increased population between 2006 and 2026 is forecast to be in the older age (65+) group, of which one third (2,300 out of 6,500 people) will be very old (85+). This represents a 50% increase on the 2006 elderly population. Indeed						



Local	Information on Older Persons Housing Need					
Authority						
	the proportional increase in the 85+ age group in Dartford (153%) is over twice that of the HMA average (72%).					
	-The number of people aged over 65 living alone in Dartford is predicted to increase from 4,660 in 2008 to 6,345 in 2025 – an increase of 36%.					
	-The 2006 Housing Needs Survey revealed a total requirement of 1,295 units for sheltered housing in both private market and affordable sectors from existing households and in-migrating parents/ relatives in the three year period from 2006.					
	Dartford Housing Strategy 2009-2012 -Analysis by Kent County Council (KCC) demographers suggests that the greatest increase in population will be among the very elderly (aged over 85), where a 42% increase is anticipated between 2006 and 2016 from 1,200 to 1,700.					
	-In the context of Dartford, there are currently only 21 older people on the Council's housing register waiting for supported accommodation and 33 waiting for a transfer (18 of which are from applicants outside of the borough). This suggests that there is already an adequate supply of general one bedroom supported accommodation in Dartford. Overall 2.13% of applicants on the housing register require supported housing.					
	Dartford Older Person's Housing Strategy 2009-2014 -The Housing Need Survey estimated the potential requirement for supported accommodation to 2016, where there are interventions to assist residents to live independently in their own homes, the estimates were: • 2,730 extra care units • 14 residential/nursing home units					
	119 units of independent accommodation with external support					
	-The Housing Needs Survey estimated that 1,295 units of supported accommodation would be required, 891 in the affordable sector and 404 in the private sector by 2016.					
	-The survey recommended that this be met by further provision of 307 units in the affordable sector (Council or RSL owned property) and 14 units in the private sector. The number of units needed in the affordable sector is less than the predicted requirement because of the turnover, that is, changes in the occupiers of the properties.					
	-The Housing Needs Survey estimated that 241units of extra care accommodation would be required between 2006 and 2009, and 2,730 units from 2006 to 2016. This seems extremely high however, and demand has not run at this level to date. Demographic data suggests that given the forecast aging population there will be an increasing need for this type of accommodation.					
	-In order to address some levels of unmet need, Kent County Council and its local authority partners are currently developing 11 extra care schemes across Kent					



Local Authority	Information on Older Persons Housing Need					
	through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) 'Better Homes, Active Lives', and the Council is also entering into a new partnership agreement with KCC to provide an additional 40 units of extra care accommodation in Manor Brook in Dartford.					
Dover	Housing Strategy -The older population of Dover district is larger than the housing market area and county averages. By 2026, those aged 65-84 will increase by 55.7% and those aged over 85 by 54%. This highlights the need to tackle the housing needs of older people now and in the future.					
	-Currently, 48% all single person households in the Dover district are aged over 65 years and this will increase over time, so it is particularly important that new smaller homes should meet lifetime standards including lift access to upper floors					
	-There is unmet demand for affordable rented homes amongst older people; mostly for retirement (but not sheltered) units of two or more bedrooms. The projected demand by 2026 represents 78% of all additional affordable homes expected to be built in the area.					
	-There is a need for almost 190 additional units of extra care housing: half for people with high dependency levels and half to provide a more mixed and lively community.					
	-There is no apparent unmet need for market retirement housing, although this may change over time as the housing market recovers and the older population grows.					
	-Older people want, and expect, to stay in their own homes and most expect to stay in their current home for the rest of their life.					
	East Kent SHMA -Dover has a higher proportion of 45-64 year olds than the other districts. Specifically examining the age categories migrating into Dover, the smallest category (2,100) were aged over 65.					
	-The number of over 65 households in housing need is estimated to increase between 2006 and 2026 from 1,535 to 2,371 (a rise of 836 households).					
Gravesham	Housing Strategy 2009-2013 -The Gravesham Housing Needs Survey 2006 identified a combined requirement for sheltered accommodation from older people currently living in the borough (284 households) and those who may in-migrate to be beside their family (664 households) of 948 units: 558 in the affordable sector and 390 in the private sector.					
	-Some of this requirement will be addressed by flow of the existing sheltered stock, but acceptability of existing stock to meet today's standards will need to be assessed in calculating the scale of new delivery.					
	-The significantly higher level of elderly accommodation for people moving into the					



