**Soft Market Testing –Care & Support element within Supported Living Service**

The Commissioners are considering tendering the Care and Support element of the service and would be looking for a suitably qualified and experienced provider of similar services. The Commissioners are considering using Individual Service Funds to enable the Provider to work in partnership with the individuals to use all or part of their Personal Budgets flexibly. This would enable the individual to design, develop and manage some or all of their support where possible and enable them to alter the support with minimal disruption when changes are required.

Please let us know the following:

1. Would your organisation be interested in submitting a tender to provide the care and support at the service described in Option 1 and Option 2?
2. Regarding the use of Individual Service Funds – do you anticipate any challenges with this model? What is the most effective way of making this work while still offering core support?
3. The service will be required to support people with varying needs and challenges. Do you anticipate any particular problems in providing support of this nature and if so what needs to be built into the model and specification to make this work effectively?
4. Many extra care services for older people have community spaces built within them. What is your experience and view on whether this is a benefit or an intrusion? Do you have any ideas about how to better link people with their local communities?
5. What key information would you need from the Council to ensure you are able to submit the most economically advantageous tender?
6. What similar services does your organisation provide?
7. Who is the contact if we want to discuss any of the information you have submitted further?