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The Provision of Social Care in Extra Care Housing (ECHO)

Advisory Group Meeting, 6th September 2017

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Commissioning Arrangements for Housing with Care

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Financial & Related Pressures

- For commissioners: cost, capacity (and quality)
- For providers: costs, workforce/recruitment, NLW (April 2016), competition from other employers
- Uncertainties arising from rent/benefit changes:
 - 1% reduction in social rents from April 2016, delayed to April 2017 for supported housing sector (sheltered housing and extra care)
 - Local Housing Allowance cap on social rent, delayed for 1 year, then to 2019/20 for supported housing sector
- Planned scheme put on hold (Area 2), but not yet seen impact in Area 1 (recognised future risk)



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Contracting for Care & Support

- Area 1:
 - Combined care and support contract from April 2016
 - Variable hourly rates for social care, increased from previously negotiated rate, but removed uplift for weekends and bank holidays
 - Balance: 5–15 hours (40%); 15+ (40%); variable for unpredictable needs (20%)
- Area 2:
 - No change in arrangements between 2016 and 2017
 - Local authority contract with housing provider
 - Housing provider contract with onsite care provider (on approved list)
 - Separate contracts for care and contribution to core
 - Set hourly rate for care (increased for NMW), and higher for spot purchase (disincentive)
 - Balance: up to 7 hours (low); 7¼–14 (medium); 14¼+ (high) (Weighted to high)
 - Managing vacancies and balancing needs – changes while on waiting list
- Both: limited use of Direct Payments



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Adjusting to Changes in Care Needs

- Area 1:
 - Temporary changes: $\pm 10\%$ adjustment to commissioned service allowed in contract
 - Permanent: reassessment
 - Providers able to refer reduced needs to adult social care system, and in discussion about extending to increases
- Area 2:
 - Temporary changes: purchase weekly number of hours, so flexibility within week, more difficult from week-to-week
 - Permanent: reassessment



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Commissioning & Developing Provision

- Area 1:
 - Provision of affordable units on target, but shortfall of extra care for private sale, and members require check on estimates
 - Assessment of demand complicated because choice to move
 - Housing Department view of what is affordable housing
 - Competition for land for general needs housing etc
 - Arrangement with neighbouring authority
- Area 2:
 - Shortfall in private provision compared with strategy
 - Investor preferences for private developments in some districts
 - Need to review number expected to benefit
 - Concern that low income residents priced out of extra care, and residential care will be only option
 - Prevention emphasised by Care Act, but no funding available



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