



Foundations

Autumn Statement 2016

A Foundations briefing

24 November 2016

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About Foundations

Our Mission

To share the magic about what makes good home improvement and adaptation services

Our Vision

A thriving range of home improvement agencies – supporting people to live safe, independent and happy lives in the home of their choice

Our Objectives



Identify and meet the training needs of the sector



Engage with stakeholders, providers and commissioners and facilitate networking opportunities



Represent and promote the sector



Develop tools and resources for providers and commissioners



Monitor activity, quality and performance and find out what good looks like



Develop and promote quality assurance systems



Provide an information management and workflow system

For more information visit: www-foundations-uk-com

Our Values

Our shared values guide our actions and describe how we behave:

Leadership:	The courage to shape a better future
Collaboration:	Leverage collective genius
Integrity:	Be real
Accountability:	If it is to be, it's up to me
Passion:	Committed in heart and mind
Scalable:	National solutions for a local scale
Quality:	What we do, we do well

About Home Improvement Agencies

Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs), sometimes known as Care & Repair or Staying Put schemes, help vulnerable people maintain independence in their own homes. Their services include:

- visiting clients at home or providing detailed telephone advice;
- setting out housing options to help clients decide what type of housing is best suited to their changing needs;
- checking entitlement to any financial help, including grants and charitable funding;
- project management, drawing up plans, getting estimates and liaising with others involved in any building work/adaptations needed, such as council grants officers and occupational therapists;
- provision of handyman services, to carry out small jobs around the home, help with gardening, or coming home from hospital; and
- helping to make homes more energy-efficient.

A searchable directory of accredited HIAs and handyman services is available at:

www.findmyhia.org.uk

About FILT

Foundations Independent Living Trust (FILT) is the charitable arm of Foundations.

FILT helps older and vulnerable people live with dignity in their own homes this by operating funds which enable local HIAs to provide a range of support including repairs and improvements to people's homes.

FILT distributes Corporate Social Responsibility and charity funds through the network of HIAs. These then deliver a fast and effective service by assessing the customers' needs and carrying out the necessary work quickly and cost-effectively.

Foundations manages the delivery of these programmes, reporting to an independent board of trustees.





Autumn statement briefing

Philip Hammond delivered his first and, if we take his word for it, last [Autumn Statement](#) yesterday. Insofar as what affects us all affects the sector, the abandonment of the fiscal rules around government borrowing to meet the impact of the Brexit vote is likely to be the biggest legacy of this statement. The government and Office for budget responsibility do now not expect to eliminate the budget deficit until the middle of the next Parliament. This alone will continue to limit the ability of governments to increase overall spending for the coming 5 years.

On the other hand, the chancellor confirmed that the government is committed to the overall spending plans set out in the Spending Review 2015 and the budget this spring. Indeed there is a hint that as departmental spending is set to grow with inflation through to 2022, the gains made for owner occupiers needing aids and adaptations by means of the DFG will be sustained until then.

However, the statement is largely silent on Social Care funding.

Foundations' reaction:

Honouring current spending commitments means that there will be a role for HIAs, Local Housing Authorities and Foundations to help ease the pressure on health and care services by using rising DFG resources innovatively and effectively. There will be a real demand for services that can bolster people's personal resilience in their own homes by making timely changes to those homes.

Although the autumn statement contains few announcements that fundamentally change the outlook for HIA services or local housing authorities, the headlines affecting housing as a whole do provide significant opportunities and challenges.

- I. £2.3 billion fund to help provide an additional 100,000 homes in the private sector.
- II. £1.4 billion funding for Housing Associations to deliver 40,000 extra affordable homes. The grant restrictions on development funds for Housing Associations will be relaxed to allow providers to deliver a mix of homes for affordable rent as well as low cost ownership. Significantly, the statement makes specific reference to "the housing needs of people in different circumstances and at different stages of their lives".
- III. Accelerated construction on Public Sector land

Despite these opportunities, providers of social housing also face real challenges with the Right to Buy pilot for tenants of Housing Associations hoping to cover some 3,000 homes and the Local Housing Allowance affecting Housing Association supported housing tenants, while delayed for a year, to come into force in April 2019. The future of supported housing will be delegated to Local Authorities by means of transitional grant funding from 2019.

Foundations' reaction:

There's real commitment by government to ensure that the targets it has set for house building are actually met. By incentivising Housing Associations to bid to create mixed housing developments for people with different needs and of different age, it creates a climate where a wider range of housing options for older and disabled people may actually become a more mainstream reality. As Registered Providers have a good record of getting developments on public land 'shovel-ready', this may actually happen quite quickly. This would mean that move-on services and housing options for older people support would have real alternatives to sheltered or residential care.

On the other hand, the ramping up of the regional Right to Buy pilot and the use of the local housing allowance in the determination of housing benefit for Social Housing tenants will create some uncertainty in the housing with support sector.

On welfare spending, the Chancellor announced no additional cuts beyond those already announced and he took the opportunity to increase his own room for manoeuvre by easing the welfare cap. For a second budget or statement in a row the government did not make specific mentions of pensioners. Instead, the spending announcements to ease hardship of people returning to work or HMRC enforcement of the National Minimum and Living wages centred on people of working age.

The only other detail which may affect the way HIA services are able to support their customers is the additional £102m made available from banking fines for Armed Forces and Emergency services charities and associated good causes. Although some of that has already been earmarked for specific projects, there may be an opportunity to access some of it for specific individuals.

It was always to be expected that the new Chancellor's first statement and reaction to it would concentrate on the implications of the Brexit vote on the country's finances. As such the implications for the sector of this statement are as important for the things he did not say and left untouched as the things he did.



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