

TOPIC BRIEF

Topic Title:	Disability Facilities Grant
Officer Lead:	Operational Director (Adults of Working Age)
Planned start date:	April 2009
Target PPB Meeting:	March 2010

Topic Description and scope:

A review of the Disability Facilities Grant, focussing on developing an understanding of the complexities of the finances within adaptations.

Why this topic was chosen:

Over the last two years, major changes have been made internally to the structure and processes within adaptations. In April 2008 the Independent Living Team, grants team and Home Improvement Agency integrated becoming the new HHILS Team (Halton Home Improvement and Independent Living Service) based at John Briggs House.

Key outputs and outcomes sought:

- ◆ An understanding of the complexities of the financial processes/issues around adaptations;
- ◆ Consider national best practice and research in terms of self-assessment, personalisation and the use of modular buildings;
- ◆ Raise awareness generally of the service and the value of adaptations for service-users (including finance and independence);
- ◆ Examine the effectiveness of specifications/plans to ascertain if these could be simplified; and
- ◆ Consider resources available in terms of IT systems to ensure adequate monitoring of the DFG.

Which of Halton's 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve:

Improving Health:

Key Objective C: To promote a healthy living environment and lifestyles to protect the health of the public, sustain individual good health and well-being and help prevent and efficiently manage illness.

Key Objective E: To remove the barriers that disable people and contribute to

poor health through ensuring that people have ready access to a wide range of social, community and housing services, and cultural and sporting activities that enhance their quality of life.

Nature of expected/desired PPB input:

Member led scrutiny review of the Disability Facilities Grant.

Preferred mode of operation:

- Review of the Disability Facilities Grant – including assessment process, other grants, specifications and plans
- Literature review/best practice in other areas, in particular the impact of Personalisation
- Field visits including:
 - To a local authority who use Self-Assessment within DFG;
 - To a local authority who use Modular buildings;
 - Teams involved with DFG working at Halton BC; and
 - Service-users

Agreed and signed by:

PPB chair

Officer

Date

Date