

Re 'Care in the Community'/Joint Finance



Martin and Roy met prior to this meeting to agree upon the points best amplifying how monies from these sources is likely to be available.

Care in the Community - it was acknowledged that this is not ongoing finance but rather 'pump priming' money with which to begin projects, thus providing an initial period during which the service provided should establish itself. As may be witnessed in those projects begun, the focus so far has been around ideas and services for a group, or groups, of people, not services catering for more individually centred living situations. Since this has been groups already within larger collections of institutionally-based people, this would not appear an approach suitable for all disabled people's housing and care requirements. The overall benefit of Care-in-the-Community is likely to be the impetus given to already present ideas of community services but which have hitherto not received sufficient translation into practice.

Joint Finance - as denoted by the term 'joint' these funds are for subsequent benefit to health authority and local authority services. (Eg funding for a care-support scheme could release previously-used district nurses for other health-service duties). Joint finance may already be used to cover the cost of care-support, and financial assistance can now be given towards housing costs- ie all or part of the total capital costs, and/or alterations expenses. What may be a viable approach to this use of joint-finance monies, is for local authority officers to campaign to set specific allocations aside - eg to cover the costs of some care-support or building programme. This would establish the principle of such use within that locality, and its detailed use determined in due course, hopefully in the light of what other un-used funds ('slippage') may remain. Any joint-finance funding is for a limited period and still requires a firm understanding by the authorities over who is to accept final responsibility for the long-term situation. It may be argued, however, that the timespan involved can still allow services to commence while discussion continues on future funding responsibilities.

Re: Direct Funding Arrangements

Roy wished to emphasize the role of a middle-agency in being able and available to carry out the administrative tasks relating to financial matters. Any individual feeling weighed down by, or uneasy about carrying out these tasks would thereby be able to delegate the agency to deal with salaries, tax etc. What is most important is that such an agency is appropriately distinct from the statutory authorities - not only may vested interests be present, but the evident bureaucratic inertia of the statutory sector may easily prove too inflexible to individuals' positions.