

## **HOUSING LIN POLICY BRIEFING**

### **DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT Department for Communities and Local Government consultation**

A new consultation paper has been produced by DCLG and views are invited by 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007. A summary of the proposals are set out below:

The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) will remain a mandatory entitlement, and be increased from a maximum £25,000 to £30,000 immediately, with further increases in the future subject to review. It is proposed that there will be a power to reclaim grant from owner occupiers above £5,000 on sale of their home; options for re-payment are set out within the consultation paper. A simplified DFG process will be developed.

Views are sought regarding whether to remove or relax the DFG funding allocation ring fence and it is proposed to test the relaxation of the ring-fence with the Individual Budget pilot authorities. It is proposed that the grant conditions could be relaxed and used more flexibly in enabling people to move home, or to fast track minor adaptations. Alternatively the ring-fence could be removed and a targeted grant be introduced instead. Further work is planned regarding possible inclusion of stair-lifts within Integrated Community Equipment Services.

It is proposed that Social Housing Grant funding currently available for adaptations in Housing Association property be allocated to authorities via disabled facilities grant funding. The new allocation will be called "Accessible Homes Grant".

Views are sought about future means testing and eligibility and how to address the discrepancies between the DFG test and social care services test. Various models are set out within the consultation paper and views are invited.

New guidance is also planned to Regional Development Agencies to promote and influence accessible housing on a regional basis.

A greater role for Home Improvement Agencies is set out in the future provision of adaptations and accident prevention.

The Housing LIN is working closely with DCLG and Department of Health colleagues on the future implications of the DFG proposals. If you have any comments on the consultation paper and/or are submitting a response, do supply us with a copy at [housinglin@cat.csip.org.uk](mailto:housinglin@cat.csip.org.uk).