Season’s Greetings!
from the Housing LIN Team

**NEWS UPDATE**

EXTRA CARE HOUSING FUND 2006 –2008

In recent months the Department of Health has been exploring how best to allocate the £20m set aside for Extra Care Housing in 2006/2007. After much deliberation the Department has decided that due to the relatively low amount available this coming year it would not be reasonable to require councils to submit bids in the usual detailed format and so there will not be a bidding round.

However, the Department is keen to build on the success of the programme to date and has agreed to allocate some capital funds to a handful of social services authorities whose scheme bids scored highly but failed to attract any resources in previous rounds. They are:

- Brighton & Hove City Council £3.244m
- Nottingham City Council £3m
- Portsmouth City Council £4.811
- Slough Borough Council £2.92
- Hartlepool Council £5.907m

The Extra Care Housing Fund finance will be released as part of the Department of Health’s Adults’ Personal Social Services (PSS): Specific Revenue And Capital Grant Allocations For 2006-07 & 2007-08. Councils have already been informed through the local authority social services letters LASSL (2005)6, which can be viewed at [http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/12/41/38/04124138.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/12/41/38/04124138.pdf) (see page 5, para 20 and page 12)

A further £0.118m is still to be allocated and announced.

Further information on the £40m Extra Care Housing fund and bidding arrangements for 2007/2008 are expected in early 2006. The intention is to provide authorities greater “lead in” time to the implementation of this programme.
**NEWS**

Consultation on a Strategy for the supporting People Programme

On Tuesday 15th November Phil Woolas, the Minister for Local Government announced the beginning of a consultation process, *Creating Sustainable Communities: Supporting Independence*, aimed at taking the Supporting People (SP) programme forward.

The Housing LIN recognises that the outcome of the Supporting People consultation process is likely to impact on the way services for older and vulnerable people are commissioned and coordinated with care services. There is also synergy with work on the forthcoming Department of Health’s White Paper. The Housing LIN and other CSIP colleagues will also be hosting a number of regional consultation events for service users and carers across the country. If you would like to attend, please register your interest at housinglin@eac.org.uk.

Copies of the Supporting People consultation document are available from ODPM Publications, PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7NB; Tel – 0870 1226 236; Email odpm@twoten.press.net or visit www.odpm.gov.uk or www.spkweb.org.uk.

If you wish to make a response, these should be sent no later than the 28th February 2006 to Henry Demaria, Supporting People Team, ODPM, 1/F5, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU or email henry.demaria@odpm.gsi.gov.uk.

Proposals for Introducing a Code for Sustainable Homes – A Consultation Paper

The Code for Sustainable Homes signals a new direction for building standards. Wherever practicable the intention is to develop and introduce a system of sustainable building standards based on voluntary compliance.

The Consultation paper on the Code for Sustainable Homes has now been published and can be found by opening the following link: [http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162094](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162094)

Correction:

In our previous e-newsletter we stated on page 5 “Implementation of Disability Discrimination Act 2005 on 05 12 2005” The Act actually comes into effect in Dec 2006.

**NEW HOUSING LIN PUBLICATIONS**

Yorkshire & the Humber Extra Care Housing Regional Assessment Study

This report commissioned by the Housing LIN identifies the supply and demand for Extra Care Housing over the next 10 years in the region. It takes into account demographic changes and market influences, and sets out a number of recommendations to support the further development of Extra Care Housing within local housing with care economies in Yorkshire and the Humber.

The main Report (115 pages) and its Executive Summary are both available on the Housing LIN website under ‘Strategies’ in the A-Z Index.

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**


“This new report explores the potential that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have to improve service delivery and quality of life for the most excluded groups, and argues that effective use of ICT is key to addressing exclusion and meeting complex needs.”

“The report is the second in a series from the Social Exclusion Unit looking at how public services can work better for disadvantaged people. It explores how ICT can be used to make mainstream public services - including education and training, health, employment and benefits and housing - more effective, efficient, and accessible for socially excluded groups, and sets out numerous examples of innovative uses of technology to address exclusion. The report also contains over 100 links to relevant projects and research within this field.”

IPPR report: A Mature Policy on Choice by Jennifer Rankin

This report from the Institute of Public Policy Research sets out a progressive agenda for the rights of older people as citizens. It describes a “revolution of longevity” and how social care, the NHS and housing must move away from its traditional view of old and older age. There is a strong emphasis on enhancing the housing with care choices of older people and, in particular, references to the further development of Extra Care Housing.

Copies are available from [www.ippr.org](http://www.ippr.org)
Other Publications (continued)

A New Guide
On 14 November 2005 Liam Byrne has launched the Service Development Guide “Everybody’s Business - integrating mental health services for older adults”. Access to the Guide is via a new website which has been created to highlight the principles in good medical and social care for older people, and to help develop co-ordinated services for older people with mental health problems. The web address is www.olderpeoplesmentalhealth.csip.org.uk.

Everybody’s Business was aims to improve health and social care practice at the front line. The message is clear. Older people’s mental health cuts across health and social care, physical and mental health and mainstream and specialist services. The new service development guide is committed to:

- improving people’s quality of life
- meeting complex needs in a co-ordinated way
- providing a person-centred approach
- promoting age equality.

New Code of Practice for Private Retirement Housing
The Association of Retirement Housing Managers (ARHM).has launched on 7 December 2005 an updated version of its code of practice for private and leasehold retirement housing.

The code applies to the management of what is sometimes called leasehold sheltered housing or leasehold schemes for the elderly, terms which the ARHM believes are out of date. The Housing Corporation recommends all housing associations follow the code for the management of leasehold schemes for the elderly.

