

Item 6 (a) - Draft Housing Assistance Policy

The attached report was considered by the Cabinet and the relevant minute extract is below:

Cabinet (Minute 37, 12 October 2017)

The Housing Standards Team Leader presented the report which sought approval from Council for approval for the Housing Assistance Policy. The policy set out the way in which the funding provided by the Better Care Fund for mandatory disabled facilities grant and discretionary assistance for improved collaboration with Health and Social care services was administered; along with the Council's own discretionary assistance.

The Housing & Health Advisory Committee had considered the same report and were advised that further to writing the report it had become apparent that the repair or buying of furniture would also be useful to add to the Hospital Grant and this would include within Registered Social Landlord properties.

In response to questions he advised that the Council's maintenance team would be the ones to repair or fit new purchases. If the grant scheme was underspent in the year, the money is carried forward to the next financial year. It was anticipated that there would not be any overspend as the Housing Standards Team Leader had the ability to delay payments up to 6 months and therefore could be spent in the following financial year.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council, to approve, subject to amendments to the Hospital Discharge Grant (HDG) to include 'the repair or buying of furniture' which would include within Registered Social Landlord Properties, the proposed Housing Assistance Policy in order to ensure increased funding provided via the Better Care Fund is delivered to those who have not previously been able to obtain financial assistance; and to update the criteria for the Council's own discretionary financial assistance.