

### Option 1

#### Block Gross Contract

With this option the service would not be chargeable regardless of the service user's eligibility for housing benefit. Therefore there would be no self funders. An annual contract value would be agreed based on the average of the previous 2/3 years funding from SP (based on what should have been paid to take into account any financial reconciliation). Data Exchange Consent (DEC) forms would not need to be completed and this would mean the amount of time spent on admin would be reduced.

#### Positive

- No DEC forms would mean reduced time spent on admin tasks
- A set amount of money would be received from SP regardless of the level of voids or whether a scheme is decommissioned (where this is the case more of the scheme manager's time would be spent in the community).
- Service users would not be required to pay for support in schemes or in the community.

#### Negative

- There would be no income from self funders. A number of providers have expressed concern as this option could lead to considerable loss from self funders which could not be recouped from anywhere else

**Option 2**

**Block Gross Fixed Capacity**

With this option SP funding could only be used for those service users entitled to Housing Benefit. Service users in schemes and the community not eligible for housing benefit (council tax benefit-TBA) would need to pay for the support themselves. An annual contract value would be agreed based on the average of the previous 2/3 years funding from SP (based on what should have been paid to take into account any financial reconciliation).

Providers would not need to complete DEC forms for those eligible for SP funding but would need to retain evidence of entitlement of Housing Benefit (council tax benefit-TBA). An invoicing system would need to be set up to collect funding from self funders in the community.

It would need to be decided if there would be two levels of support 1) a basic alarm service and daily intercom call only 2) basic service plus support visits if this has been identified as needed through the individuals needs assessment.

This would mean that there could be two pricing levels for self funders in a sheltered scheme. A decision would need to be made on how much those in the community would be charged.

It would need to be decided if there could be an option for service users in sheltered schemes to be able to opt out from receiving and paying for the basic service (community alarm and daily call).

**Positive –**

- Providers would retain income from self funders
- No DEC forms would be required which would free up time normally spent on admin.
- Service users could choose what level of service they would receive and pay for
- A set amount of money would be received from SP regardless of the level of voids or whether a scheme is decommissioned (where this is the case more of the scheme manager's time would be spent in the community).

**Negative**

- Providers would need to provide evidence of eligibility for housing benefit and this would need to be audited by SP to ensure that the SP funding has only be used for those eligible
- A system would need to be set up to collect payments from self funders in the community.
- Service users in the community not receiving housing benefit (council tax benefit) would need to pay for the service, which is not consistent with floating support which is non chargeable regardless of the service users income.

### Option 3

#### **Combined Block Gross and Block Gross capacity**

One of the providers we met with has used a different option for funding in a different county which is a mixture of Block Gross and Block Gross fixed capacity.

Service users in a sheltered scheme would receive a basic level of service which is the provision of an alarm system and a daily telephone or intercom call, this element of the service would be chargeable and service users not eligible for SP would need to pay for this element of the service (block gross fixed capacity).

Support visit over and above this would not be chargeable to anyone in a scheme and in the community (block gross).

There would be no DEC forms for this option but recording the levels of service would be required.

It would need to be decided if there could be an option for service users in sheltered schemes to be able to opt out from receiving and paying for the basic service (community alarm and daily call).

#### **Positive –**

- There will still be funding from self funders for the basic level service, all service users will get a minimum service and will have a choice about a more in depth service
- No DEC forms would be required which would free up time normally spent on admin.
- A set amount of money would be received from SP regardless of the level of voids or whether a scheme is decommissioned (where this is the case more of the scheme manager's time would be spent in the community).
- Service users in the community would not need to pay for their support as this element of the service is non chargeable (N.B service users would still need to pay their community alarm provider if they have a community alarm)

#### **Negative –**

- Providers would need to provide evidence of eligibility for housing benefit for the block gross fixed capacity element of the service and this would need to be audited by SP to ensure that the SP funding has only be used for those eligible
- There would still be a loss of income from self funders as only the basic level service is chargeable for those in sheltered housing although this would not be as significant a loss as under option 1.