

## HOUSING SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION – 19 JANUARY 2018

### NEW FOREST DISABILITY PILOT – JUST GOT HOME

#### 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The funding to assist disabled persons has recently been significantly increased, and the Council's remit has been extended to support a more integrated approach. The total budget for Disabled Facilities Grants/Loans for 2017/18 is just under £2 million, and the Council's new policy to reflect these changes is now operational.
- 1.2 This extended remit allows the Council to work more imaginatively outside of the typical Disabled Facilities Grant framework to assist vulnerable and disabled persons in the local community. The time following hospital discharge may be especially difficult, for example some older patients due to their physical and emotional frailty. These people sometimes need extra support to adapt to living independently at home again.
- 1.3 In brief this project is designed to expedite the hospital discharge process, offering dedicated short term practical and emotional support to the client at home in the initial period following discharge (with the aim of preventing avoidable readmission and the associated costs).
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Housing Portfolio Holder to work with New Forest Disability to implement this pilot project which will be funded from the existing Better Care Funding from Hampshire County Council.

#### 2. PROJECT DETAILS

- 2.1 As part of the new Financial Assistance Policy the Council is already working with New Forest Disability under the umbrella of a joint project entitled 'Independence Matters'. This project seeks to raise the profile of these services and increase awareness of how the Council can assist disabled persons within the community (for example a series of presentations to GP Surgery staff).
- 2.2 The Better Care Funding brief encourages local authorities to work with a holistic approach for the benefit of vulnerable and disabled persons to reduce overall healthcare costs. As part of the new policy the Council now offers small grants to assist in the hospital discharge process where urgent minor adaptations are necessary to enable someone to be discharged. This can be followed up with a larger scheme of works funded by a Disabled Facilities Grant at a later stage if needed. This funding relates to the suitability of the home environment, but doesn't support the individual through the actual discharge process. The 'Just Got Home' initiative fulfils this need by supporting the client as a person to ensure they receive the appropriate assistance to make their continued independence at home sustainable.
- 2.3 This will be a pilot project for a period of 12 months working initially in the Lymington New Forest Hospital where New Forest Disability already has a significant presence and the appropriate contacts. The success of the intervention will be closely monitored and reviewed at the end of the pilot period. The outcomes will be reported back to the Housing Portfolio Holder to decide whether to extend for a

further period. Similar projects (for example the Staffordshire Housing Group scheme) have already demonstrated significant successes in reducing the number of avoidable re-admissions, and significant associated saving savings in client care costs.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The cost for funding the pilot project for 12 months is £19,625, and this can be funded from the existing Better Care Fund budget from Hampshire County Council.

### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no environmental, crime or disorder implications.

### **5. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The project supports the independence of disabled and vulnerable residents in the New Forest.

### **6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED: None**

### **7. RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 That financial support for this pilot project is agreed, subject to a progress report at the end of the pilot period to assess success, and the need to extend for a further period (subject also to funding being available).

**Portfolio Holder's endorsement:** I support this project and agree the recommendation contained in section 7.

**SIGNED:**

CLLR J L CLEARY

**Date:**

19 JANUARY 2018

**Date Notice of Decision given:**

31 JANUARY 2018

**Last Day for call-in:**

7 FEBRUARY 2018

### **For Further Information Please Contact:**

Richard Topliss  
Service Manager – Housing Property & Performance  
Tel: 023 8028 5588  
[Richard.topliss@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.topliss@nfdc.gov.uk)