

Foundations

**Foundations Presentation for
the Select Committee – Disabled
Facilities Grant 08/07/2024**

About Foundations

National Body for Disabled Facilities Grants and Home Improvement Agencies in England

As contracted by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

- Team of Regional Advisors supporting local authorities and Home Improvement Agencies across England
- Provide advice to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities



What I have considered for this presentation

- Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Delivery: Guidance for Local Authorities in England (2022)
- Discussion and correspondence with Sam Dixon
- Analysis of the Delta Data from Stockton
- Insights from the work we do

DFG Guidance: Published in 2022

Builds on the existing legislation and regulation that shape the delivery of the DFG

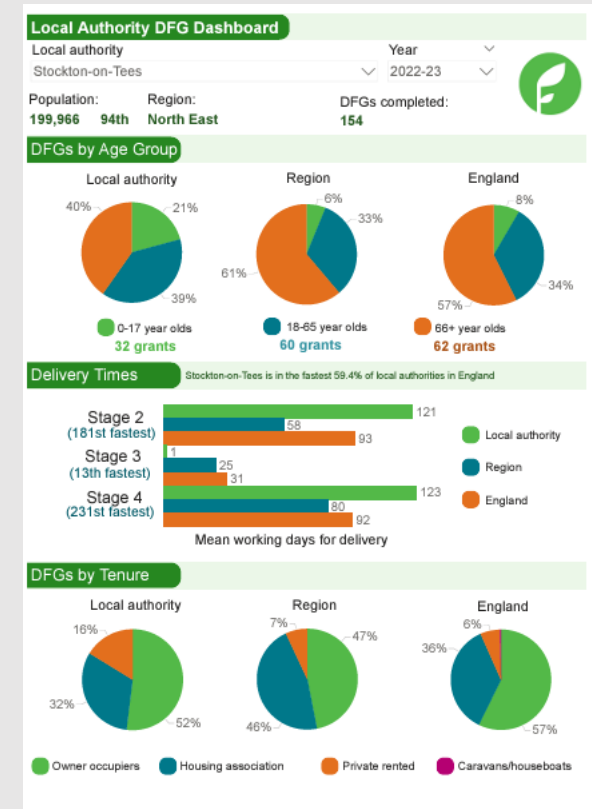
Incorporates a number of the recommendations made from the 2018 Government-commissioned review of the DFG

- Sets out best practice for the delivery of DFG
- Promotes strategic and operational collaboration
- Promotes person-centred approach
- Promotes timely delivery



