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Our Ref: DP/SH
26 January 2024

Dear Margaret,

It was a pleasure to meet yourself and colleagues from the Lenzie Community Development Trust yesterday. You are clearly very strong advocates for your community and I enjoyed hearing from you about your vision for older people living in East Dunbartonshire.

It was good to see that you have referenced key Health and Social Care Partnership policies and documents in your proposal discussion papers about co-housing for older people in East Dunbartonshire. Your proposal resonates with the aims of the HSCP as set out in our Strategic Plan, Social Support Strategy for Older People and reflects the findings of both our Strategic Needs Assessment and more specifically our joint research into housing for older people undertaken with EDC Housing services and Arneill Johnstone back in 2019. We reflected in our discussion that the numbers of older people in East Dunbartonshire are growing faster than almost anywhere else in Scotland over the next 20 years, and that the needs of older people are changing – both in terms of becoming more complex but also with more older people aspiring to remain active and independent in their own communities for longer. We also reflected that the financial position facing public services is incredibly challenging and that we are limited as public bodies in our ability to adequately balance the need to transform the way we do things while continuing to need our finding to deliver care for those requiring it now, in current models of care. In that regard we were clear the HSCP cannot commit investment in your proposals at this time.

I am happy that we continue to have a positive dialogue with you in our shared aims of improving the lives of local people and seeking to deliver differently for the growing numbers of older people living in East Dunbartonshire whom we seek to support collaboratively. You may wish to consider joining our Public, Service User and Carers Group who seek to inform and shape HSCP policy and who are crucial partners on our delivery of care and support. If you wish more information on that please do come back to me.

I wish you well in your continued work.

Yours sincerely



Derrick Pearce
Head of Community Health and Care Services