

# **DERBYSHIRE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP**

## **Eligibility Criteria for Supporting People Services in Derbyshire Revised August 2006**

### **Housing Related Support**

Housing related support entails enabling, reminding or assisting e.g. helping with an activity, as part of a planned programme with the aim of achieving greater independence. Support is intended to mean assisting someone so that they can work through an activity or process and gain the skills to achieve this independently at some point in the future. It also means assisting someone to maintain independence as far as is possible.

The issue of whether particular tasks can be considered as eligible for Supporting People funding must be considered within the framework of the broader principles and aims of the Supporting People programme. It is important to avoid a purely “checklist” approach. This means that the Derbyshire Supporting People Team will look at the wider context of a service’s activities when they are considering whether particular tasks are eligible.

Supporting People should fund low level housing related support services for people who are vulnerable on account of disability, life experience or illness and who could be considered as being at risk of losing their home due to an inability to cope with the responsibilities of maintaining the tenure.

In order to be able to maintain independence they need to be able to:

- Pay for their accommodation
- Know how to ensure that they get all necessary services into their accommodation (utilities etc)
- Know how and be able to deal with repairs and/or improvements to the property
- Be able to keep their accommodation warm, clean, safe and comfortable
- To look after themselves with the addition of appropriate care or support services when necessary
- Get on with their neighbours
- Access community services when needed
- Not feel trapped or isolated in the accommodation, where they no longer wish to live there.

## **SUPPORT AS PART OF A PACKAGE**

The support offered to Service Users has to be a part of a package of support agreed with the Service User. This must result in some form of written plan, which both parties agree, containing a statement of the objectives that the support service will assist the Service User in achieving. It is anticipated that this will be delivered over a finite period rather than on a one-off basis and that reviews of this plan with the Service User are built in to the process.

This requirement distinguishes SP-funded services from advice services, help-line services, and drop-in services, where relevant support may be provided but where there is no ongoing agreement to work to a particular set of support plan objectives with that Service User.

## **LENGTH OF SERVICE PROVISION**

“**Short-term**” SP-funded services are aimed at enabling people to acquire the opportunity and ability to live independently (either while living in less-independent residential settings or while living in independent accommodation). Support may be more intensive than in long-term support as it is over a shorter period of time and largely provided to people who are relatively independent compared to users of long term services.

“**Long-term**” SP-funded services are designed to help Service Users move towards independence, without any necessary expectation that they will ever be able to achieve it fully, or to minimise the reduction in independence due to increasing age or infirmity.

## **THE PROVISION OF OCCASIONAL WELFARE SERVICES**

SP can be used to fund other welfare services (i.e. those that fall outside of the definition of housing-related support) if they are **occasional** and if they are **ancillary** to housing-related support services. These services have to be **ad-hoc** in their nature and integral to the delivery of the housing-related support.

Such assistance is therefore eligible if the predominant amount of assistance provided is legitimately housing-related support, **and** if it is not regular and consistently provided as a matter of course for all Service Users. Ancillary assistance should under normal circumstances constitute no more than around 5% of the total costs of the support service provided.

This provision could include the following types of assistance – to be evidenced and reasoning provided:

- Active assistance with shopping and cooking
- Transport of Service User or accompanying them to activities in the community
- Advice to Service Users on substance misuse problems
- Direct engagement with employers on behalf of Service User
- Assistance to Service Users to take advantage of educational opportunities
- Family mediation
- Advice and assistance in relation to maintaining relationships

### **Eligible Tasks**

Evidence and reasoning will be required for each of these eligible tasks.

- Dealing with finances – only if client meaningfully involved
- Security of dwelling – enable client to prevent inappropriate access
- Managing Health and Safety – enable client to ensure environment is safe
- Sleep-in – Limited eligibility have to identify the principal focus of provision
- Assistance at appointments – limited
- Occasional Welfare Services/Life Skills – limited, ad hoc provision
- Neighbour disputes – limited
- Support plans and regular assessments

### **Ineligible Tasks**

- Gardening schemes
- Crèche facilities
- Life skills - where there is ongoing input at the same level
- Personal care
- Counselling
- Housing management
- Meal preparation
- Domestic chores (ironing, cleaning, washing up)
- Social chatting
- Social outings
- Administering medication
- Supporting long term access to education, leisure and employment
- Shopping
- Accompanying people on holiday
- Accompanying people on social activities
- Supervision of people

## Eligible versus ineligible

Supporting someone to undertake their own shopping (as part of a support plan with the clear goal that they will be able to shop independently at some point in the future) is an eligible task, whereas shopping **for** them is not. Supporting someone to learn the skills to cook a meal is an eligible task, however cooking **for** them is not. Accompanying someone to the GP surgery (as part of a support plan with the aim of them eventually being able to go unaccompanied) is an eligible task. Accompanying them because they are not safe or will not realistically be able to learn the skills needed to go on their own would be viewed as a social care task and therefore not eligible.