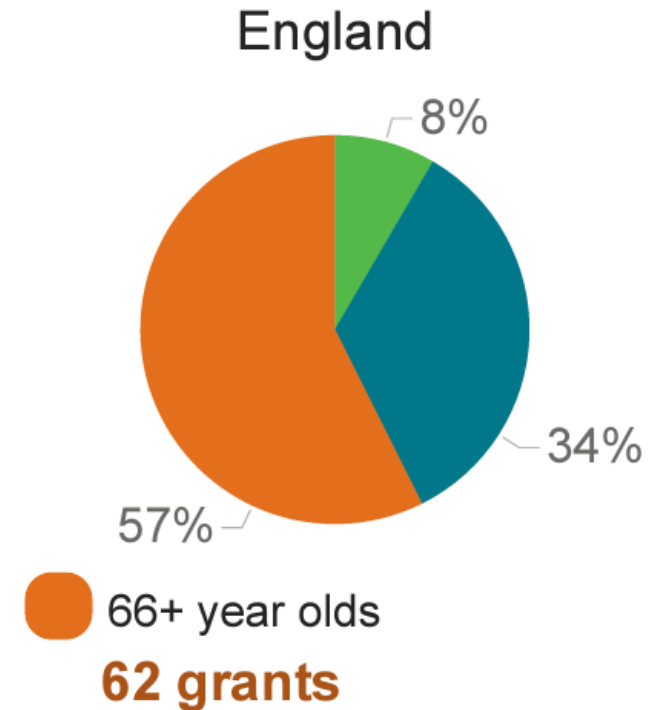
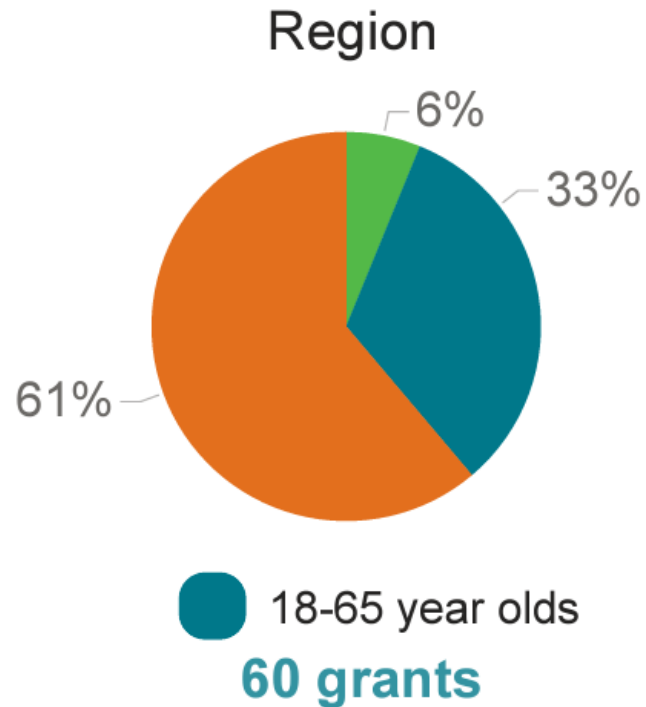
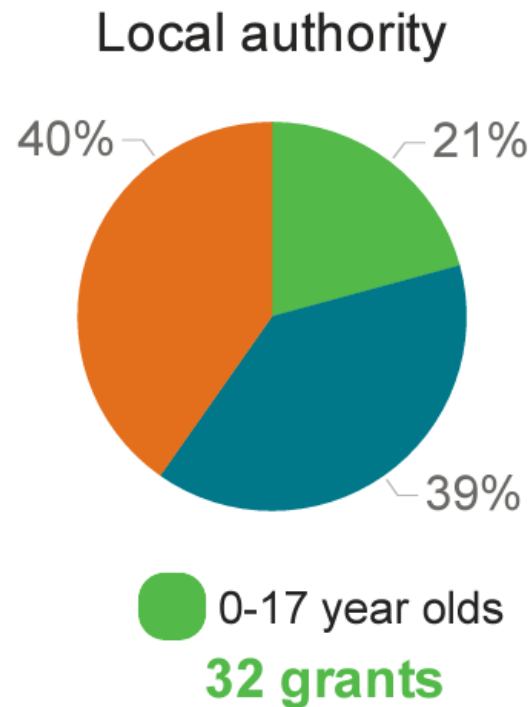
Delta Data – indication of performance

- Delta Data – completed by LAs every year.
- Data 2009 – 2023 is available from <https://wwwFOUNDATIONS.uk.com/library/dfg-performance/>
- The survey is self-reported by local authorities and is not audited – **caution when comparing regions and nationally**



