

### Disabled Facilities Grants - update

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#### **Summary**

Residents of the borough whether owner occupiers, tenants of a Registered Provider or private landlord can apply for a DFG. The resident is assessed by an Occupational Therapist and if adaptations are required they are referred to the Council for a grant.

An application is then made and a means test carried out to see if the applicant qualifies, if the applicant is a child under 19 years there is no means test.

This brief update has been written to keep members informed of the number of referrals from occupational therapists to the team for disabled adaptations.

There has been a slight increase in the number of referrals compared to the same period last year, 111 referrals between April and December 2013 compared to 106 April to December this year. There has however been a bigger increase in the amount of funding committed to 1 December 2013 £284,644.96 had been committed, to 1 December this year £454,579.12 has been committed an increase of 59%.

The capital programme is monitored very closely and reconciled every month, members of the strategic housing panel will be kept informed of capital spend and commitment.

Customer satisfaction surveys are sent to all customers once the adaptations to their home have been completed. Forty seven have been returned so far this year all happy with the service they have received. Comments left have included;

“thanks to the team I received good advice and now have a wet room”

“I think the adaptation has improved my health and well-being, thank you”

We are currently working with the six local authorities in Cumbria and Adult Social Care to develop a consistent approach to service provision throughout the County; further reports will be brought to the strategic housing panel for discussion.