

# RE-DESIGNATION OF 60+ BLOCKS AND REMOVAL OF THE CARECALL CHARGE POLICY

31 August 2019

Prepared by:	Eva Holt
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Policy approved by:	Si Welch
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EIA Required? NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
EIA Completed?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revision number:	4
Lead officer:	Anne-Marie Heil

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Policy provides a consistent approach in retaining age restricted accommodation for tenants aged 60+, with the Carecall service and the mandatory charge to designated 60+ accommodation.

1.2 The service assists vulnerable or older tenants to feel safe and remain living confidently and independently in their homes. The Carecall service is core to the wider offer to older people within the Borough and the income generated from this service charge forms part of that provision.

1.3 Re-designation of blocks and removal of the Carecall charge will only be considered in specific circumstances and with the agreement between the Head of Access and Support and the Head of Neighbourhoods.

## 2 STRATEGIC LINKS

2.1 The policy has links to Stockport Council's Ageing Well Strategy, the GM Age Friendly Strategy and the following Stockport Homes' strategies and policies:

- Age Friendly Strategy
- Carecall Policy
- Empty Property Management Policy
- Reducing Age Restrictions Policy
- Introducing, Amending and Removing Services Charges Policy

2.2 The policy also links to, SHG's Mission of 'One Team, Transforming Lives' as well as SHG's on-going commitment to deliver services which meet or exceed the Telecare Services Association Code of Practice.

## 3 KEY FEATURES OF THE POLICY

3.1 Stockport Homes will retain the Carecall property attribute for all 60+ accommodation.

3.2 Where there are age restricted properties with mandatory Carecall that are proving difficult to let to those aged 60 or over consideration will be given to removing the age restriction and re-designating the block.

3.3 Management of such blocks will then transfer to the Tenancy and Estate Team.

3.4 It is not expected that the charge will be removed from properties on an individual basis rather that the whole block will be assessed, and the charge will be removed as properties within the block become void.

## **4 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

4.1 An EIA screening has been carried and demonstrates that a full EIA is not required.

4.2 By removing the Carecall charge and by lowering the Age Restriction, SHG are making more properties accessible to an increased number of applicants.

## **5 OWNERSHIP, MONITORING & REVIEW**

5.1 This policy is owned by the Neighbourhoods and Support Directorate and will be monitored and reviewed through the Policy Review Group.

5.2 Any enquiries relating to this procedure should be directed to the Projects Officer on 0161 474 4151.