What the Delta Data Indicates –Age Groups

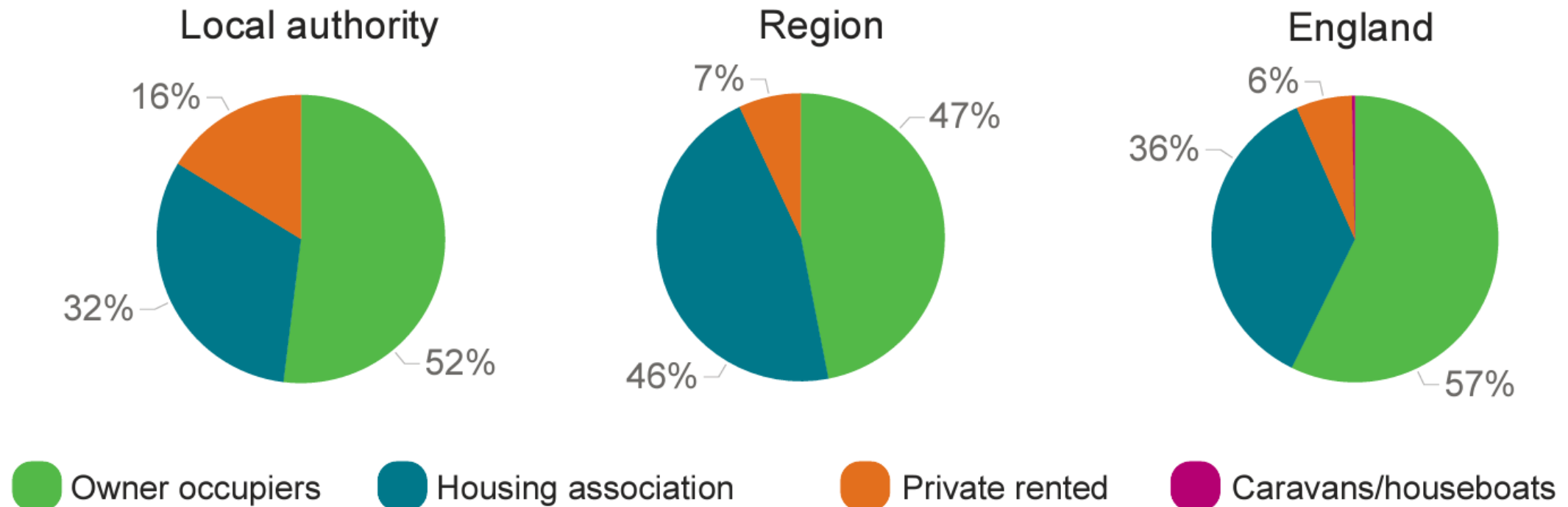
DFGs by Age Group



The survey is self-reported by the local authority and is not audited – there needs to be caution when comparing regional and national data

