EAC Housing for Older People Awards 2010 – Have you applied?

The Elderly Accommodation Counsel’s (EAC) Housing for Older People Awards 2010 was first developed as the Housing-with-Care Awards with seed funding from the Housing LIN. The CLG have now offered to also fund the Awards, which cover all forms of specialised housing for older people, from almshouses to retirement communities, with or without personal care services.

The overall aims of the Awards are to engage older people in the debate about choice and what works in individual schemes, using a set of playing cards specially developed by EAC to stimulate discussions and help capture satisfaction ratings on design, services and well-being. The aims are to:

- Publicly celebrate the best specialist housing for older people
- Engage thousands of residents in identifying what contributes to quality of life in traditional and emerging models of specialist housing provision
- Ensure that older people, families and carers have access to the best possible information

Application packs are now available from housingawards@eac.org.uk or go to www.housingcare.org. The deadline for submissions is 31st October 2009, with the Awards Event set for Lords Cricket Ground on 4th February 2010.
POLICY NEWS

DH Prevention package - Keeping Older People Fit and Healthy

Published in August, the package sets out how preventing health problems before they occur can help older people live better and healthier lives. It is part of the government’s ageing strategy ‘Building a Society for All Ages’.

The prevention package will:

- promote best practice around falls prevention and effective fracture management
- introduce measures to improve access to affordable footcare services
- clearly set out health ‘entitlements’ including sight tests, flu vaccination and cancer screening
- summarise existing progress on audiology and telecare services.

Additional services will be incorporated into the prevention package over time, including continence care, treatment for depression, and arthritis. Available at:


Common Assessment Framework – your chance to apply

Following the consultation on a Common Assessment Framework for Adults, the DH is launching the second phase of the Demonstrator Site Programme. Primary care trust chief executives and directors of Adult Social Services have been invited to apply to become one of a small number of additional Demonstrator Sites that will test and evaluate innovative approaches to effective information sharing between health and social services. Capital funding of £11m a year is available to support sites for two years. The deadline for applications is Monday 12 October 2009. For more information, visit:


Guidance on direct payments for community care, services for carers and children’s services

This guidance from the DH was published in September with the aim of assisting local councils in making direct payments. It also provides guidance on how local councils might manage and administer direct payments. It replaces the guidance work issued in 2003. The guidance has been updated to reflect recent legislative changes that extend direct payments to previously excluded groups. It is now available at:

http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/link.cfm?lid=1070

A guide to getting direct payments from your council: a route to independent living

This guidance published this month by DH provides information on direct payments. It offers advice to people who are thinking about or who are already getting direct payments from their local council social services department. It is available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/

Ministerial working group on sheltered housing

The CLG-led ministerial working group on sheltered housing, chaired by Ian Austin M.P, is considering a range of proposals by members of its group to address a number of key issues. These are:

Service user involvement and engagement

The Centre for Housing and Support is leading a project on user involvement and engagement in partnership with the Tenants Participation Advisory Service. As part of this work, a publication will be produced to highlight the importance of real involvement and engagement.

Good practice report on service models

The National Housing Federation is leading a project on the transformation of support services for older people which will illustrate good practice in the implementation of any changes to current services, as well as providing case studies on a variety of successful models for support services to older people whether it be flexible community-based support, a scheme manager service, innovative use of technology or a hub and spoke model.

Complaints route map

The Chartered Institute of Housing is leading a new and innovative project to develop a complaints route map for the residents of sheltered housing and their families. The route map will set out clearly who the agencies are, their role and the areas in which they can help and support residents if they are unhappy with their services once internal complaints processes have been exhausted.

Further information is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/supportandadaptations/housingolder/shelteredhousinggroup/
Total Place - CLG announcement on improving local services

An ambitious new 'health check' of public money to ensure value for money and putting customers first was announced in July by the CLG.

