

# Minutes of Task and Finish Group Meeting – Independent Living and Disabled Facilities Grants

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Present:- Cllr Cuthbert, Cllr Pearce, Cllr Hollway, Cllr Hannaford

Cllr Simon Wright (Executive Member)

Officers:- Drew Powell (DP) (Divisional EHO), Alison Adams (AA) (Team Leader PSH), Mark Nicol (MN)(Environmental Health Technician)

1. Introductions – Members and Officers were introduced, where necessary, and Cllr Holway was elected as Chair for the group
2. DP outlined the role of the Council in delivering Disabled Facilities Grants and it was agreed that the meeting would be based around the attached presentation. The key drivers for setting up the T&F group were agreed as the increasing demand for DFG's and its impact on the Capital Programme and the introduction of the new Better Care Fund which meant that control over then Government Grant for DFG's would pass to the Joint Clinical Commissioning Groups whilst the statutory function remained with the Council.
3. The presentation covered;
  - 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
4. Members expressed their support for the work of the team and were impressed with the initiatives that had been implemented and the associated savings both in terms of revenue and capital. The increase in demand resulting from the wider, national trend towards care within your own home was highlighted as a risk factor moving forward. The marked improvement in performance in terms of delivery times and the associated very high customer satisfaction were noted although it was pointed out that the speed of delivery

of adaptations means that the budget was spent more quickly. The counter argument being that slower delivery simply stores up a backlog of work for the next financial year whilst crucially not delivering what the person needs in a timely manner.

5. A number of areas for further investigation by the group were highlighted as follows;
  1. The relationship with Devon and Cornwall Housing – as a major housing provider it was considered that there could be closer working around adaptations, planned improvement and transfers
  2. Occupational Therapist referrals – promoting consistency and ensuring expectations are managed
  3. Lifetime Homes – future proofing buildings to remove/reduce the need for adaptation
  4. Housing Options – early intervention and effective use of Devon Home Choice were possible
  
6. It was agreed that the group would look into the above and meet again in late May.