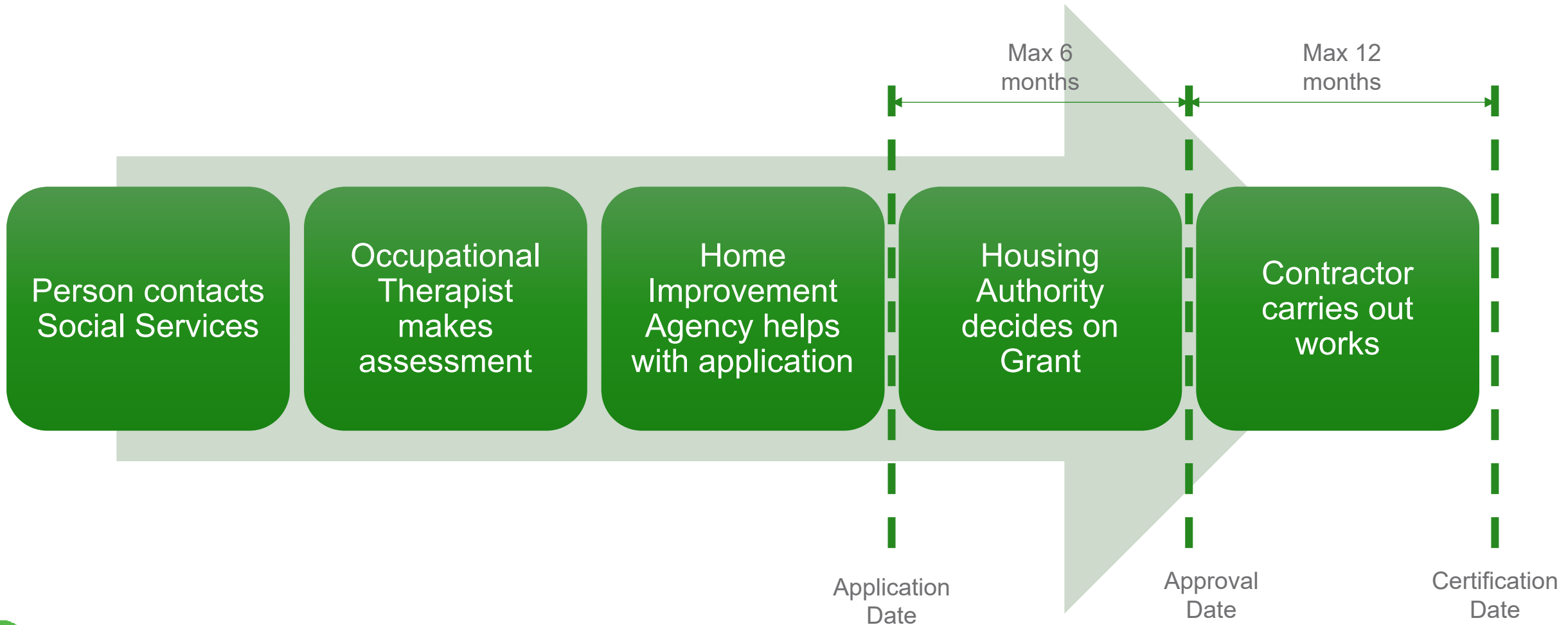
What the Delta Data indicates - Tenure

DFGs by Tenure



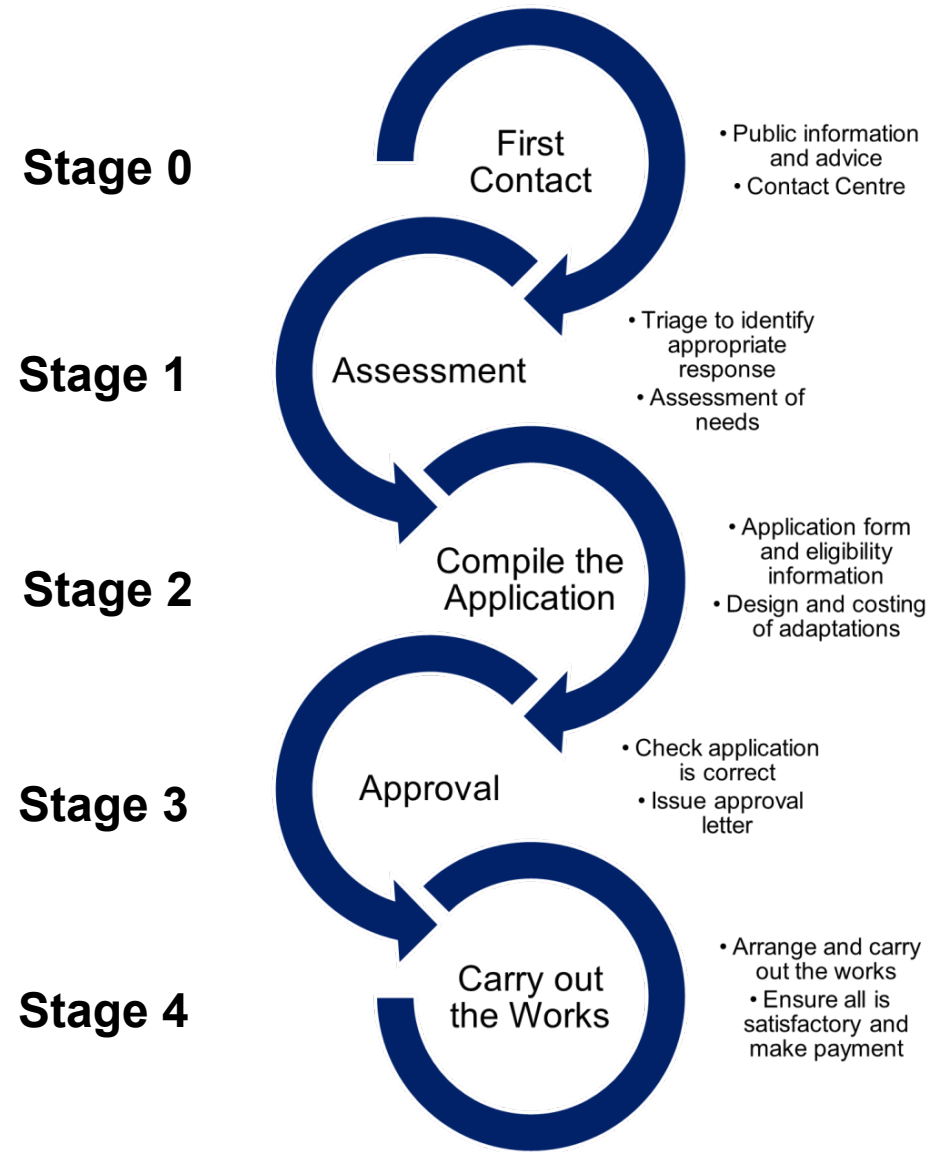
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Timescales in the Legislation



