

Lincolnshire Housing Project – proposed approach

This document outlines a proposed approach for a project between the Centre for Ageing Better and our rural strategic locality partner, Lincolnshire, to deliver on our joint ambition to support more people to live independently in their existing homes for as long as possible, where appropriate to do so. This project will build on work already undertaken locally to improve Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and Occupational Therapy (OT) services but will specifically explore opportunities for re-thinking approaches to encouraging people approaching later life to plan ahead, and re-designing and integrating relevant support services. This seeks to deliver separate services (e.g. DFG, OT, equipment, digital technologies) within a wider, more integrated approach to improving the system of support around housing adaptations, repairs, heating and insulation improvements and equipment.

Partners across Lincolnshire have indicated their political commitment, readiness and interest in developing a new and innovative model that can act as a regional and national exemplar. The project will report to the Housing, Health & Care Delivery Group, and be overseen by the Lincolnshire Rural Strategic Partnership Steering Group.

We are proposing to take an approach that we have applied successfully with our other strategic locality partners. We have used this approach to support Leeds City Council to access over £1m of funding to develop and deliver a new approach to community transport and in Greater Manchester we have used this approach on several projects, including a large transformation project on employment support for over 50s.

Outline approach

The approach has four key stages which will take us from understanding the problem through to disseminating and sharing learning and best practice:

1) Understanding the problem

This stage involves turning our joint vision into a series of clearly defined problems that we are trying to address. We will prioritise the problem/s we want to address and will conduct some work to better understand the context and drivers behind the problem/s.

This stage will typically involve:

- Problem-mapping workshops with key stakeholders across the county e.g. councillor and officer leads for housing, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, health and care providers, OTs, housing associations and others.
- Problem-mapping workshops with people with lived experience of the issues
- Mapping of the local systems and services surrounding the identified problem areas

We will have to think creatively about how to deliver these workshops and gain the necessary insights remotely given the current context with COVID-19.

The Centre for Ageing Better will lead this in conjunction with a shared DFG officer and may commission external experts to assist and / or advise on elements of this process. This may also involve engagement with Care and Repair England who Ageing Better has a partnership with, and Foundations. The County and District Councils will help broker relationships and support access to relevant stakeholders and people with lived experience, as well as providing capacity.

2) Developing the solution

Once we have clearly articulated the problems the partners would like to focus on resolving, we will undertake a process to develop potential solutions to addressing the problem/s. This

process will build upon local knowledge and assets and will involve a wide range of stakeholders to develop practical, feasible and scalable solution/s.

This stage will typically involve:

- Developing, utilising or re-focussing the appropriate partnerships and forming a steering group to steer the co-design process
- Co-design workshops with key stakeholders and people with lived experience to explore and develop potential solutions and approaches
- Developing service model blueprints, feasibility assessments and business case/s where investment is required

The Centre for Ageing Better will lead this with significant input from the County and District Councils to drive forward this work. We will likely commission an external expert to manage this overarching process. This process will be informed by the previous work between the Centre for Ageing Better and Care and Repair England in [‘Adapting for Ageing’](#) which identified the elements of high quality and innovative practice in the provision of home adaptations, using practical examples of local areas that are organising and delivering adaptations effectively.

3) Testing and developing

This stage involves delivering the proposed approaches. There will likely be a process of iteration and continued development and refinement of the model being implemented. Throughout this process, the model will be continually evaluated to improve its impact and efficacy.

This stage will typically involve:

- The identification of funding / resources and partners to deliver the model
- Evaluation of how the model is being delivered and identification of lessons that will help improve and inform service delivery
- Evaluation of the impact of the pilot

The County and District Councils will utilise current funding / resources and source additional funds as appropriate to pilot the delivery models. The Centre for Ageing Better will fund and manage the evaluation.

4) Learning and dissemination

Throughout the journey, learning and insights will be captured and where appropriate will be shared across Lincolnshire and with other stakeholders nationally. We will capture the final outcomes of this work and will produce reports, deliver events etc., as necessary to share the lessons from this project both within Lincolnshire and nationally e.g. through our Age-Friendly Communities networks and strategic partnerships.

Ageing Better would also look to identify the lessons learnt and to highlight the challenges and opportunities available to create good quality outcomes for people in later life for other local councils both in single tier and two-tier authorities. We are also keen to develop a better understanding of how to align these priorities with others at a local level to have impact – including decarbonisation of existing housing stock.

The outcomes of this project will play a key role in informing Ageing Better’s priorities for influencing local and national government within its wider programme of tackling poor housing.

This stage will typically involve:

- Report production summarising the findings of the evaluation
- Local workshops to disseminate the findings with the local districts
- Webinars and workshops with national audiences to share findings and lessons learnt

The Centre for Ageing Better will work collaboratively with Lincolnshire's partners to share learning locally, regionally and nationally.

Summary of roles

Stage	Ageing Better	Lincolnshire Councils (District and County)
Understanding the problem	Lead and fund	Provide steer, provide access to information, participate in workshops, broker local relationships.
Developing the solution	Lead and fund	Provide steer, provide access to information participate in workshops, broker local relationships
Testing and developing	Manage and fund evaluation	Fund and deliver service
Learning and dissemination	Lead and fund dissemination activities	Co-design and take part in dissemination activities locally, regionally and nationally

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