

2017-2018 Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy

Presentation by

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Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy

- Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)
- Chorley Adaptation Grant (CAG)
- Integrated Home Improvement Services (IHIS)
- Key Recommendations
- Next Steps

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

- Provides funds to help disabled residents to make adaptations to their home which promote independence.
- OT assesses clinical need - typical adaptations are wet room showers, stairlifts and ramps.
- Applications are subject to a financial assessment to confirm eligibility.
- Mandatory maximum per applicant is £30,000 but we are recommending in Chorley to increase this by further £10,000 subject to budget availability.

Chorley Adaptation Grant (CAG)

- Funding for adaptations in Chorley has increased from £370,000 in 2015/16 to £614,000 in 2016/17.
- We want to make best use of this budget – but are hampered by high numbers of customers failing DFG financial assessment.
- CAG would be a non-means tested adaptation (still subject to an Occupational Therapy assessment).
- It would be used when the required work is **one** of either a wet room shower, Stairlift, Through Floor Lift, Ceiling track hoist, wash-dry toilet.
- Also in exceptional circumstances could consider other adaptation items not usually available under DFG.

Integrated Home Improvement Services (IHIS)

- Two key services – **Handyperson** and **Minor Adaptations**
- **Handyperson** is free to people who meet the eligibility criteria
- Customers needing **Minor Adaptations** are assessed by an LCC Occupational Therapist. It is free. Typical Minor Adaptations are banister rails, external metal rails, adjustments to external steps.

Key Recommendations

- Flexible use of adaptations budget including introduction of Chorley Adaptation Grant (CAG) from April 2017.
- Increase DFG maximum grant from £30,000 up to £40,000 in exceptional circumstances.
- Introduce a 10% fee (to be added to applicant's grant award) for each DFG & CAG case approved from April 2017. The funds generated would be used to be either reinvested in the service or taken as a contribution to general balances.

Next Steps

- Consultation period is 1st February to 6th March.
- Customer comments to be emailed to housing.repairs@chorley.gov.uk or in writing to Home Improvement Agency (HIA) team, Civic Offices, Union street, Chorley PR7 1AL
- Full report available on request and via website: <https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s71205/Report.pdf>
- Councillors to review comments in March 2017