

Adaptations – Governance, Strategic Priorities, Positioning and Planning

**Kenny Simpson and Tony Donohoe
Housing Consultants**

Governance and Management of Adaptations

We need Effective management and governance of adaptations so that HSCPs do not fall short of their aim of people being able to live safely and comfortably at home.

How much consideration is currently being given to governance and management of adaptation services and highlight issues that require to be addressed.

Questions for IJBs to Consider

- What governance and reporting arrangements have been put in place to ensure effective monitoring of the delivery of adaptations?
- Are the current governance arrangements for adaptations fit for purpose in terms of identifying, responding to, and addressing wider health, social care and housing strategic objectives?
- What improvements would strengthen governance for the provision of adaptations and other housing based solutions within the integrated arrangements and how do you plan to address these?

Additional Points to Consider

- The legal framework
- Why do these services matter
- The local government committee and IJBs
- Key messages from previous studies

Checklist for Good Governance and Management of Adaptations

- Are we meeting our legal obligations?
- Do we articulate clearly our responsibilities, objectives and targets in providing specialist adaptations
- Is our approach underpinned by a clear understanding of the funding framework for major adaptations?
- Are our priorities derived from a comprehensive analysis of need?
- Do we clearly set out the criteria which demonstrate a service user's eligibility for assistance?
- Do we have a system in place for the development, implementation and monitoring of adaptation services?

Checklist continued...

- Do we have a named officer with overall strategic accountability and responsibility for adaptation services?
- Which managers have operational responsibility and do these managers meet frequently to discuss things like the development of protocols, review of adaptation services, training and delivery issues etc?

Findings from Discussions with Partnerships

- A number of partnerships are currently reviewing policy and procedures for Adaptations.
- Some have set up an 'Adaptations Governance Group' to oversee amendments to the adaptations process.
- Most Partnerships seem to be at an early stage when it comes to gathering the necessary performance data and assessment of performance indicators.
- A common response from Partnerships is that "Governance is likely to be considered by a review group but we have not reached that stage yet".
- Many Partnerships are clear about their direction of travel. One large city authority describes the objective of 'developing a coordinated person centred approach to the provision of equipment and adaptations across all tenures'.
- Some are focussed on the Scottish Governments ['Adapting for Change' report](#) recommended approach which includes streamlines local partnership working and governance and a tenure neutral strategy for adaptations within a single funding pot.

Conclusion

- Many partnerships are committed to further change and improvement
- However it does seem that more attention and focus could be given to governance and management of adaptations
- Recommended that IJBs consider the questions posed here and the checklist for good governance
- Partnerships must ask themselves whether or not the current governance arrangements are fit for purpose under the new integration framework.