



Foundations

Spring budget 2017 A Foundations briefing

9 March 2017

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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.





Spring budget briefing

In what is billed as the last ever [Spring Budget](#), Philip Hammond's gaze did not stray very far from focussing on the issues of austerity, education and social care. Surprisingly, although the Office of Budget Responsibility has adjusted its short and medium term growth and revenue forecasts in the light of the BREXIT decision, the chancellor did not use the word nor adjusted his overall economic and fiscal expectations for the position of the UK in 2020. In the short term, government has benefited from higher than expected revenues and stronger growth. In the medium and longer term, Philip Hammond chose to largely bank these rather than spend them.

Given there will be another 'first' Autumn Budget statement in November, when the likely impact of the UK's new relationship with Europe will be better understood, this was always likely to be a 'quiet budget'. It provides the Chancellor the opportunity to build resilience in the economy and government for the negotiations ahead. In the meantime, there is no change to the tight public spending constraints committed to last autumn.

Social Care

However, there were some issues that the government could not ignore. Chief amongst those are the pressures overtaking the health and care system. Building on the approach taken through the Better Care Fund and the precept for social care announced last year, this budget makes available an additional £2bn for social care over 3 years. The detail of the budget set out the £1.2bn available for the current year (2017-18), £800m for the year 2018-19 and £400m in 2020.

The budget is explicit in its expectation that councils will work together with the NHS locally in ensuring the best use of the extra resource locally, and that best practice evident elsewhere is adopted consistently. Furthermore, the additional funding will be 'supplemented with targeted measures to help ensure that those areas facing the greatest challenges make rapid improvement'.

Foundations' reaction:

Given the enormous pressures experienced by people reliant on, or delivering health and care services, this announcement can only be welcomed. Furthermore, while the budget lacks detail on the precise process for allocating the additional resource, the suggestion that this would be through local Better Care Plan structures is an enormous opportunity for local HIA providers and housing authorities to ensure housing is part of the decisions that will need to be taken on best use and adopting best practices. The additional resource will also ease the pressure from welfare authorities on the DFG within the Better Care Fund.

Equally significant is the announcement in the budget of a Green Paper considering the options for ensuring the long term sustainability of social care later this year.

Foundations' reaction:

Any proposals that promise to clarify the long term fairness and sustainability of social care and other services committed to ensuring older people are able to enjoy their home in dignity and comfort, and with greater independence than available in acute care settings must be welcome. Foundations alone and as part of the national MOU on Joint Action for Improving Health through the Home will make the sure that people who understand the links between health, care and housing are heard in the consultation that will follow the green paper.

The budget also announced £120m for embedding primary care (GP) triage into Accident and Emergency departments and provides £325m for speeding up the rollout of some of the sub-regional sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) which underpin the implementation of the NHS's 5 Year Forward View.

Housing

The government remains committed to investment of £3.7bn to accelerate new housing supply as part of its National Productivity Infrastructure Fund.

Pensions

The government is committed to a statutory review of the state pension age. In recent years this review has led to a rising of the state retirement age to 67. The latest review will be published on the 7th May of this year and will include the report of the Independent Pensions Reviewer John Cridland CBE.

This budget lacks the usual array of relatively small spending commitments for local, charitable and campaigning issues. Foundations would usually expect to find one or two of these relevant to local HIA service providers. However, this is likely to be of a piece with the Chancellor's unstated intention to keep his powder dry until the autumn.

Furthermore, as these briefings only set out the issues with implications for HIA services and some wider housing support provision, they lack the detail on significant announcements in the budget on transitional rate relief, NICS and education.



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