The 5 Stages of DFG – From the guidance

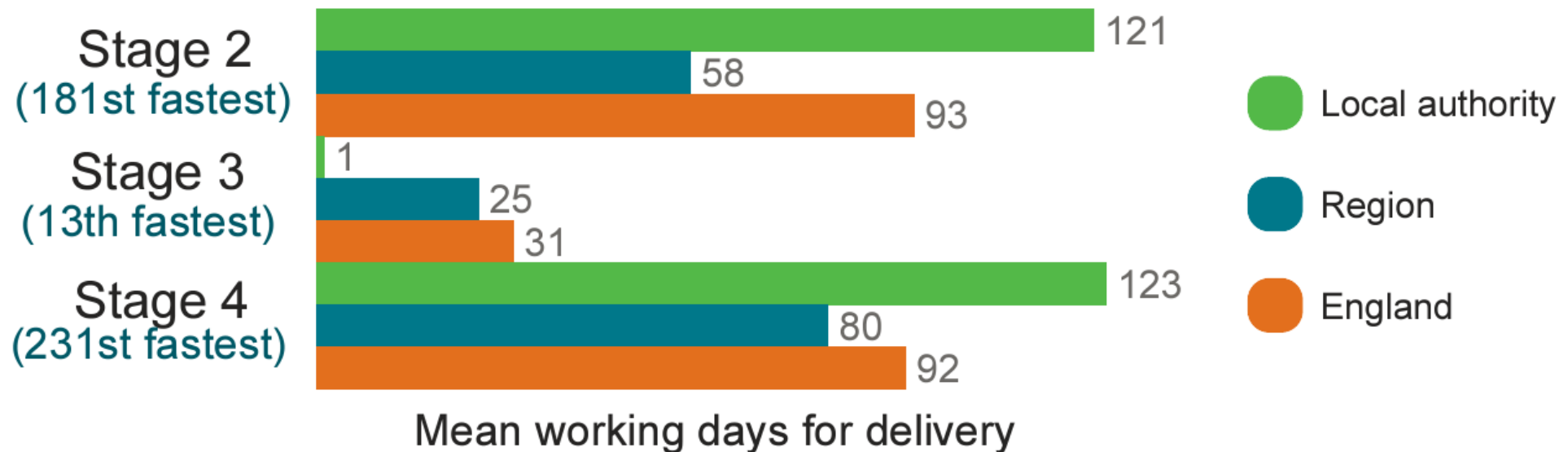
Type	Target timescales (working days)				
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Total
Urgent & Simple	5	25	5	20	55
Non-urgent & Simple	20	50	20	40	130
Urgent & Complex	20	45	5	60	130
Non-urgent & Complex	35	55	20	80	180



