

Dorset County Council



Mr M Prosser
Chief Executive
North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth
Councils

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Date: 20 June 2016
Your ref:
My ref: RK/AH/JES

Dear Mr Prosser

Enhanced Dorset Accessible Homes Service: A partnership approach to delivering better services to disabled people and children in Dorset

You will be aware that the government recently made significant changes to the way that Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) are funded in England and Wales. Funding is now distributed locally through the Department of Health's "Better Care Fund" which is overseen by the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board. In addition to this the amount of adaptations funding provided to Dorset has significantly increased from £1.963M in 2015/16 to £3.339M in 2016/17, with a further predicted rise to £4.9M in 2019/20.

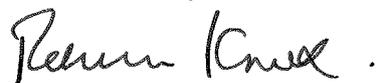
Sally Randall, Director of Housing Standards and Support at DCLG recently wrote to all Council's setting out that with this opportunity the government wishes to encourage Councils to work together to provide local, integrated solutions to improve the outcomes for disabled people. I am aware that your Council is already working with other Councils and partners across Dorset to achieve this by jointly commissioning the Dorset Accessible Homes Service which provides DFG adaptations, handyvan services and assistive technologies. The increased funding offer to Dorset now provides the opportunity to further develop this key preventative service, to achieve even better health, housing and social care outcomes for disabled people across Dorset, providing greater independence and supporting carers and communities.

At its recent meeting in June the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board considered and fully supported a proposal put forward by the commissioning councils to use this improved funding offer to enhance the Dorset Accessible Homes Service. In order to deliver this enhanced service I understand that your Council will now also be considering the details of this proposal at your respective decision making committees.



I look forward to a positive outcome to this process and wish to encourage you to consider this county-wide proposal which will have a significant positive impact on the health and wellbeing of many people in Dorset.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Knox' with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Knox

Chair of the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board

Copy to: Cllr Gill Taylor, Portfolio Holder
Cllr Timothy Yarker, Portfolio Holder
Cllr Graham Carr-Jones, Portfolio Holder