

THE SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE

*COULD I STAY OR
SHOULD I GO?*

Background

- The Scheme of Assistance (SoA) began 1 April 2009.
- Local authorities have until 31 March 2010 to develop and introduce their own SoA strategy.
- Local authorities to release their own statement of criteria of the Scheme of Assistance based on s(72) Housing (Scotland) Act 2006
- More than ever before the local authorities have the power to tailor their own strategy to meet their own needs.

Housing (Scotland) Act 2006

Assistance must be given where:

73(2)a The house lacks one or more of the **standard amenities** and, in the opinion of the local authority, the amenity or amenities to be provided will **meet the needs of a disabled person**

(b) The house already has the standard amenity in question but, in the opinion of the local authority, **the amenity to be provided is essential to meet the needs of a disabled person.**

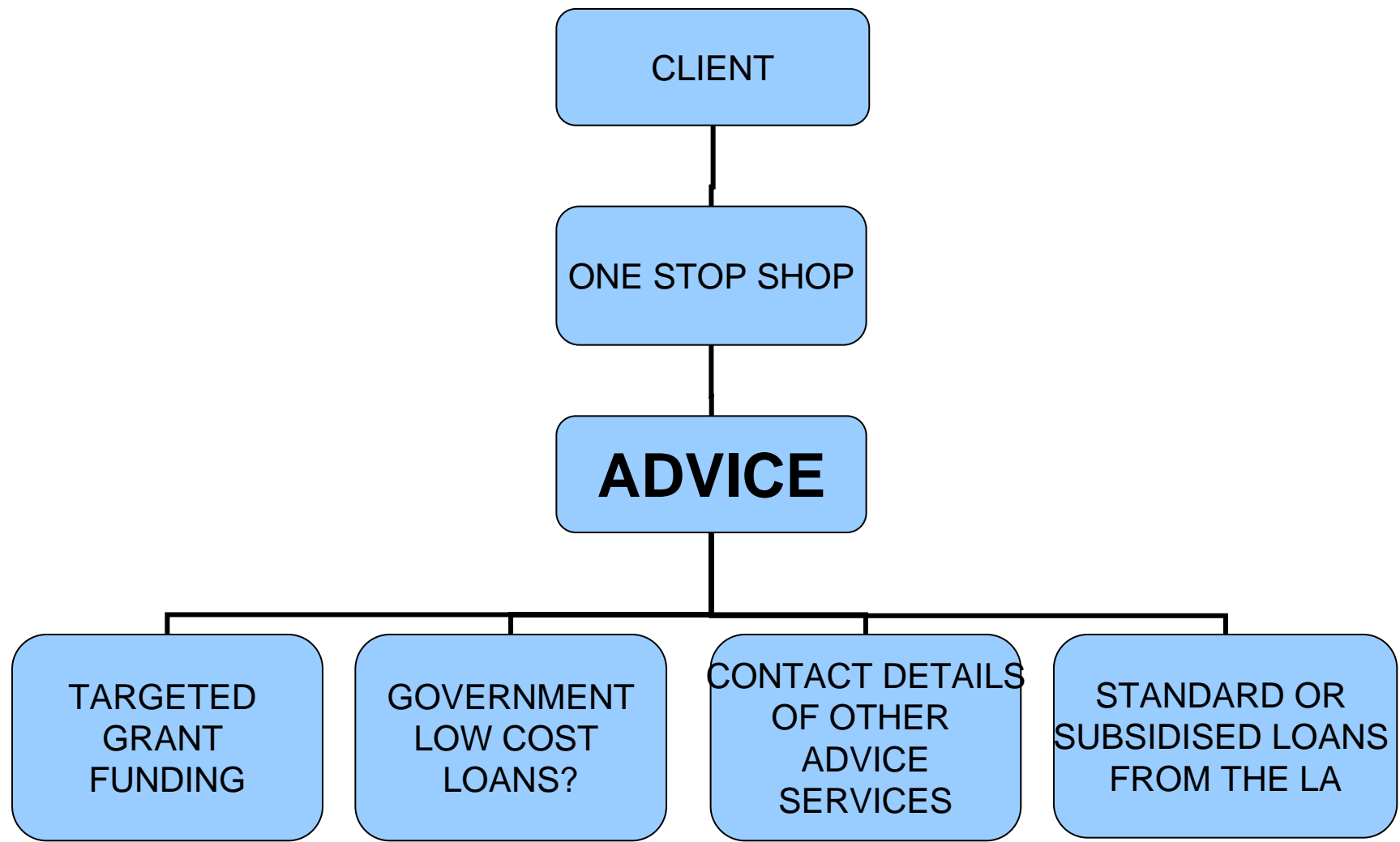
Scheme of Assistance – What's Different?