Local	Local						
Authority	Information on Older Persons Housing Need						
	borough is a new factor in the housing market. Generally, the forecast is being made by their children who assist in the moving process. -The Housing Needs Survey identified a need over the next three years for: - 199 units of extra care accommodation: - 171 units of independent accommodation with external support - 46 residential / nursing home units. - 250 units of Council / RSL sheltered housing and 34 private sheltered units.						
	Review of Social Housing Provision for Older People, 2008 -Numbers of people aged 45-64 are anticipated to increase by 1,800 (+7.3 %) 26,300 over the next 10 years. -A far more marked increase is expected amongst the over 65s with the numbers people aged over 65 rising from 15,700 to 19,500. This is an increase of 3,800 old people, 24.2% over the next 10 years. By 2020, 50% of the population of Kent will be aged 50+.						
	aged 80+ (36% over	the next 10 years, up	by 500 from 1,400 to	st "older older" people, o 1,900).			
		d Housing in Gravesh Existing Households	In-migrating Households	Total			
	Private Sector Affordable Sector	34 250	356 308	390 558			
		│ 284 ed Surveys (Re-weigh migrate to be near fai		948 existing households			
-There is an increasing demand for sheltered accommodation in the rural Gravesham. This has been noticed, for example, in demand for places at C Court in Meopham. Population changes by 2016 among older people are predicted to be: - 55+: 13% increase - 65+: 24% increase - 65-74: 24% increase - 75-84: 21% increase - 85+: 40% increase							
						Maidstone	Housing Strategy – Older People Supplement 2005-2009 -There is an identified increase in the population of 6,600 over the next 20 years and the most significant features are the growth of the over 65 age group with an increase of 8,400 people (44.4%) and the 80+ age group increase of 2,100 (65.6%) up to 2021.
	-The data suggests a combined requirement for sheltered accommodation of 1,632 units from older people currently living in the Borough (73 households) and those who						



Local Authority	Information on Older Persons Housing Need						
	may in-migrate to be beside their family (1,559 households), 1,184 in the affordable sector and 448 in the private sector.						
	-Over 75% of provision is delivered in traditional 'category 2' sheltered accommodation. There is some evidence of oversupply particularly in schemes with shared facilities.						
Medway	Housing Needs Sur	vey 2006					
		d a need over the nex ependent accommod uncil / HA housing an	ation with exter	nal support			
	housing sector and should focus on the	independent accomn provision of home b	nodation with a	Itered housing in the social external support. Resources services and adaptations for ner occupied housing.			
	Accommodation Requ	uired by Elderly Relat					
	Туре		% Respo	1			
	Live with respondent adequate	t (existing) home	16.4	541			
	Live with respondent		17.8	585			
	Private sheltered ho	using	14.6	482			
	Council / HA shelter	ed housing	18.7	617			
	Residential care / nu	ursing home	6.7	222			
	Private housing		8.5	279			
	Council / Housing A	ssociation property	10.5	346			
	Extra Care housing		6.8	224			
	Total		100.0	3,296			
	Demand for Sheltered	d Housing in Medway					
	Domana for Choiceres	Existing	In-migrating	Total			
		Households	Households				
	Private Sector	245	482	727			
	Affordable Sector	585	617	1,202			
	Total	830	1,099	1,929			
	Source: Housing Need Surveys (Re-weighted in 2008) – from existing househout and those likely to in-migrate to be near family						
		-		odation is high. There is a			
	requirement for 103 units for existing residents and 224 units to meet the needs of in- migrating parents / relatives, a total need of 327 units over the next three years.						
-This sector of the older persons housing market is relatively forecast in the population projections over the next decade to years of age will increase the need for this type of unit. Becausupply in Medway it will be important to address this sector with an Older Persons Housing Strategy.				latively new and the growth de to 2016 of those over 80 Because there is no current			



Local Authority	Information on Older Persons Housing Need							
Sevenoaks	West Kent Strategic Housing Market Assessment Dec 2008							
	-With the retired population (65-85+ age group) forecast to rise by 41.8% (20,200							
	people) and the 85+ population by 90.9% (7,300 people) by 2026, the housing and							
	support needs of older households must be considered at a strategic level.							
						-	e and Malling require Tunbridge Wells the	
	demand is split be						runbhage vvens the	
	Size of Accommo							
	Size	Sevenoa	aks	Tonbridge Malling	&	Tunbridge Wells	West Kent	
	1-bed	12.2		13.2		14.2	13.2	
	2-bed	23.6		26.0		26.4	25.3	
	3-bed	41.9		45.5		39.1	42.2	
	4+ Bed	22.3		15.3		20.3	19.3	
	Total	100.0		100.0		100.0	100.0	
	Source: Housing I	Need Sur	veys (F	Re-weighted	in 20	008)		
	Tenure Of Next H	ome Age	d 60±.					
	Tenure Tenure			Sevenoaks (%) Tor		nbridge & alling (%)	Turnbridge Wells (%)	
	Owner Occupied				56		75.7	
	Private Rented		6.9 6.		6.0)	8.1	
	HA Rented		31.6 37		.7	16.2		
	HA Shared Ownership 9.2 0.0)	0.0				
	-In terms of demand for Sheltered Housing, the data suggests a convergence requirement of 1,679 units from older people currently living in Sevenora households) and those who may in-migrate to be beside their family households). 778 units are required in the affordable sector and 901 in the sector.							
	Sevenoaks Sheltered Housing Demand:							
	Ho		xisting ouseholds		louse	rating eholds	Total	
	Private Sector	91			10		901	
	Affordable Sector	or 205 296			73 ,383		778 1,679	
	Source: Housing Need Surveys (Re-weighted in 2008) – from existing hou and those likely to in-migrate to be near family							
Shepway	East Kent SHMA							
	-The local authorities of Shepway and Thanet have significantly higher proportions of							
	over 65s, compared to regional figures.							
	-Supported Housing Provision for Older people currently totals 1,733 units							
	-The number of over 65 households in housing need is estimated to increase between 2006 and 2026 from 3,011 to 4,337 (a rise of 1,326 households).							



