
**CAPITAL GRANT FOR IMPROVING THE CARE HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR
OLDER PEOPLE 2007/08**

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite,
Adult Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet Members of the schemes proposals and request release of funding and allocation of grant as proposed in the report.

Information and Analysis

Description of Scheme

2. Local Authority Circular (LAC(2006)16)) indicated that a grant of £67.725m is being provided to enhance the physical environment in care homes registered to provide nursing or personal care, where the majority of places are for older people.
3. Following bids prepared and submitted by the Care Homes to the Department of Health, Darlington Borough Council has been allocated £210,000 from this grant to be distributed to care homes as per their submissions.
4. There are currently 23 Care Homes providing residential care to Older People and two Care Homes providing residential care for people with a Learning Disability where the majority of clients are older people.
5. Local authorities are asked within the LAC to consider the number of registered places for older people in care homes.

Other Options Considered

6. This is a Grant funded scheme, which would not proceed without the capital grant funding.

Objectives and Outcomes of the Scheme

7. The objectives of the scheme is to help older people living in care homes to do so with dignity and enable care homes to be more responsive to the needs of older residents.

8. Deployment of the grant is expected to contribute to the wider health and social care agenda, including delivering on the National Service Frameworks (NSFs) and the Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to improve patient and user experience.
9. The grant should support improvements that will make the greatest difference to the quality of life of residents, according to the following principles:
 - (a) Improvements should directly benefit residents;
 - (b) Improvements should not be of such magnitude as to prompt a demand for increased fees;
 - (c) Care home providers should be given a degree of discretion and flexibility in making the intended improvements. However, they should maintain a clear audit trail of their decision-making processes, which can be made available if requested.
10. These principles enable the grant to be used for a wide range of improvements from replacement carpets to more substantial alterations. All providers of residential care to older people were provided with details of the scheme and invited to submit their applications within the criteria in paragraph 9. Decisions to allocate the grant were made by the Department of Health.
11. The grant needs to be fully spent by 31 March 2008.

Delivery of the Project

12. Delivery of the project:

- (a) Timescale

The project will be completed by the 31 March 2008, and unspent allocations of the grant will be repaid back to the Department of Health by the 31 December 2008.

- (b) Milestones

The project will be monitored by the Contracts and Review Section of Community Services, where evidence of expenditure will be required.

- (c) Who will manage the project?

Yvonne Hall, Adult Social Services Service Manager for Business Support and Development, will manage the project.

- (d) Method of contract, will it go out to tender?

Individual agreements will be made with each of the care homes.

Future Revenue Costs

13. This is a one off capital grant allocation and will have no future revenue implications for the local authority.

Total Cost of the Scheme and how it will be funded

14. The total cost of the scheme is £210,000 and is grant funded, details of allocations are shown in the table below:

Capital Grant for Improving the Care Home Environment for Older People	
Name of Care Home	Allocation £
Ashleigh House Care Home	10,633
North Park Care Centre	8,400
Hundreds Park Care Centre	9,000
Darlington Manor Care Home	10,633
Eden Cottage	10,633
Oaklodge Care Home	7,000
Eastbourne Care Home	8,800
Elderwood Care Home	9,000
The Grange Care Home	6,000
Grosvenor Park Care Home	5,000
The Lawns Care Home	5,000
Middleton Hall Retirement Village	10,633
Moorlands Care Home	8,400
The Gardens Care Home	10,319
Riverside View Care Home	5,000
Rydal Care Home	9,400
Springfield Care Home	9,400
St Williams	10,000
Stanton Hall	7,751
Ventress Hall	6,565
Victoria House	10,633
St George's Lodge	7,500
The Avenue	8,400
Wilton House Care Home	8,400
St George's Hall	7,500
Total	£210,000

Specific Risks of this Scheme and Control Measures in Place to Reduce these Risks

15. The specific risk of the scheme is that care homes spend outside of their intended improvement plan, which have all been agreed by the Department of Health. Monitoring measures will be in place to mitigate these risks.

Outcome of Consultation

16. Consultation was undertaken in January 2007 to agree the process of allocating the grant to the individual care homes. Care homes submitted detailed plans, which have been approved by the Department of Health.

Legal Implications

17. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

18. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

19. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

20. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Key Decisions

21. This is not a key decision, as it does not involve significant expenditure having regard to the overall budget for spending.

Recommendation

22. It is recommended that the £210,000 capital grants funding from the Department of Health be released in accordance with the allocations identified in paragraph 13 of the report.

Reason

23. To enable the grant provided by the Department of Health to be spent on enhancing the physical environment in care homes registered to provide nursing or personal care where the majority of places are for older people.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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