Minimising the impacts of changes to supporting people services

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National context - finance

CSR and 2 budgets

- Reduction of capital for investment in new social housing
- Relative protection for SP – centrally, £6.5bn over 4 years
- LA settlement – reduced by 26% over 4 years
- An extra £2bn for care from govt and health

'local authorities will not need to reduce social care services'

National context - policy

- Public service reform – across all public sector
- Social housing reform – tenancies and affordable rents
- Welfare reform
- Localism – community involvement in planning and services

Affordable rent programme

Affordable rent for HAs

- for developing associations
- HB allowed
- Up to 80% market rate – specialist?
- Fixed term 2yr min – not obligatory
- Purpose – deliver 150,000 more homes by 2015
- Challenge for care leavers – availability of specialised supported housing

Social housing reform

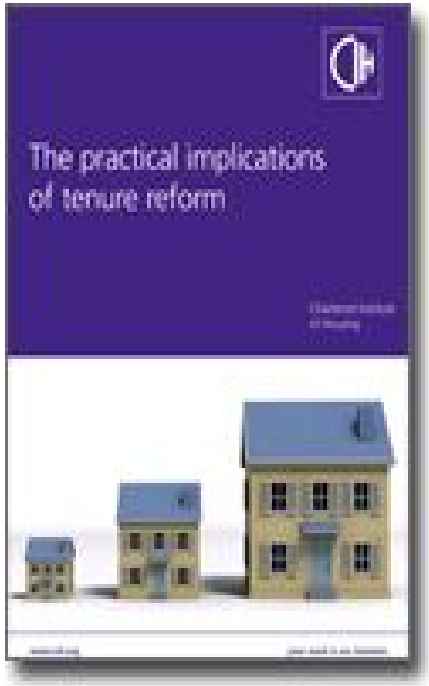
Different tenancies available

•Local authorities – flexible/ fixed term tenancies – usually 5 years, minimum 2 years – tenancy strategy required end 2012

•Housing associations –several options, disconnect between rent and tenancy – tenancy policies by April 2012

•Information and advice to navigate offers

•Localism Bill – discharge homeless duty into Private Rented Sector



Welfare reform

- Housing benefits changes to shape forthcoming Universal credit (2013)
- Working age private rented sector tenants most affected
- Local housing allowance to lowest 30% of local market
- Single room rent extended to people 35 and under (from 25)
- Reductions for under-occupation

Localism - challenges

- Balance local priorities – universal: specialised services
- Balance local investment - preventative: acute
- SP – unringfenced and in formula settlement – CIH/LGID report
- Cuts – recent Circle/ LGiU report
- Impacts for other services

Risks

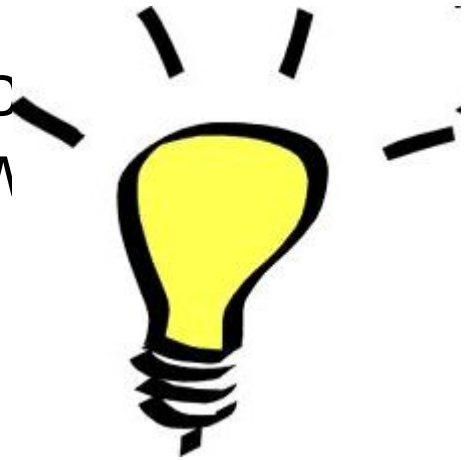
- Availability of supported housing
- What about floating support?
- Housing in the private rented sector – availability, standards
- Tenancy sustainment, risk of homelessness
- Use of unsuitable accommodation – B&B?
- Loss – increased costs for other services
- Risks for young people – settled accommodation, access to education/ employment

How is the housing sector responding?

- Reconfiguring services
- Targeting higher needs/ shorter interventions
- Changes to staffing/ support assistants
- Use of IT – focused on older people – more to explore?
- Connecting with voluntary sector
- Peer mentoring?
- Funding from other sources

Questions

- Less public subsidy and getting more fro less – how do w stretch public investment?



- Where should we put our focus – supported housing/ housing related support?

- How can we access new funding streams (other areas of public investment)?

- How can we shift resources from acute to prevention?

What can you do to help?

- Help to connect partners across public services, particularly in 2 tier areas
- Health and wellbeing boards – housing key for health, education and employment
- Encourage a strategic and planned approach (JSNAs, housing needs, local strategies)
- Champion the approach – outcomes focused, service user centred
- Influence local councillors and commissioners
- Ensure support packages in place – reassurance for landlords

Thank you
comments/ questions?

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