

HOUSING WITH CARE MATTERS



Stephen Ladyman MP
Parliamentary Under
Secretary of State for
Community Care
(PS(C))

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MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING

At PRP's "New Designs for Older People" conference on 2 July 2003, Dr Stephen Ladyman, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, announced the availability of additional investment to expand and stimulate the development of Extra Care housing. This fund will be run in partnership by the Department of Health and the Housing Corporation, and with the support of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The aim of the fund is:

- to develop innovative housing with care options
- to simulate on-going strategic links between health, social care and housing
- to develop partnerships between the range of local agencies

In order to meet these aims, the Department of Health is making available £87million to be spent within 2004-06 in order to issue allocations and project approvals for up to 1,500 Extra Care places.

The fund will be part of the Access and Capacity Grant to social services but allocated competitively through a bidding process. Proposals will need to include:

- provision of Extra Care through new build or remodelling of residential care homes or sheltered housing
- projects that reflect a broad range of partners
- projects that include investment from private funding

Further details will be available from the Department and appear on the Housing LIN website shortly.

For further information, contact the **Housing Learning & Improvement Network** tel: 020 7820 1682;
or email housinglin@e-a-c.demon.co.uk
or write to Housing LIN c/o EAC, 3rd Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP

MAKING BETTER LINKS WITH SUPPORTING PEOPLE

FUNDING FOR PILOT PROJECTS to enhance the links between Health and Supporting People.

An exciting 2-year pilot programme has been launched by the Office of the Deputy Prime minister (ODPM) Supporting People Team to enhance the links between health and Supporting People. Funding of £700,000 has been set aside for two years to fund a handful of pilots to foster closer partnerships between health, housing and support agencies.

Supported by the Department of Health, the emphasis is on:

- developing joint working in the commissioning of services and
- improving or developing partnership working in one or more services.

The Bidding Form and Specification can be found in the Housing LIN webpages www.doh.gov.uk/changeagentteam/housing-lin.htm .

The purpose of the pilots is to demonstrate the benefits of Supporting People to the health agenda and its targets. The focus is particularly around mental health, older people, learning disability, substance misuse, HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy, as well as the general public health and social exclusion agenda.

There will be about five pilots and PCTs will be a key part to any bid.

Please note that the CLOSING DATE for submissions to the Supporting People Team is 21 July 2003.

ABOUT THE HOUSING LIN

The story so far....

Since its launch in November 2002, the Housing LIN has supported the development of some 40 local networks through an array of visits, workshops, seminars, research projects, activities and materials. This newsletter reviews the aims of the Housing LIN, its resources and its achievements, to encourage its members to make full use of the Network to share information and good practices in the field of housing-based models of care.

What is the Housing Learning and Improvement Network?

The Housing LIN brings together groups of senior staff within local authorities, Primary Care Trusts, Registered Social Landlords and the private sector interested in forging closer partnerships in delivering housing with extra care solutions for older people.

The Housing LIN was established in November 2002 under the auspices of the Health and Social Care Change Agent Team at the Department of Health. It works alongside two other Learning Improvement Networks on Hospital Discharge and Intermediate Care.



The objectives of the Housing LIN are:

- to identify and share what works;
- to facilitate development work, including the adaptation of good practice to local settings;
- to promote the development of a whole systems and joined-up approach to services for older people
- to support a local action plan, including implementation and follow up to achieve improvements.

Building local capacity

The Housing LIN works closely with selected local authorities and primary care trust (PCT) sites in England, a number of national and local housing providers (housing associations and the private sector) and a wider “virtual” network of interested parties/members.

Full membership: 40 Networks are registered with the Housing LIN representing the whole range of local and health authorities from District and Borough Councils, Town and Metropolitan Borough Councils, to County Councils. For specific events local networks are grouped into Regional Networks. Housing LIN liaises directly with the nominated Housing LIN Lead of each Local Network, who is responsible for passing on communications to its membership.

Virtual membership: Individuals not active in a local Housing LIN can join the Virtual Membership list to be e-mailed various communications on conferences and seminars, funding initiatives, projects, etc. The present virtual membership counts 200 members.

Stakeholders: The Housing LIN Stakeholders list comprises 53 individuals representing 31 bodies including government departments, housing providers, voluntary agencies and consultants.

Housing LIN Activities

The range of the Housing LIN activities include:

- workshops and seminars for Housing LIN members
- local learning sessions/Master classes with experts
- a knowledge web to access and share information
- commissioning specific research and initiatives to support innovation or improve understanding of extra care housing
- capture evidence of good practice and case studies
- dissemination of the outcome of findings, initiatives and projection
- development of a virtual network to facilitate information exchange, discussion and support
- promoting the housing with care choices for older people

WEBSITE NEWS

The website of the DoH Health and Social Change Agent Team hosts the Housing LIN web pages at www.doh.gov.uk/changeagentteam/housing-lin.htm where all information for and by the membership is directly available. It includes Housing LIN communications, events, resources, good practice examples, case studies; government publications and the Extra Care Locator.

The website will soon undergo a complete facelift to render it more flexible, and to offer a Discussion Forum where members can exchange ideas and consult a Frequently Asked Question section. A new “search” facility will enable visitors to direct their searches within and without the Housing LIN pages.

PLANNING FOR CHANGE: A PLANNING TOOLKIT

The Housing LIN is working with the Institute for Public Care to develop an Action Planning toolkit to aid the development of Extra Care housing strategies, implementation plans and making best use of resources. These will be piloted locally and thereafter link directly into the Department's Extra Care announcement of funding for 2004-06 and required bidding criteria/specifications. For further information, contact Jeremy Porteus at jeremy.porteus@doh.gsi.gov.uk.