What the Delta Data Indicates – Delivery Times

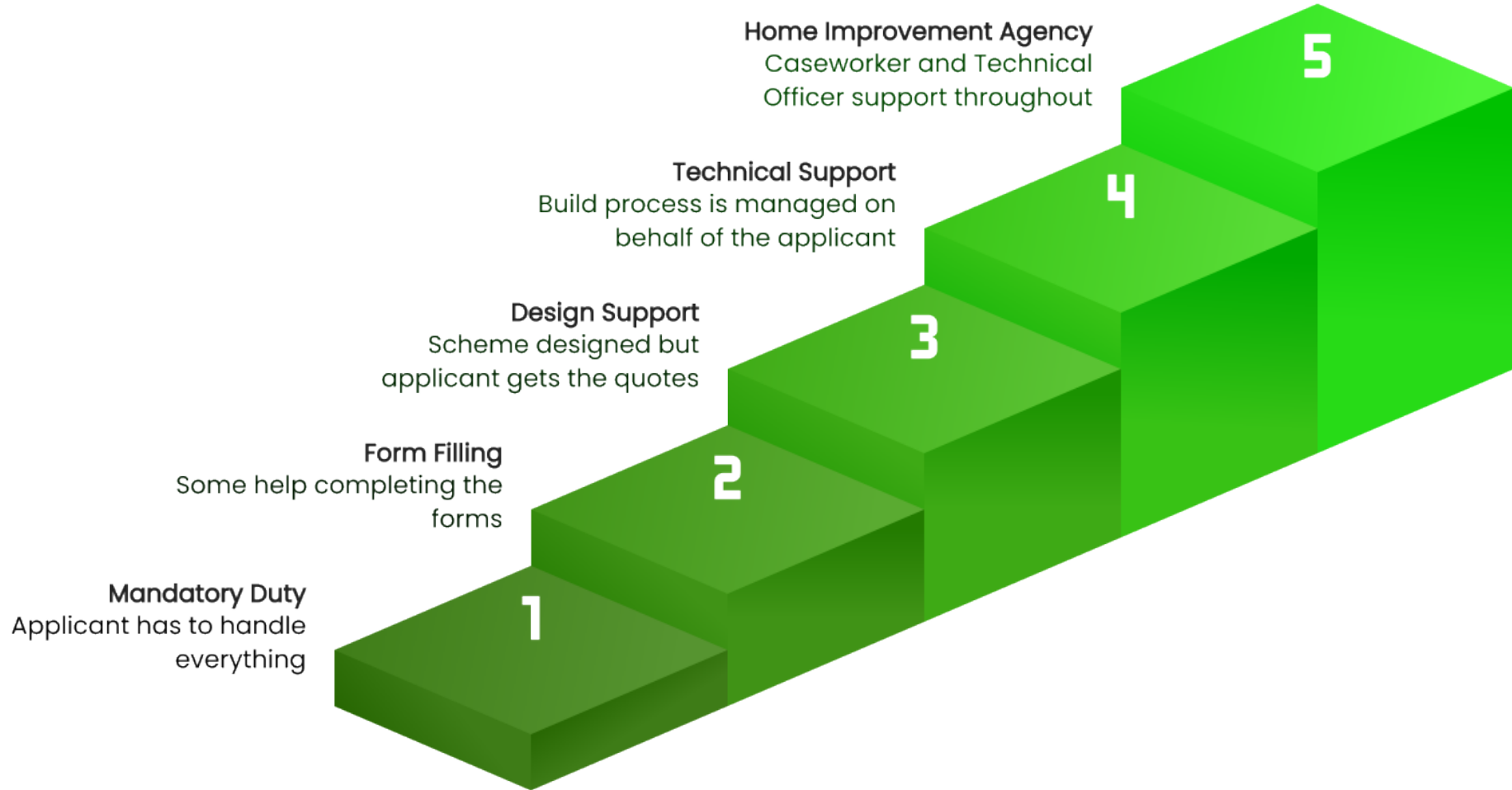
Delivery Times

Stockton-on-Tees is in the fastest 59.4% of local authorities in England



The survey is self-reported by the local authority and is not audited – there needs to be caution when comparing data regional and national data

