

Health Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 25 November 2014

Electoral Divisions affected: All

Report of the Disabled Facilities Grants Task Group

(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

Attached at Appendix A is the final report of the Disabled Facilities Grants Task Group. County Councillor Richard Newman-Thompson, Chair of the Task Group, will present the report to the Committee.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- i. Support the recommendations of the Task Group, as set out in the report at Appendix A;
- ii. Consider the appropriate mechanism for reviewing the responses to the Task Group's recommendations.

Background and Advice

In January, at a meeting of Chorley Borough Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the issue of Disabled Facilities Grants was discussed. Concerns that they expressed included the funding allocation process, housing conditions, deprivation levels, the prevalence of long term health conditions and other services which support people in their homes. The Committee felt it would be beneficial if the Lancashire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee was asked to undertake a review and that a task group should also include District member representation.

A request was presented to the Scrutiny Committee in March to form a task group to look at the processes involved in the distribution of Disabled Facilities Grants.

Following consideration of the request a task group was formed and it was agreed that a representative from Chorley Borough Council be included in the group.

At the outset members were aware of national and local analysis that had taken place in recent months and that a number of proposals had been developed for the future delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants across Lancashire.

Membership of the Task Group

The Task group was made up of the following members:-

- CC Richard Newman-Thompson - Chair
- CC Carl Crompton
- CC Steve Holgate
- CC Margaret Brindle
- CC Fabian Craig-Wilson
- CC Mike Otter
- Cllr Julia Berry (Chorley Borough Council)

Scope of the Scrutiny exercise

Taking the initial concerns of Chorley Borough Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee into consideration it was agreed that the original scope of the review would include:

- Funding allocation process
- Consistency of approach across the county
- Different ways of working
- Member involvement and enhancing their role

Acknowledgement was made that throughout the review the task group may identify other issues and that a mechanism to address them would be considered.

The report of the task group's investigation together with their conclusions and recommendations is attached as Appendix A.

Consultations

N/A.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper

Date

Contact/Directorate/Tel

N/A.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.