

Learning Disability Housing Strategy Launch Sept 14th 2009

QUESTION TIME Responses (these responses reflect the answers that were given and are not verbatim)

Similar questions were grouped together

1) Questions related to finance:

There is no extra money available, how is the council going to make better use of its resources, what will it economise on and what is the downside of having less money to work with?

How do we provide more support, financial, to people wanting to continue to live in the family home?

Although we are being told there is a lot of housing choice, what happens if the funding for care package isn't given? In the end it all depends on a panel of people and finance, does someone have to be critical/substantial?

Response from Louise Sutton

Need for services is assessed and eligibility criteria applied, it is choice -v- need and we have to have a way of allocating resources.

More is spent per head in Wigan on people with LD than any other care group.

FACs (Fair access to Care) depends on needs and statutory responsibility to meet needs in an economically viable way. Choice will depend on the money that is available.

People who do not meet FACs and therefore not critical or substantial will not receive services, we only have legal responsibility for critical and substantial needs.

2) Questions related to Direct Payments:

If you attend Day Services and no longer wish to can you spend that money for support in your new home?

Response from Sharon Eid

Someone would need to be re-assessed as critical/substantial. The cost of the day service place would not be the Direct Payment, pound for pound, new support hours would be based on the re-assessment and would only meet substantial/critical needs.

3) Questions relating to waiting for housing and prioritising

How long are people on the waiting list? How is housing prioritised?

Response from Steve Sargent

How long you wait for housing depends on what you want! We find it is usually getting support agreed that slows things down. In the case of shared ownership having a deputy to sign for the mortgage (where someone doesn't have capacity) can slow things down. At the Drop In sessions we can discuss individual circumstances.

4) What comes first house or care package?

Response from Bridget Hollingsworth

If you need support to live in your own home this needs to be secured first. Different agencies need to work together in partnership if people's dreams and aspirations are to be realised.

5) Questions relating to level of support need and choice

Are the range of housing options covered in the strategy available to individuals who have complex support needs and need assistance with personal care?

How is the right to choose where you live and who you live with, supported when people who have different support needs want to share/live together? What if two people want to share and one is critical/substantial and one isn't?

Response from Bridget Hollingsworth

Yes the range of housing options are available to people with continuing health care and complex needs.

The assessment would show what needs each person has and the support package identified based on that. Shared support can be fine as this is variable depending on individuals needs. More housing options can make it more possible for people with different levels of needs to share.

Response from Louise Sutton

Where people want to live together and one person is critical and one isn't, it is difficult. Support can be put in for someone who doesn't meet FACs like assistive technology, through the voluntary sector.

6) Can you tell me more about floating support?

Paula asked Haley Walton from the councils to answer this question

Information is available on the Wigan and Leigh Housing web site, floating support is related to Housing related matters and can be for people in WALH or private LL tenancies. It can help set up payments for bills, debts, budgeting and they will also sign post to other agencies.

7) If the person you support is critical and substantial is moving house a wish or a need?

Response from Steve Sargent

Critical/substantial relates to support not housing. If someone needs to move they can irrespective of support needs.

8) How accessible is choice based lettings for people with Learning Disabilities?

Response from Paula Daley

Valuing People did research on this and published a report about a year ago, it is on their web site. It recommended that housing agencies work harder at making choice based lettings easier for people with learning disabilities, in

Wigan the prevention team at Housing Options can help and each property shop also has Homefinder that can help people bid for property.

9) What funding is available for equipment from Assistive technology?

When a Social Worker does the core assessment they should be looking at how creative ways to meet support needs including assistive technology and this is included in the forms Social Workers do for resource panel. Assistive technology is then part of someones support package. There is an article in the latest Borough life about how Assistive Technology can help.

10) Why is there so little input about housing when people are going through transition?

Housing is now included in the Transition Pathway and therefore should be considered by children and adult/transition teams.