

# Crystal ball gazing: review of demand for DFG in the North West

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Assembly



# Introduction: project aims

- gain an improved understanding of
- the disabled population in the North West
- the scale, nature and distribution of demand for eligible DFG
- to inform future funding processes
- to propose a fairer way of distributing scarce resources



# Regional context

- Successful lobbying to maintain level of Govt £ into private sector stock and regen, incl DFG, at £127.1m for 07-08
- Project will be important in assisting NWRA to continue to justify this position
- Diversity of region and local populations: difficult balancing act to reflect so every locality gets fair share of cake



# Policy context

- Report from Bristol Uni to Govt Oct 05
- Improving Life Chances report Jan 06
- CLG consultation 07
- Individual budget pilots



# Resource constraints

- Mushrooming demand in 17 years ('97 – '07 Govt incr £57m to £126m). Total exp 06/07 = £230m
- Demographic trends (incr old and very old + survival severely disabled children + life chances of young adults)
- Greater emphasis on independent living, higher building costs, rising expectations
- Ever increasing financial requirement for provision that is undeniably good value for £
- All parties involved have a stake in seeing processes & funding managed well: better info about need required



# Our approach

- Practical: recognising complexity of current £ regime & range of associated difficulties
- Takes into account recent & proposed changes in funding arrangements
- Moves away from formulaic approach towards more sensitive to LAs differences & unique characteristics
- Attempts to develop range of key indicators agreed with LAs through Working Group to indicate level of demand for DFG
- Takes whole systems view; & social model approach



# Development process

- Identify, analyse and map eligible demand for DFG
- Identify relevant population data from Census and other publicly available sources
- Carry out questionnaire surveys of LHAs, county councils, PCTs and random sample of HAs
- Input data in format agreed (compatible with GIS)
- Compare and interpret results from above sources



# Development process 2

- Identify NW examples of implementing sound practice in delivery of DFG
- Participate in DFG event
- Utilise material from workshop in final report
- Write up draft report, present, refine and agree key indicator approach
- Work with NW colleagues to dovetail project with benchmarking initiative



# Some initial findings from surveys

- PCT: just 2 cover 1 LHA area; 4 provide OT assessment service, across PCT area; other 2 contribute £
- County SS: 1 did not separate E&A; all 3 making some financial contribution
- RSLs: range from no info to good practice
- LHAs: wide range in average DFG approved; even wider for children; level access shower most common adaptation



# Some good practice examples

- Liverpool
- St Helen's
- Preston
- Chester
- Blackpool



# Some key issues



- Supply and demand
- Inadequate budgets to meet assessed need
- Too much required of LAs by GONW
- Position of HA/RSL & private tenants
- Delays; contractor availability
- Children's adaptations

