



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Integration and Better Care Fund: Disabled Facilities Grant in 2017-18

20 April 2017

For the attention of:

1. Borough Council Chief Executives
2. Unitary Authority Chief Executives
3. London Borough Chief Executives
4. District Council Chief Executives
5. Better Care Fund Managers

Dear Chief Executives,

The Chancellor announced at the 2015 Spending Round that up to £500 million of capital funding is being made available by 2019-20 for the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) as part of the Better Care Fund. As you know, the DFG is for the provision of adaptations to disabled people's homes to help them to live as independently and safely as possible. I am pleased to inform you that my Department will shortly be making payments to local authorities in England for the DFG in 2017-18 totalling £431 million. Details of each local authority's individual DFG allocation can be found in the attached grant determination letter.

As in previous years, in two-tier areas, DFG will be paid to the upper-tier authorities for 2017-18, while the statutory duty to provide adaptations to the homes of those disabled people who qualify continues to sit with local housing authorities (lower tier authorities in two-tier areas). I can confirm that, building on the approach taken in 2016-17, each area should allocate DFG funding for the provision of adaptations, and in two-tier areas upper tiers must pass the DFG funding in full to their respective

local housing authorities to enable them to continue to meet their statutory duty, as set out in the Integration and BCF Policy Framework 2017-19.

Whilst the decision to move the DFG into the Better Care Fund has been largely welcomed, we are aware that some problems occurred around the flow of the DFG funding within two-tier authorities in 2016-17. In recognition of this, the DFG Grant Determination letter now contains a condition which stipulates upper tier authorities in two-tier areas must pass the DFG funding down in full to their lower tiers no later than 30th June 2017. Please ensure you carefully read the attached Section 31 Grant Determination Letter and comply with the conditions contained therein. Details of DFG allocations for each local authority area (including a breakdown to district authority level in two-tier areas) are provided as an annex to the Grant Determination.

The Department for Communities and Local Government and Department of Health have worked with key partners, including the Local Government Association, ADASS, Local Housing Authorities, the County Councils' Network and the Districts Councils' Network, to ensure that the new BCF guidance is even clearer around Government's expectations on the use of DFG funding. I attach a link to the recently published 2017-19 Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integration-and-better-care-fund-policy-framework-2017-to-2019> for your reference. The relevant wording on the DFG is set out below.

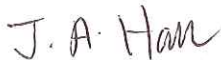
“All funding pooled through the Better Care Fund – including the DFG funding – will need to be allocated on the basis of plans that are jointly developed, with local housing authorities and other key local partners. Through this planning process, some areas may agree to invest some of the DFG funding on wider social care capital projects. This is a local decision to be considered as part of the BCF planning process. Any decision to spend a portion of the DFG on wider social care capital projects should only be made with the express agreement of the local housing authorities (district councils in two-tier areas) and should not impede the passing down of the DFG funding to the lower-tier authorities”.

Further details will be provided via the Better Care Fund Planning Requirements, which will be available shortly.

Finally, the Department of Communities and Local Government would also like to draw your attention to Foundations, who are funded by the Department. Foundations act as the national body for home improvement agencies and can offer advice and support to both local authorities and home improvement agencies on the efficient delivery of adaptations and to local authority commissioners on commissioning local home improvement services. More information can be found at: <http://www.foundations.uk.com/home/>

If you have any questions please direct them to one of my colleagues in the Housing Support Division at Disabled.Facilitiesgrants@communities.gsi.gov.uk or please contact the enquiries line on 0303 444 4400 asking for colleagues who work on the Disabled Facilities Grant.

With Kind Regards,



John Hall
Deputy Director
Housing Support Division
Department for Communities and Local Government

Integration and Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework

- Guidance on the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) will again be allocated through the BCF. As such, areas are required to involve local housing authority representatives in developing and agreeing the plan, in order to ensure a joined-up approach to improving outcomes across health, social care and housing.

In two-tier areas decisions around the use of the DFG funding will need to be made with the direct involvement of both tiers working jointly to support integration ambitions. DFG funding allocated by central government should be passed down by the county to the districts (in full, unless jointly agreed to do otherwise) to enable them to continue to meet their statutory duty to provide adaptations and in line with these plans. During these discussions, it will be important to continue to meet local needs for aids and adaptations, whilst also considering how adaptation delivery systems can help meet wider objectives around integration.

For both single tier and two tier authorities, areas are required to set out in their plans how the DFG funding will be used over the two years.

(2017-19 Integration and Better Care Fund, p 28)