Rapid Repairs and Adaptations

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HP Services: Why the interest?

- Enabling older people to live in own homes on policy agenda
- Prevention/ low level support/ targeted services key in range of policies
- Doing what older people want – personalisation, IB

Health Role for HP

- **Targeted services, efficiency savings**
  - *40% of NHS budget spent on those 65+*
  - *1in5 of 50+ and 2in5 of 80+ report difficulties with one or more aspects of basic self care*
- **Falls** (*NSFOP link*)– OP dies every 5 hrs, hip fracture cost: £726m
- **Long term conditions** – *15m people, account for 80% GP visits, 60% hospital bed days*

Housing and Disability

- **Unmet need** – est.1.5 million individuals with a medical condition or disability requiring specially adapted accommodation (SEH)
- **Disability, social class and inequality** – *same gap as for life expectancy* (ELSA)
- **Shortcomings of the DFG system** - need to fast track (*otherwise health/ social care impact eg. home from hospital*)

Housing Role for HP

- **Decent homes** – *slow private sector progress, introduction of HHSRS (Targets issue)*
- **Growing low income owner occupation** *(50% of poor / 1.6m Right to Buy)- maintenance issue*
- **Longevity increasing** – *30% OP HH, 90% in general housing stock, disability levels rising*
- **Joint work to improve health, reduce inequalities**– *how can these be achieved if housing poor?*

What older people want……

"…the handyperson service is not… seen as *'weakness'* or as *'the first step on the road to dependence'* but rather as a strategy to maintain independence."

Brannelly et al, 2005

What is it ?

- Handyperson services undertake:

*Small building repairs, minor adaptations, odd jobs, general home safety checks, falls/ accident prevention, security checks (*all with remedial action*) small home energy efficiency measures, fire / other general safety*

- Linked to telecare / prevention / HHSRS

More than Bricks and Mortar

What older people said about HP services

Helpful…kind…… polite.friendly….courteous…tidy… pleasant……clean ….reliable.. ……..informative. …….reassuring…

State of Play

- 2004 – (Joint survey) *119 HIAs, 84 Age Concern, 21 Help the Aged services*

- 2008 – (Foundations Survey) 131 HIAs reported operating a service. In 80 areas they also reported that other providers of related service operated in same locality (*Age Concern, British Legion, other charity, RSL, commercial*)

New National Funding

- *Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods* set two key ambitions for use of national RR&A funding:
  - **Expand coverage, build capacity**
  - **Services should become more pro-active and joined up**

National funding

- Not a long term funding system
- An opportunity to mainstream provision and work towards joint commissioning – *eg. use to embed in Local Area Agreement and to consolidate service commissioning*
- 'New localism' – *limited national control*

Expansion and Building Capacity

- Allocation to all top tier LAs
- Top slice for innovation
- Need to build evidence base: Link to research into impact

Innovation Funding

- Small number of localities
- Bidding system – *quick turnaround, rapid implementation, so will build on those already ahead of the game re: comprehensive, joined up service planning, commissioning and funding across health, social care & housing*
- Need providers of evidence re: value & outcomes

Challenges

- Keeping the ethos – *delivering what older people want in the way that they want it - issues of trust, reliability & cost*
- Value for money – *commissioning for quality as well as quantity*
- Evidence base – *cost benefit to government*

Challenges

- Targeting – *who gets, and pays, for what? (linked to wider adult social care debate)*
- Local control – *issue of extra money reaching the front line and resulting in real expansion*
- Regional agenda – *low profile of older people, adaptation, stock repair and maintenance*

Contact Details and References

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Small Things Matter report and leaflet

www.careandrepair-england.org.uk/handyperson/index.htm

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