

PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL



2 High Street
Perth, PH1 5PH

Tel: 01738 475048
Fax: 01738 475096

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Older people's services prepare to meet future demand

Services for older people will change to meet growing future demand, if reports to the Council's Housing & Health Committee are approved on Wednesday 19th May.

The number of people aged over 65 living in Perth and Kinross is expected to increase by 74% by 2031, higher than the national figure of 61%.

Two reports set out proposals for re-shaping existing services in order to cope with this demand, and to meet national Scottish Government objectives to help people remain in their own homes as independently as possible.

Convener of the Housing and Health Committee, Councillor Peter Barrett said:

"Older people have a valuable role to play in supporting their families and their communities. It is important that we take action now to have services in place that can provide support for all older people who need it when they need it."

Reports on 'Housing with Care for Older People' and 'Reablement within Homecare' outline proposals for support services that would allow older people with poor physical or mental health to live more independently and longer in their own homes by learning the skills needed to do as much as possible themselves.

Reablement changes the culture of home care from task and time to better outcomes and it shifts from 'doing to or for' the service user to undertaking tasks with them. In turn this maximises the service user's long term independence and quality of life.

The level of care provided would be matched to each person's needs and wishes. If more people required less on-going care, spare capacity would be used to meet the demand for home care from the increasing population.

Proposals are wide-ranging from aids and adaptations in the home, to investment by the Council and its partners in developing housing with care units over the next 10-15 years.

The Scottish Government's principles for caring for older people, which all local authorities must work towards, are set out in the policy document 'The Future Care of Older People in Scotland'.

Issued by:
Jane Jarvie, Team Leader Communications
Tel: 01738 475045
Fax: 01738 475096
Email: Jane.Jarvie@pkc.gov.uk