

How will Disabled Facilities Grant be Included in the Right to Control?

- We recognise that including DFG in Right to Control is a challenge
- We think there are potential big gains in a more holistic, flexible and personalised approach
- We want to work with you to ensure we capture these gains
- We are also working with CLG on the 'customer journey' to ensure RtC can be delivered to DFG customers, and the changes that will be needed to regulations, and welcome your views

Unitary Authorities and Two Tier Authorities

- We expect all Unitary Authorities to include Disabled Facilities Grant funding in the Right to Control
- For two-tier authorities, we have requested that bids name District Councils delivering the Right to Control to DFG recipients
- We strongly encourage all Districts in Trailblazer areas to participate in the Right to Control. But we recognise that not all Districts may be able to achieve this, and we don't want this to prevent bids from coming forward. So we can name in our regulations the districts where the Right to Control will apply to DFG.

Accessing DFG and the Right to Control

- The Right to Control does not change eligibility requirements for a funding stream.
- DFG applicants will still need to meet current resource tests and satisfy the 'necessary and appropriate' and 'reasonable and practicable' criteria
- The Right to Control is a legal right, which would be triggered when a disabled person in a Trailblazer area is deemed eligible for DFG.
- Exercising the Right to Control would not allow a disabled person to 'jump the queue' for DFG; they would have to wait alongside others

- The grant can only be used as capital and not for services; although adjustments to housing may in practice reduce the support service an individual needs.
- The grant must be used to meet agreed outcomes, however under the Right to Control we would expect authorities to agree flexible and innovative ways of spending the funding to meet needs. For example if an individual is eligible for a lift and a walk in shower, the authority could allow the individual to put the DFG funding towards a ground floor bathroom extension.
- However the funding cannot be used for purposes outside the agreed outcomes. For example an individual could not use DFG funding to purchase personal assistant services.

Monitoring Arrangements

- For all funding streams authorities will work with the disabled person to put in place a support plan that will outline the budget available, the outcomes to be achieved, how the funding will be utilised and whether the individual will receive a Direct Payment or authority-arranged services
- Where an individual takes a Direct Payment the authority will need to make clear to the individual their financial recording/auditing requirements obligations, the risks that direct procurement involves, and sources of support.
- Where an individual requests the authority arrange the works the council will be subject to existing auditing requirements

How will the Right to Control extend to Disabled Facilities Grants for tenants?

Private Rented Sector

- The landlord's consent is necessary for a private tenant to apply for a DFG. We think the landlord would also need to provide consent for the disabled person to exercise the Right to Control

- Once consent is given, if a disabled person living in Private Rented accommodation was deemed eligible for a DFG they should be offered the Right to Control

Social Tenants

- In the case of social tenants, the best solution may be for an authority/RSL to move the tenant to more appropriate accommodation
- If a social landlord agrees to undertake an adaptation for a disabled person without applying for a DFG, the Right to Control would not apply
- The Right to Control is only available once someone has been deemed eligible for a DFG
- If an RSL tenant applied for a DFG the landlord would need to provide consent for the disabled person to apply and we propose that the landlord should also consent to the disabled person exercising their Right to Control (as for private sector tenants).

Questions for the group:

Waiting lists mean that it may be more difficult to include DFG customers in the Right to Control: assessments/support plans/reviews may be difficult to streamline if out of kilter with other funding stream; and the timescale for the Trailblazers may mean that few RtC/DFG customers can be included in the evaluation.

- What options are there for overcoming this?
- Could people already on DFG waiting lists when the Trailblazer goes live be offered the Right to Control?

We want delivery of DFG in Trailblazer areas to become more personalised, and more flexible

- What needs to be done to achieve this?
- What changes need to be made to regulations?
- What changes need to be made to procurement practices?
- What changes need to be made to the assessment process?

Right to Control offers customers the right to know what money is available 'up front' and the right to a direct payment

- How might this work for DFG?
- Is a tariff or banding system a good idea?
- What changes might we need to make and why?

Right to Control envisages a support planning process for customers, involving agreed outcomes and review.

- How might this be made to work for DFG recipients?
- What scope might there be for streamlining across other assessments eg Adult Social Care?

Are there any other DFG issues we should consider to enable the delivery of the Right to Control?