Information on Older Persons Housing Need					
-Some 468 social rented sheltered units are expected to be required to meet the needs of people wishing to move within the next five years. Some of this will be met by turnover within the existing stock but there is a need to reassess the acceptability and appropriateness of the existing stock in calculating the scale of new delivery required.					
-It has been estimated that as many as 25% of people placed in residential care could have been more appropriately accommodated in extra care housing if it was available. The Council is currently working in partnership to develop over 40 units of extra care sheltered housing for older people, which will be completed in 2009.					
Housing Strategy -Currently over 19% of Swale's population are over pensionable age (women of 60 years and over, men of 65 years and over). In line with national trends the most dramatic change up to 2026 is the projected increase in the older population (56% for those aged 65 to 84) — especially the very elderly and frailer age groups (a 124% increase for those aged 85-plus). This is the overwhelmingly most important demographic driver of housing market change.					
East Kent SHMA -Currently people aged over 65 make up the following proportions of single households in each of the districts: - Canterbury 45% - Dover 48% - Shepway 48% - Swale 43% - Thanet 47%					
-The number of over 65 households in housing need is estimated to increase between 2006 and 2026 from 185 to 499 (a rise of 314 households).					
East Kent SHMA -The number of over 65 households in housing need is estimated to increase between 2006 and 2026 from 7,204 to 9,604 (a rise of 2,400 households).					
West Kent Strategic Housing Market Assessment Dec 2008 -Please see Sevenoaks section for details on size of home and tenure of next home information.					
-The data suggests a combined requirement of 1,220 units for sheltered accommodation from older people currently living in Tonbridge & Malling (210 households) and those who may in-migrate to be beside their family (1,010 households). 542 units are required in the affordable sector and 678 in the private sector.					



Local Authority	Information on Older Persons Housing Need							
	Tonbridge & Malling Sheltered Housing Demand: Existing In-migrating Total							
		Existing Households	Total					
	Private Sector	117	561	678				
	Affordable Sector	93	449	542				
	Total	210	1,010	1,220				
	Source: Housing Nee	• • •	,	existing households				
	and those likely to in-	-migrate to be near fa	amily					
Wells	Mest Kent Strategic Housing Market Assessment Dec 2008 -Please see Sevenoaks section for details on size of home and tenure of next hor information. -In total, data suggests a combined requirement of 1,060 units for sheltered accommodation from older people currently living in Tunbridge Wells (192 households) and those who may in-migrate to be beside their family (868 households). 392 units are required in the affordable sector and 668 in the present. Tunbridge Wells Sheltered Housing Demand							
Existing In-migrating Total Households Households								
	Private Sector	99	569	668				
	Affordable Sector	93	299	392				
	Total 192 868 1,060							
	Source: Housing Need Surveys (Re-weighted in 2008) – from existing households and those likely to in-migrate to be near family							

In addition to the above local and sub-regional information, 'The Older People of Kent' publication by Kent County Council in 2008 states the following in terms of housing need:

- Demographic trends forecast an increase of 36% in the population of over 65 year olds across the whole of Kent from 2005-2020. East Kent (41%) will be more affected than west Kent (30%) by the increase in older people. The areas with the greatest increases will be Thanet, Shepway and Dover.
- There is expected to be an increase in older people living alone by 25% over the next 20 years.
- According to Census data 2001, almost half of all people of pensionable age in Kent live alone, three quarters of who are women. Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Tunbridge Wells have the highest percentage of pensioners living alone.
- There is a likely future need for more extra care accommodation for frail elderly people across the districts/boroughs where the highest proportions of older persons live.
- Also, Supporting People are currently aware of 18,000 people who suffer from dementia in Kent, with physical and mental impairment forecast to increase by 25% over the next ten years. A sharp increase in those with severe dementia is projected and increased longevity will mean that more older people are affected and the intensity of the condition will increase as people enter advanced old age (85+).



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