Thirteen pilots are getting the Total Place initiative underway, examining all the spending going into an area. The themes include housing, regeneration, tackling alcohol and drug abuse, children's health and well being, mental health services, and tackling crime. Of particular interest to the Housing LIN are the Durham pilot, which looks specifically at housing and regeneration resources; Bradford will look at supporting people back to independence including older people leaving hospital and Dorset Poole and Bournemouth will look at improving older people's services. Full details are available on the CLG website: www.localleadership.gov.uk/totalplace

SPECIALIST HOUSING DESIGN FEATURE

Homes for our Old Age: Independent Living by Design

This new report from the Commissions for Architecture and the Built Environment and the Housing LIN features 10 case studies of housing schemes for older people, each of which offers inventive design and management solutions linking home and social care.

The report will be of interest to those who commission, design and manage care in residential settings, including local authorities, registered social landlords and health trusts.

Copies can be downloaded at: www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/IndependentLivingChoices/Housing/Topics/type/resource/?cid=6202

The Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation

In recent months, the Homes and Communities Agency have set up a panel of 13 experts chaired by Lord Best to explore what makes good design for older people's housing.

The Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation (HAPPI) will identify and address a range of design and delivery issues relating to housing and neighbourhood design for older people, including homes for rent, sale, and shared equity, based on good practice from across Europe.

To read the HAPPI newsletter and view other materials, visit: http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/Housing-Ageing-Population-Panel-Innovation

Community and ageing: Maintaining quality of life in housing with care settings

Drawing on several Housing LIN case studies and making reference to the DH's Extra Care Housing grant programme, this useful book by Simon Evans at the University of the West of England successfully pulls together the emerging literature on housing with care for older people and goes on to draw out the key issues for the future.

Following the government's ageing strategy this book provides a timely portrayal of how important 'community' is to older people - and how this plays out in the now rapid expansion of retirement villages and extra-care housing. It also explores the impact of a range of factors including social networks, inclusive activities, diversity and the built environment - factors that can contribute to supporting and maintaining the independence, health and wellbeing of older people.

Available from The Policy Press: www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?K=9781847420701

EXTRA CARE HOUSING UPDATE

The Housing LIN are currently working on an online directory of all extra care schemes funded by DH. This will include scheme information, service delivery models, photographs and local contact details. We aim to launch in the New Year.

One of these is Lark Hill village in Clifton, by ExtraCare Charitable Trust (ECCT), which opened in August of this year. It was supported with a grant of £3 million as part of the 2006/07 bidding round and is ECCT's largest village yet with 327 units, including 72 bungalows.
The site is 24 acres, and includes a woodland walk, and a lake. Only 83 units are for social rent, with the remaining 244 being leasehold, some at 75% as Shared Ownership, and some at 100%.

Another DH funded scheme, Hartfields in Hartlepool managed by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, opened in July 2008. This is also a care village with 242 units, 214 apartments and 28 bungalows. 60% of the units are for rent, 28% shared ownership and the remaining 32% are for outright sale.

The total cost of the scheme was £38m of which £9.8 was from DH, £700k from the Housing Corporation and the remainder from sales and private finance. It is in an area which has seen significant new housing development in the last few years and its facilities and services, including a GP surgery, shop, restaurant, bar, spa pool and gym, make a valuable contribution to the local infrastructure.

DEMENTIA UPDATE

National Dementia Strategy Demonstrator Sites

In July, the DH announced the 40 successful demonstrator sites that will be testing out 2 new ways of working – the dementia adviser service and peer support networks.

The Department of Health received over 100 bids from local authorities, in partnership with health services and the independent sector, and followed a rigorous three-stage selection process which involved external representation, including people with dementia and carers. There are 22 dementia adviser services, and 18 peer support networks in the demonstrator site programme.

A full list of successful sites can be found at: www.dementia.dh.gov.uk

Housing and Dementia Research Consortium

Towards the end of last year, the Housing and Dementia Research Consortium (HDRC) commissioned its first piece of research with funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. This was a scoping review of literature relating to people with dementia living in Extra Care housing and the findings are now available.

The review examined 123 published and unpublished references from 1999 to March 2009 seeking evidence in relation to a number of elements including, for example:

- Suitability of Extra Care for people with dementia
- Design of the built environment
- Impact of care, services and facilities
- Home for life/length of tenancy
- Integration vs dementia-specialist models
- Prevalence and management of psycho-social and behavioural symptoms

The review identifies areas where evidence can inform practice, but also highlights the limited amount of solid evidence in relation to extra care and dementia and helps to identify key evidence gaps.

