

Working in partnership to provide housing choice and support

Douglas Stem

Development Consultant - Foundations

26 June 2009



Introduction

- My role is development consultant for Foundations – the national body for HIAs
- Previously manager of HIA working in partnership with Dorset POPPs
- Developed Housing Options Scheme across Dorset in partnership with national charities and statutory sector, plus POPPS



Content

- The function of home improvement agencies – housing-based information, advice and advocacy
- Housing Options services
- Case study
- Future challenges

What is a home improvement agency?

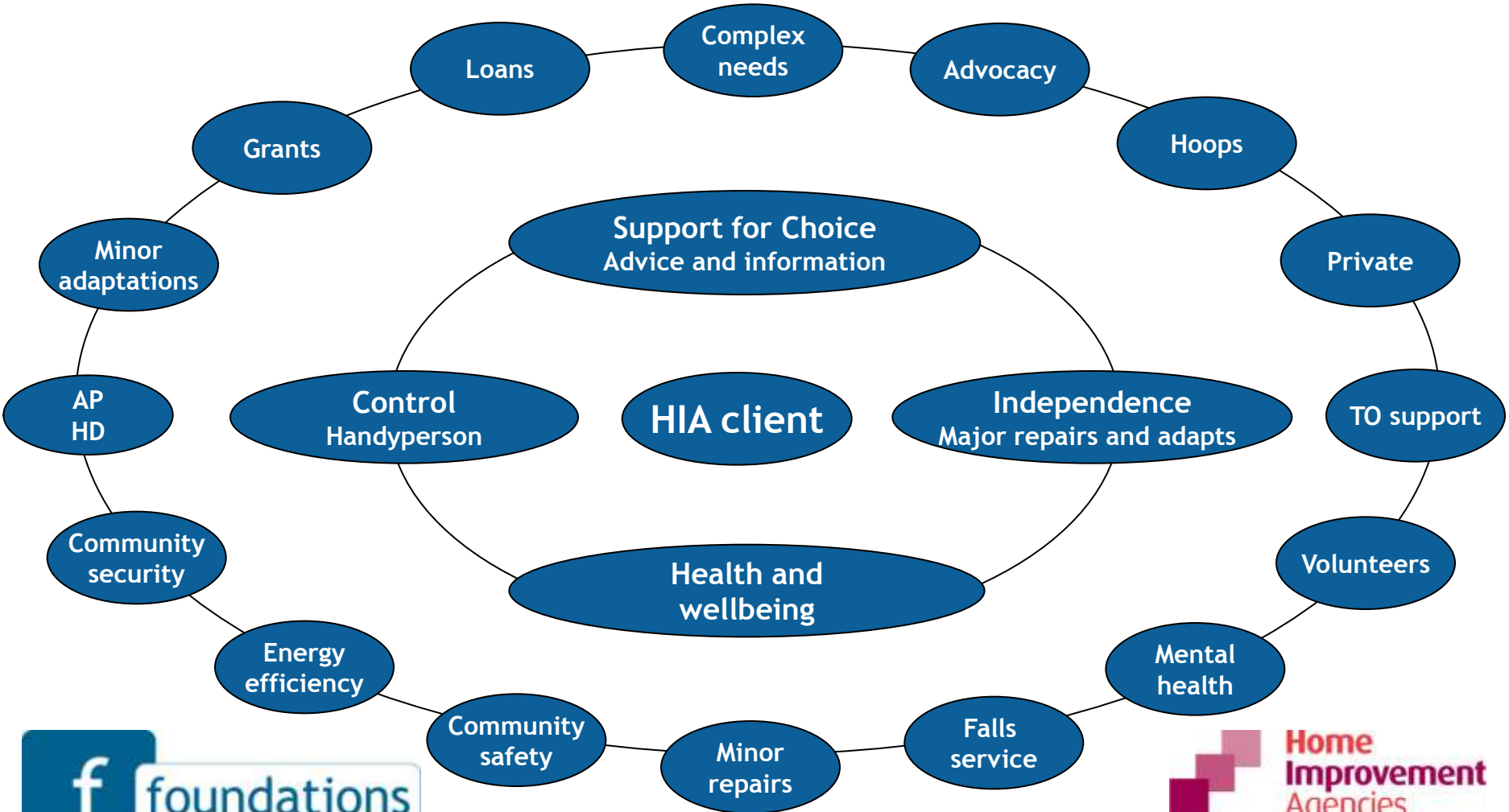
- Housing-based advice, support and advocacy for older people and disabled people
- Main objective is to enable the client to stay independent in their own home
- Provision of full range of services to enable this to happen
- Bridge between health, housing and social care

Home improvement agency services

- Advice, support, advocacy
- Technical support service for repairs and adaptations
- Handyman services



The 'hub' around which people exercise choice



Housing options

- Countywide model in Dorset
- Jointly commissioned, led by older people
- Links with FirstStop offering a menu of options according to local resources
- Person centred approach - no investment in particular outcome
- Full coverage will need significant investment

Case study

- Mr S owner-occupier, lived alone, mild learning difficulties
- Poor housing conditions, financial problems, absence of statutory support
- Sympathetic family
- Housing Options service facilitated move to RSL sheltered housing

Summary

- HIAs vital role in promoting independence
- Real choice dependent upon advice, information and advocacy
- Services offered vary hugely across sector
- Increased expenditure in prevention (TSC)
- Primary focus on holistic, person-centred support as described in 'Future HIA' project



Foundations Development Consultant (London and South East)

Douglas Stem

01305 821796

dstem@cel.co.uk