Delivery model - Maturity of DFG Delivery



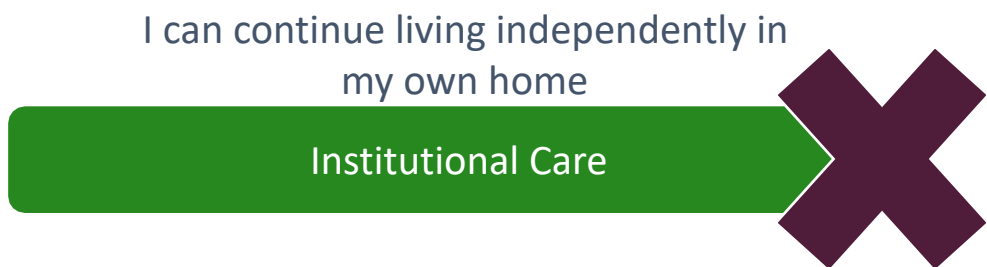
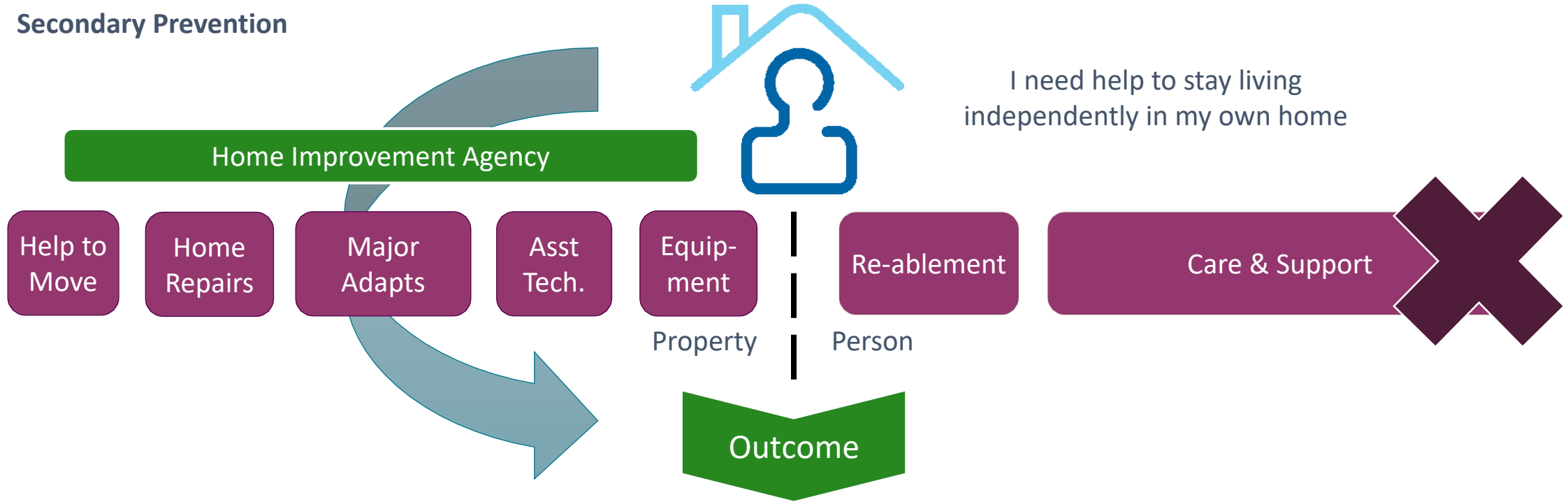
National trends also impacting on delivery in Stockton

- Increasing demand – Policy; Covid and impact on frailty; Children, and complexity
- The rising cost of materials
- Prioritising statutory duty over discretionary powers
- Relationships with Housing Associations
- Housing Revenue Accounts and Stock Transfer Agreements – Funding has not mirrored DFG allocation from the Department of Level Up, Housing and Communities