The summary and main report can be found at: www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/nl/?l=498_1_1_1

A-Z on telecare and dementia

Accompanying the Telecare LIN’s latest enews is a comprehensive list of policies, practices and products relevant for commissioners and providers of services for people with dementia. Available at: www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/telecare

New research unlocks new opportunities for people with dementia

New research by Bradford University for The Extracare Charitable Trust (ECCT) discovered that people benefitting from ECCT’s Enriched Opportunities Programme were:

- less likely to decline in terms of cognitive skills;
- less likely to have to move to more restrictive residential or nursing care; and
- less depressed and more positive about their quality of life.

Key features of the programme include a dedicated 'locksmith' member of staff, one-to-one relationship building with residents and their carers, the creation of varied and flexible activity programmes and specialist training for staff and managers.

Professor Dawn Brooker, who led the research, said "the findings are compelling, both from a quality of life perspective and from an economic one."

Copies of the report are available from: rose.downing@extracare.org.uk

NEW HOUSING LIN PUBLICATIONS

Case study: Integrating Housing and Health

This new case study for the Housing LIN features Mill Rise in Staffordshire, a new extra care housing scheme managed by Aspire Housing which has built good links with the local PCT.
Policy Briefings:
The Housing LIN has issued two useful new policy briefings. The first is on the recent Care and Support Green Paper while the second briefing is on the government’s New Horizon’s consultation. In addition, we will be issuing a further briefing on the recent Ageing Strategy. Check our website for details: www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/housing

Factsheet: Intermediate Care and ECH
Following the DH prevention package and new guidance on intermediate care, the Housing LIN has refreshed its popular factsheet on Intermediate Care which will be published later this month. Check our website for details: www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/housing

OTHER USEFUL PUBLICATIONS

The Future of Extra Care Housing and Retirement Housing
This report, published by Hanover in July 2009, explores this question and concludes:

- Extra Care housing has been highly successful and clearly meets the needs and aspirations of older people who live there.
- We may need now to consider other ways to reinvent Retirement Housing, to provide a potential alternative to Extra Care for the years ahead.

www.hanover.org.uk/

My Home, My Say
This document, published by Hanover in Spring 2009, looks at resident involvement in decision making and the various different engagement models they use.

www.hanover.org.uk/about-us/communications/insights

Individual Budgets and Extra Care Housing
While the “Putting People First” objectives of personalisation, prevention and early intervention are to be welcomed, this paper seeks to reconcile the widespread application of individual budgets with continued viability of round the clock care and support in Extra Care housing for older people. Written by Sue Garwood, the paper outlines the issues and explores the pros and cons of six possible approaches to commissioning care and support in Extra Care, based on her understanding at this stage of “Putting People First” implementation.


The Price of Old Age
This leaflet accompanies the recent BBC/Open University series, Silverville, which featured an extra care retirement village in Milton Keynes. It provides useful information for older people and those who care for them about all aspects of housing, care and support and finding out the various options available.

http://www.open2.net/silverville/priceofoldage_booklet.html

Advising older people about their housing choices in later life: New training resources
First Stop and Care & Repair have launched a self-training pack, alongside regional courses, aimed at front line staff providing general information, advice and assistance to older people. The training aims to enable advisers to develop their knowledge about the range of housing options for people as they get older and to know where to turn to for specialist advice.

Find out more and download the material at:
http://www.firststopcareadvice.org.uk/

Paying for long-term care
The Joseph Rowntree Foundation have released a report highlighting flaws in the current care funding system and suggesting four alternative methods, including equity release. Read the full report at:
http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/care-funding-options
Time to Adapt – Home adaptations for older people: The increase in need and future of state provision

This new report from Care & Repair England sets out the key policy and practice issues that are arising as a consequence of an increasing older population, rising disability levels, the growth in owner occupation (particularly amongst lower income groups) and the availability of statutory help with home adaptations. It analyses key trends and estimates possible future need for adaptations and related financial help.

www.careandrepair-england.org.uk/timetoadapt.htm

The Chartered Institute of Housing Conference 2008 report

This report is now available on the CIH web-site:

A Housing Manifesto: Messages from Older People

This new brochure summarises older people’s key messages about what is important to them about their housing in later life. Aimed at decision and policy makers, the brochure puts the case that practical housing help, a variety of housing options and homes designed for people of all ages are critical to older people being able to live independently and well in older age.


