

## Supporting People Grant (*ref 36*)

- 1.** Supporting People Grant (SPG) is a fixed grant administered by Local Authorities that can only be spent on housing-related support services.
- 2.** Housing support includes help to make the home safe and secure, support with life skills, liaison with professionals and relatives, social support and general 'good neighbour' tasks, occasional help with cleaning and shopping and on-call support. It does not pay for any personal care, social services which are not housing-related support, therapies, counselling, provision of equipment, general housing management services etc.
- 3.** SPG is paid to organisations which have contracts with the 'Supporting People' Commissioning Body managed via the local Administering Authority. These contracts will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that organisations providing support give value for money and keep to agreed standards of service and are strategically relevant as defined by the Commissioning Body. From 2009 the local SP Strategy will reflect any Local Area Agreement priorities that Supporting People Grant would be appropriate to fund.
- 4.** Support paid for by SPG can be provided to someone wherever they live. Some support arrangements are linked to the provision of accommodation; some support is on a 'floating' basis and can be provided wherever the recipient lives.
- 5.** It is not necessary to have a Social Worker, or a *Community Care Assessment*, or even be known to Social Services, to receive this type of support. However, you do have to be 'vulnerable' and be able to benefit from the support service. You must agree to a support plan that identifies how your service will be provided. Your support provider must be able to demonstrate outcomes against this plan to the SP commissioning Body as part of their contract.
- 6.** Whether you have to pay for this type of support service depends on the circumstances. If you receive any Housing Benefit towards your rent, you will not have to pay for a 'Supporting People' service. If you do not get Housing Benefit, your local authority will assess your ability to pay towards your support costs in line with locally agreed criteria. They are not obliged to charge, but if they do, there are government guidelines about how much income you should be left with after your contribution. If you are being assessed in this way, your earnings are ignored, and any living costs related to your disability may be taken into account.  
Want to know more about Charges? Go to [Quick Brief Non Rental Charges to Tenants \(ref 20\)](#).
- 7.** If you live in a scheme which only helps people for less than 2 years (e.g. refuges, hostels), then you would not have to pay towards your costs in any circumstances.
- 8.** Any payment from SPG towards your support costs does not affect you if you get money from the Independent Living Fund (ILF). The ILF ignores SPG funding when they assess your needs and the payment they make you.  
Want to know more about ILF? Go to [Quick Brief Independent Living Funds \(ref 10\)](#).
- 9.** At present, there are no direct payments of SPG being made to supported individuals. This is because different rules apply compared to payments for care costs (which can be made as direct payments) and also because the grant is tied up in contracts between the AA and the service providers. There have been some pilot projects to see if this could change. The results will be published later on in 2008.

**10.** You can find out who your local Supporting People team contacts are and what plans there are in your area by logging on to the Supporting People website. This is at [www.spkweb.org.uk](http://www.spkweb.org.uk) where you can follow the local area links. Other good sources of information are SITRA (website: [www.sitra.org.uk](http://www.sitra.org.uk)), and the National Housing Federation (website: [www.housing.org.uk](http://www.housing.org.uk)).

If you require further information or have other queries contact Housing Options.

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