

1. September 2009 LDDF fund bid summary:

Fund a year long project worker to;

- Work to enable people with learning disabilities, who are ready or aspire to moving on from group living, to access social rented and/or private sector housing.
- Work with a steering group of people with learning disabilities and providers/stakeholders to develop, implement and model person centred move on plans.
- To develop appropriate materials to test the market and methods of raising awareness among providers, service users, carers and landlords.
- Visit and evaluate a range of accommodation in the public, private or leasehold sector.
- Evaluate the options for floating support, or provide or enable access to suitable floating support in the transitional resettlement stage of move on.
- Enable move on to more independent living for a group of clients ready to make this move.
- Provide regular update reports for service users, project sponsor/leader, LDPB and evaluations of the project against its objectives.
- To build on results from peer reviewing and service user consultation, undertaken by PeopleFirst and funded by the Supporting People (SP) programme.

2. Proposed Start/Finish dates

A 3 month recruitment lead in would mean the project could commence in January 2010 and finish in December 2010.

3. Costs - £30,000

Employment costs are suggested at DCC Grade 7/8. £20,000-£23,000

The project worker would need line management, supervision and support. 6hrs a month £25 p/h £2000

There will be a need to access resources to enable Easy Read, sign language interpretation and/or other communication techniques to support the steering group and ensure meaningful engagement. There will also be costs associated with transport, venues and incentives/training for service users. £5000.

4. Expected outcomes.

- Increased access to a range of housing options in the social and private rental sector for people with learning disabilities.
- The development of appropriate materials to test the market and methods of raising awareness among providers, service users, carers and landlords of move on opportunities for people with learning disabilities.

- Increased advocacy and leadership skills among service users who are waiting to access more independent housing.
- Raised awareness of the need to move on for this client group for housing providers and stakeholders.
- Increased throughputs from supported accommodation
- Clients supported to begin to source suitable accommodation with units within easy walking distance of each other.
- Clients supported to build a social support network involving local statutory, voluntary and community sector stakeholders with the aim of becoming self sustaining.
- The project would contribute to achieving the cross cutting objectives within the Dorset LAA and Community Strategy by increasing access to affordable housing for groups that have traditionally found the sector hard to access.

Affordable, sustainable and appropriate housing
NIS 141 – number of vulnerable people achieving independent living
NIS 145 – adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation

5. Links with VPN priorities.

- Increased access to a range of housing options in the social and private rental sector for people with learning disabilities.
- Increased employment opportunities for members of the steering group gaining skills in the areas of citizen advocacy, peer reviewing, report production, use of IT etc.
- Ensuring the personalisation agenda becomes more embedded with district housing authorities, housing and support providers as well as advice agencies and family carers.
- Raising awareness of Valuing People Now with local housing and support providers, Supporting People funded providers and providers of supported lodgings through a project where service user involvement is embedded with a service user led steering group focussing on housing and support solutions for people with learning disabilities.

6. Future funding.

The project will provide a model for move on that support providers and service users can follow independently accessing the mainstream supports currently available to vulnerable adults with housing related support needs.

Access to social rented housing and the private sector is governed by housing benefit income to which clients will be eligible.

The creation of a peer group to enable mutual support and the establishment network of social supports in the local community with links to existing statutory services and existing floating support provision supports the aim of the project creating a self sustaining group of clients living independently.

7. Bid proposed by Penny Grigg, Project Officer, Learning Disabilities Commissioning. Tel: 01305 224667, email p.grigg@dorsetcc.gov.uk
Project Leader – Paul St Quintin, LD Strategic Commissioning Manager.