



South Hams
District Council



West Devon
Borough
Council

Working together

Slide 1

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ssay, 27/06/2014



Supporting Independent Living Task and Finish Group

South Hams DC
Disabled Facilities Grants

Working together



Agenda

- Introductions
- Nomination of Chair
- Background Presentation – Drew
- Options for future investigation
- Date of next meeting



Background to DFG's:

- The context within which we operate
- Our aims when delivering DFGs
- The changes that have been made recently to ensure VFM
- The demand and cost of delivery over time
- The Better Care Fund and the challenges
- Options for further consideration



The Context

- Local Authorities have a statutory duty to fund and administer Disabled Facility Grants.
- Funded through Govt grant (£280K plus top up)
- Grants are subject to a means test (other than children)
- The maximum grant is £30K
- The service is delivered in partnership with Devon County Council's Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Independent Futures (DCH until March 2015)
- The OTs assess whether someone is in need and that an adaptation is 'necessary and appropriate'
- They produce a Statement of Need (SON)



The Context

- We then assess whether it is 'reasonable and practicable' to carry out the adaptation
- Legislation/guidance helps determine all of the above
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/disabled-facilities-grant
- The grant to cover the eligible works is awarded to the applicant
- We operate fast track processes to make it easier, quicker and cheaper for work to be completed



The Council's Aims

- To support people to live independently
- To act in a timely manner to secure the adaptation in line with the risk that the applicant is exposed to
- To secure value for money both in terms of capital cost for works and revenue costs for service delivery
- To support 'local' business and employment
- The procedure and associated processes are focussed around what is best for the customer
- We're often dealing with vulnerable individuals or families in difficult circumstances



Changes in Past Few Years

- Cessation of Devon-wide Contract for Care and Repair – saved £50K revenue
- Intro of Schedule of Rates (Local) – change in process facilitated
- Stair lift contract procured – reduction in unit cost
- Devon/Cornwall Schedule of rates – 24% until saving on Level Access Showers
- Completion time reduced from av 200 days to approx 80.
- Customer satisfaction High 90's%



Volume (DFG's approved and spend in year)

Year	Danger	Deteriorati on	Difficulty	Total	Spend (1000's)
10/11	39	48	9	96	545
11/12	33	35	6	74	412
12/13	41	53	3	97	516
13/14	42	62	4	106	530
14/15 (12Jan)	29	72	5	106 (to date)	515

Factors influencing spend

- SLA negotiated and signed 2009 with Tor Homes covering first 4K for adaptations in their stock
- Invoiced Tor for £280K July 10 - Jan 12
- Tor spend approx. £250K per annum
- Agreement ceased in September 2013
- Estimated 60-70% work is now taking place on DCH property.



The Better Care Fund

- Social care and DFG funding
- Joint CCG
- Funding secured for 2015/16
- Evidence based practice
- CR Contract with DCH terminated by DCC
– ends March 31
- Devon-wide AL Council owned company



Options for further consideration

- Relationship with DCH – alignment with improvement programmes, 1K minor works etc.
- Move-on grants
- Devon Home Choice
- New build – lifetime homes



Slide 12

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DCH properties all require plan except stairlifts

dpowell, 26/06/2014