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES AND CASE STUDIES

A series of interesting good practice templates and case studies on extra care housing can be read and downloaded from the Housing LIN website. For example:

- the capacity to support hospital discharge arrangements and links with intermediate care services in Newcastle
- the use of assistive technology in Ealing
- supporting people with dementia in Suffolk
- remodelling sheltered housing in Eastbourne
- developing assisted living schemes for sale in Bicester
- strategic planning and commissioning in North Yorkshire

The Housing LIN encourages its members to submit their own examples and case studies. Good ideas/practice examples are best presented formatted to the available Template, although, if necessary, existing material can be formatted by the Housing LIN office. This discipline does not apply to full case studies which are recorded in the Resources section of the website.

ACCESSING INFORMATION

A useful report

In conjunction with Contact Consulting, the Housing LIN have published an introductory guide on Extra Care/very sheltered housing to facilitate a better understanding of strategic commissioning arrangements across primary care, housing and social care. *Extra Care Housing for Older People: An Introduction for Commissioners* draws on the latest government policy developments such as *Supporting People*, *The National Service Framework for Older People* and *Preparing Older People's strategies*, and provides a checklist for local strategic commissioning.

Extra Care Housing Directory

This up-to-date directory is printed on request by Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC) and lists by county and districts all extra care facilities, including very sheltered housing, assisted living and close care accommodation.

County Guides to Sheltered and Retirement Housing

Another EAC directory of all housing for older people in your county, managed by the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Order your free copies

By email to HousingLin@e-a-c.demon.co.uk . Copies of these publications are also available in PDF on the Housing LIN website at www.doh.gov.uk/changeagentteam/housing-lin.htm

SUPPORTING LEARNING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In conjunction with the University of Birmingham, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS), the Housing LIN delivered in May the first of a series of commissioning 2-day learning intensive “master classes”. These are aimed at health, social services, housing and voluntary sector partnerships, to help everyone wanting to do joint commissioning and learn how to do it better.

Building on the introductory guide, the “master classes” focus on developing the skills and knowledge of partners on key issues such as housing-based models of intermediate care, step-up-step down provision, extra care, and using housing more effectively to prevent people entering long-term care and acute health care.

They also ensure that delegates have the skills to commission whole system approaches to older people’s services in their area to:

- develop a shared vision and aims
- map supply, needs, demand and resources
- help with whole system capacity planning
- support service/system redesign
- guide on commissioning models
- develop monitoring and evaluation techniques

Further details are available on the Housing LIN website and from CURS on 0121 414 4956

NEWS IN BRIEF

Local Housing LIN Events

The Housing LIN has also supported and sponsored local learning and consultation events on Extra Care housing in London Borough of Newham, Devon and Kent. In addition, the Housing LIN is working with several PCTs, LAs and other stakeholders in developing local and regional networks. For example:

- in the North East (Newcastle, Durham, Gateshead, Darlington, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland) and North Yorkshire Housing LIN
- Working with home improvement agencies in Gloucestershire
- Developing other LIN networks.

The Housing LIN has also contributed to a range of external promotional and conference events to raise awareness on the key relationship between health and housing. For example, on tackling health inequalities in poor housing, and the preventative aspect on Extra Care housing to reduce admission hospital into hospital and support the transfer of care from institutional forms of care.

Learning through Innovation

As part of the Change Agent Team Innovation Funded Programme, several excellent housing related projects. These include:

- use of assistive technology to prevent falls and enhance community alarm service in Guildford and Waverley
- joint working between Hackney Social Services and Homerton Hospital to remodel sheltered housing to support hospital discharge and developing an Intermediate Care assessment centre
- understanding the market place to support strategic decision making – housing with care choices for older people in South Gloucestershire and planning for the future in Salford – the scope for an Extra Care retirement housing village

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 11th July, Ashford International Hotel, Ashford, Kent
Housing & Support for Older People in Kent – the Future
- 29th & 30th September, York
Supporting People Advisory Network
- 16th October, Brighton, National Social Services conference.
Housing LIN Policy Session: Housing with care solutions for older people – Agents for change
- 31st October, South Yorkshire
Assistive Technology Conference

ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Working closely with the Elderly Accommodation Counsel and its database of housing and care options for older people in England, the Housing LIN has developed an on-line Extra Care property locator by local authority area. The Extra Care locator contains comprehensive and detailed information on all extra care housing in the country and on all forms of accommodation for older people, including sheltered and retirement housing and care homes. The database is updated twice a week.

In response to members' requests, the Housing LIN is producing a series of Extra Care topic/handy hint sheets and an Extra Care commissioning self-learner book and training booklet. These will be launched at the LGA/ADSS conference in October and supplement the Change Agent Team's toolkit *A Catalyst for Change... Driving change in the strategic commissioning of non-acute services for older people*.

The topic sheets will include handy hints to support:

- commissioning and partnership arrangements
- working with older people with dementia
- design and the potential for technology in Extra Care housing
- developments in rural communities
- managing care packages and contractual arrangements
- meeting diverse community needs
- understanding the capital and revenue funding streams
- quality measures e.g. the distinction between housing, care and support and registration issues

WORKING WITH EAC

Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC) is providing administrative support to the Housing Learning and Improvement Network.

EAC is a national charity founded in 1985 to provide detailed information on all forms of accommodation for older people. Its information and advice service offers guidance and advice to help enquirers choose and finance accommodation most suited to their needs, including housing with extra care.

Richard Humphries, Director of the Change Agent Team stated "EAC will be able to make use of its expertise, contacts and database in its new responsibility of assisting, servicing and helping to develop the Housing LIN. We are pleased to have them on board".

Adapted versions of EAC's databases are being incorporated into this website, enabling the Housing LIN and partners to locate and examine Extra Care housing as well as sheltered housing and care homes throughout the UK.