- Widening of the scope of the scheme of assistance to include essential structural adaptations.
- Adaptation work to extend property to provide additional living accommodation is excluded from mandatory grant (Local authorities can use their discretion).
- Provision of proper advice for work that is not eligible for mandatory grant funding.

Scheme of Assistance – What's Different?

- Removal of £20,000 expense limit – grants now calculated against total cost of adaptation
- Minimum percentage grant increased to 80% cost of the amenities and adaptations
- 100% grant to be awarded for applicants in receipt of Income Support, Income based Job Seekers Allowance, Pension Credit or Income Related Employment Support Allowance.
- Increased co-operation between Housing and Social Work colleagues

The One Stop Shop



A Corporate Approach to Wider Care Needs

- Working with the Social Work department to do a Single Shared Community Care assessment
- Assessment of the individual's need and eligibility for assistance
- A corporate approach needs to be in place to determine ***priorities*** and ***eligibility*** for assistance in line with local ***community care priorities***

A Corporate Approach to Wider Care Needs

- Decisions on financial assistance must act in accordance with other legislation as well as SoA, e.g. Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
- Increased use of person centred planning
- No 'waiting list'

INVENTIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

***ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF
USING THE MONEY***

Case Study X

- Case coordinated by Ownership Options 1998-2000.
- Mrs X had a 13 year old daughter with cerebral palsy.
- The daughter was supported by the mother and as required by health and social care professionals.
- The mother and occupational therapist confirmed that with appropriate housing, the daughter would develop skills and acquire more independence.
- They needed a single story property comprising a lounge, kitchen, utility area, dining room, 3 bedrooms, shower, bathroom, garage.
- Local authority identified it was in their best interest to offer a deal on council owned land.

Case Study X

Costs	£
Land Value	36,000
Building Costs	67,000
<u>Design and Admin fees</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>108,000</u>

Sources of funding

Council discount on land value	18,000
Scottish Homes Grant	21,000
<u>Mrs X (Mortgage & Equity)</u>	<u>69,000</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>108,000</u>

Case Study Y

- Mr Y's son had cerebral palsy, developmental delay, spastic quadriplegia and was registered blind.
- They lived in a 3 bedroom house but all of them were on the upper floor
- The house was unsuitable and could not be extended
- Ground floor accessible property found which was still close to the family's friends and school.
- Local authority support as well as SNCG, family mortgage and equity from previous home.

Case Study Y

	£
Total Project Cost	202,690

Breakdown

Mortgage	145,000
Owner's Capital	14,330
<i>Local Authority Contribution</i>	<i>18,360</i>
SNCG	45,000

How You Can Implement This

- Can help to move house – and the costs involved
- Small sums of money can make a HUGE difference
- Use other agencies – Ownership Options
- The idea of best value – all clubbing together to save money in the long term

Conclusions

- Need to be pro-active in approach – early action can save in the long term.
- Need for a corporate approach between housing and social work departments
- No longer piecemeal adaptation – recognise the need for the long term.
- Opportunity to think creatively out of the box making the right scheme for your area!

Discussion

- Following on from the presentations today, what would you like to see being implemented in your local authorities statement on the Scheme of Assistance?

Points to consider:

- Existing good practice
- Areas that you feel need to be reformed
- Innovative approaches currently in operation