Primary Prevention

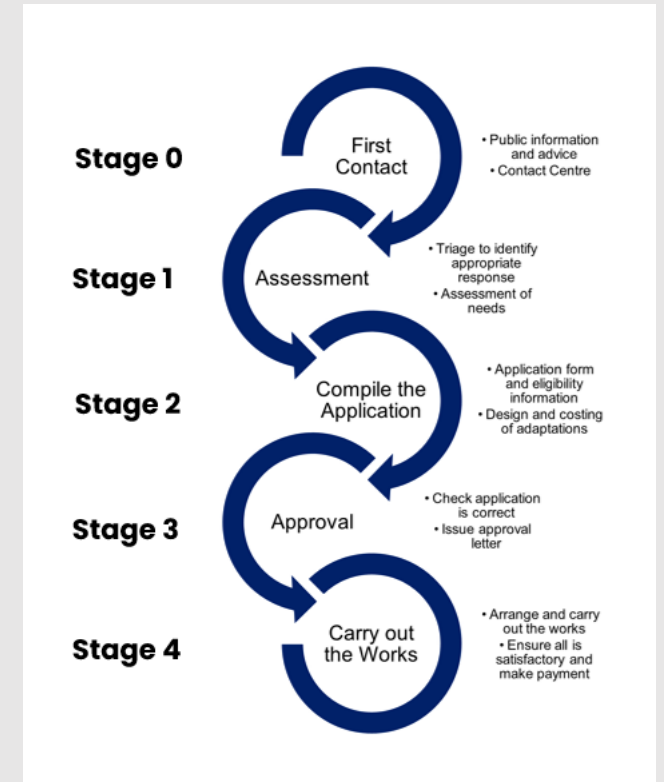


Secondary Prevention



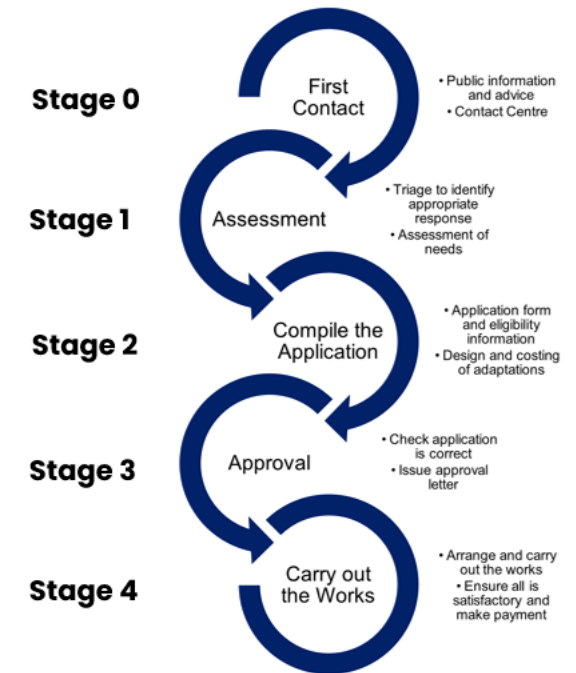
Delivery and the DFG Process – the positives

- Strategic alignment (BCF and Council Strategic plan)
- Stockton provides an Agency Service (although separate HIA and DFG teams)
- ‘Top-slice’ approach – customer benefits from being able to access the full DFG amount
- Number of DFGs going into private rented properties
- Number of Children DFGs
- Proactive housing options approach – those waiting for DFG, there are discussions about a more suitable alternative housing option



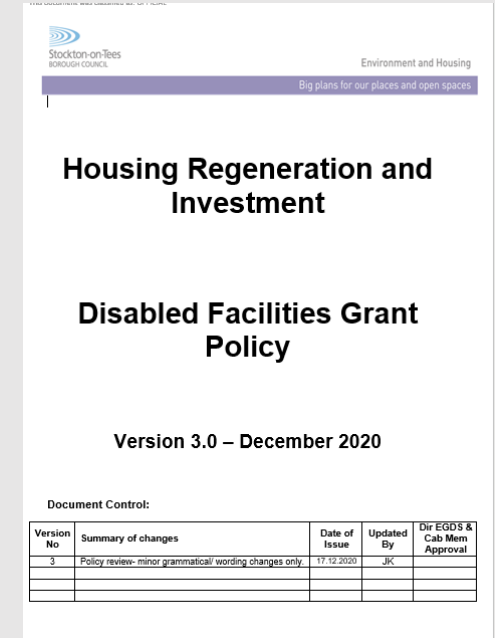
Delivery and the DFG Process – areas for development

- Website information for residents
- Improving stage 2 - Deeper dive is needed to see where improvements can be made
- Improving stage 4 – Current challenges with the approach. Foundations can work with the team to look at options
- Current Housing Assistance Policy – limited discretion, although the team have been considering other areas
- Priority system - Check if it is equitable for all age groups
- Stockton is atypical in that HIA sits separately from the DFG team (will discuss shortly)
- *Unintended consequences of changes on the level of demand*



Current Housing Assistance Policy

- Homeowner DFG Top-up loan
- Stairlift and Ramp Equipment
- Reviewing current HAP – which Foundations can support with





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