CONSULTATIONS

Fair and flexible - Draft statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England

This is a CLG consultation published in July 2009 with a closing date of 23rd October. It encourages local authorities to involve their communities in reviewing and revising their allocation policies, and to communicate effectively about how and to whom social housing is allocated. It also encourages local authorities to make full use of the available flexibilities, so that their allocations policies best meet local needs and circumstances. For details, visit:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/allocationguideconsultation

The revision of Fair Access to Care guidance

In July, the DH published a consultation on the revision of Fair Access to Care guidance to support Councils in determining eligibility for social care services. The draft revised guidance aims to reset the eligibility criteria framework within the policy context of personalisation and prevention set out in Putting People First. In light of the independent review undertaken by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) on the application of eligibility criteria, the draft revised guidance also aims to support councils to implement eligibility criteria in a way that is as fair, consistent and transparent as possible, taking into account the needs of the wider community as well as individual need for support. The closing date is 6th October. For details, visit:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/liveconsultations/DH

New Horizons: towards a shared vision for mental health

Published by DH in July, with a closing date for responses of 15th October, this document sets out ideas for achieving good mental health, targeting the causes of mental illness and support for the local development of higher quality more personalised services. It explores the prevention of mental illness and earlier intervention when things go wrong, looking at how services can become more innovative, work more effectively together, and reduce the stigma associated with poor mental health. For details, visit:


RESEARCH / CALLS FOR INFORMATION

End of life care in housing settings

Sue Garwood is writing a Good Practice Guide for the Centre for Housing and Support on 'End of Life Care and Bereavement', targeted primarily at housing and support staff rather than care providers. She would be very grateful for examples of policies, issues and cases. They may relate to:

- Talking about end-of life issues and planning ahead
- Assessment and care planning
- Co-ordination and delivery of care and support
- Management of the last days of life
- Care after death
Examples are welcome from any setting so long as they are transferrable to sheltered and ordinary housing.

Please send examples direct to Sue at sue@suegarwood.co.uk, or e-mail her with your phone number and she will be pleased to give you a ring.

Guide dogs and extra care schemes

We have recently had an enquiry seeking advice and good practice about guide dogs in extra care schemes. Please get in touch with us if you have any relevant materials at: info.housing@dh.gsi.gov.uk

REGIONAL LIN MEETINGS

West Midlands Region LIN
22nd October 2009, Telford

London & South East Region LIN
29th October 2009, London

North West Region LIN
10th November 2009, Oldham

Eastern Region LIN
10th December 2009, Luton

West Midlands Region LIN
21st January 2010, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Members of the North-East and North Yorkshire and Humberside LIN are being consulted to agree dates for working group meetings and members will be notified shortly.

To register for these events, visit our events page at www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/housing under Events.

FORTHCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS

National Housing Federation Smaller Housing Associations Conference and Exhibition
3rd November 2009, Inmarsat, London

PRP Conference
PRP Architects’ specialist housing group is hosting a design-focused conference looking at the emerging trends of Housing and Care for Older People and how recent government initiatives are likely to shape housing to meet the retirement aspirations of the Baby Boomer generation. The event will be Chaired by Jeremy Porteus from the Housing LIN.

It will feature new trend-setting projects and include presentations from Local Authorities, Public and Private Developers.

17 November 2009. CBI Conference Centre, London. £85 excl. VAT
For details, contact Lisa Todd on: lisa.todd@prparchitects.co.uk

DH CARE NETWORKS WEBSITE

Please note that from April 2009, CSIP NETWORKS no longer exists and our extensive Housing LIN webpages can now be viewed at: www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/housing

We have also revamped the web pages on Learning Disabilities, Homelessness and Mental Health and added other new features. Any further suggestions for resources that should be on these pages or links are welcome. Email: info.housing@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Jeremy Porteus – National Programme Lead, Networks, Putting People First Team, Department of Health

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 info.housing@dh.gsi.gov.uk

We welcome your contributions