‘The code is a really useful guide to managers but its real purpose is to offer protection to residents. The code has a status similar to the Highway Code. It is not an offence in itself to ignore the code but it can and will be used by residents in evidence at Leasehold Tribunals and when making complaints.’ (Simon Crewe, ARHM chair)

Copies of the code can be ordered price £5 plus p&p from the ARHM on 020 7463 0660 or e mail enquiries@arhm.org, or from the ARHM, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London, SE1 7SJ.

Guidelines from Wales on local Telecare strategies
Guidelines to assist Local Authorities and Health Boards to develop Local Telecare Strategies, prepared by Dr Malcom Fisk and Dr Kevin Doughty for the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales. You can download this document from our website under “Telecare” in the A-Z Index

HOUSING LIN WORKSHOPS
In partnership with ODPM, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Birmingham and the north east Centre for Excellence the LIN will be running a two day workshop by invitation on 19th and 20th January. The workshop will explore how the DH Preventative Technology Grant, Supporting People and other funding streams can be brought together to deliver a range of new services based around existing community alarm infrastructure. The LIN and CURS will be publishing briefing papers on this work early in 2006.

For more information please contact:
Moyra Riseborough – Moyra@rrca.co.uk
Denise Gillie – Dgillie@tesco.net
Or the housing LIN

INTERMEDIATE CARE UPDATE
The Road to Recovery – A feasibility Study into Homelessness and Intermediate Care
Study by Robyn Lane on behalf of the Homeless Intermediate Care Steering Group, funded by Guy’s & ST Thomas’ Charity (www.gsttcharity.org.uk).

The purpose of this feasibility study was to explore the unmet physical health needs of homeless people in Lambeth and the possible solutions to meeting some of those needs.

The study starts with a literature review on health and homelessness, focusing on physical health problems and access issues. Those issues are then looked at in a local context pulling together existing evidence on the needs in the homeless population in Lambeth. This includes new evidence on their high rate of attendance at A&E via ambulance and their high rate of hospital admission via A&E. Case studies are presented which illustrate the demographic range of homeless people suffering from multiple physical health problems, mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependencies and leaving hospital without an appropriate support package in place.

The rest of the report is the result of consultation with stakeholders, health and homelessness
providers and homeless people about possible solutions to these issues. A range of options were discussed, changes to current intermediate care to make it more accessible to homeless people, a floating intermediate care service to work with people in hostel beds and other temporary accommodation, and a unique intermediate care facility situated in a hostel, with enhanced hostel beds with nursing care, providing a temporary rehabilitative environment for homeless people.

All three options are discussed in detail in the report which makes a powerful case for the need for improved discharge from hospital for people who are homeless and facilities for them to recover in that are more suitable than hostel beds.

The Homeless Intermediate Care Steering Group will be taking the recommendations in the report forward and working on developing an intermediate care service for homeless people in Lambeth. For more information contact sarah.gorton@homelesslink.org.uk tel 0207 960 3057. This document can be found on our website under ‘Homelessness’ in the A-Z Index.

Older People’s Experiences of Intermediate Care: Building a case for continuous care – a forthcoming Help the Aged report

This report by Jill Maplethorpe for Help the Aged describes the findings of a research project on older people’s experience of intermediate care. It suggests that the forthcoming White Paper on care outside hospital will need to address how more intensive short-term support, such as that provided by intermediate care, can be cushioned by a tier of low-level continuous voluntary sector support which guarantees older people “someone to expect each day”. Copies of the report will be available from www.helptheaged.org.uk.

For information on Extra Care Housing and Intermediate Care, there is a useful Housing LIN factsheet (no.11) and case study (no.14) on our website and further materials on supporting local service redesign are available at www.changeagentteam.org.uk/housing

TELECARE UPDATE

ICES - Integrating Community Equipment Services – is part of the DH Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP). ICES’s aim is to share information and facilitate networking with the hundreds of organisations that could be involved in telecare implementation across England.

CSIP Telecare December newsletter is available on our website under “Telecare” in the A_Z Index

If you would like to know more about ICES plans please let us know by e-mailing your details to telecare@icesdoh.org. Also, if you would like to receive CSIP Telecare e-newsletter each month then it is possible to subscribe to the web site at www.icesdoh.org/register.asp.

EVENTS

Regional Housing LIN events

13/01/2006 - SW & West of England, Exmouth
19/01/2006 - West Midlands, Lichfield
23/01/2006 - Eastern & Anglia Region, St Neots
31/01/2006 - London & SE Region, London
07/03/2006 - NW Region, venue tba

CONGRATULATIONS

to Sonali Gardens Extra Care Housing scheme on winning the older people’s category at the Community care Award 2005. Sonali Gardens is the subject of Housing LIN Case Study no.7 “Supporting Diversity in Tower Hamlet”. It was also captured in our CD Rom ‘Strategic Moves - Thinking, planning and delivering differently – Strategic Commissioning of Services for Older People’. A few copies of it, of ‘That’s My Home – Housing Needs for Older People with Dementia’ and of ‘Telecare – Living with Independence’ are still available free from HousingLIN@eac.org.uk

For information on Extra Care Housing and Intermediate Care, there is a useful Housing LIN factsheet (no.11) and case study (no.14) on our website and further materials on supporting local service redesign are available at www.changeagentteam.org.uk/housing

PROMOTE YOUR WORK

If you have promotional material, articles or features you would like us to include in future editions of Housing with Care Matters, please send details to housinglin@eac.org.uk

We welcome your contributions

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

Housing LIN tel: 020 7820 1682; www.changeagentteam.org.uk/housing; email housinglin@eac.org.uk