

HOUSING CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 71

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Supporting People Commissioning Strategy 2011-15		
Date of Meeting:	1st December 2010		
Report of:	Strategic Director Place		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Daniel Parsonage	Tel: 29-3081
		Commissioning Officer (Supporting People)	
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Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The local Supporting People Programme funds 37 providers and a total of 84 Supporting People contracts that deliver housing-related support to 4500 vulnerable service users that live in the city of Brighton and Hove. These services help people to live more independently by providing resettlement support, work, learning and life skills, money advice, crisis response and floating support services. Services are provided to a range of client groups such as people with mental health and substance misuse support needs, rough sleepers, single homeless people, young people and people with learning disabilities.
- 1.2 The Supporting People Programme has successfully and consistently delivered positive outcomes for service users since its launch in 2003. The established partnership with local providers, partners and stakeholders have enabled us to effectively deliver services of high quality, performance, excellent value for money and good outcomes. Providers have demonstrated a high level of innovation in achieving these high standards and maintained a strong level of commitment to work to deliver the programme despite year-on-year reductions to funding.
- 1.3 The key priorities of this new strategy have been developed in partnership with providers and commissioners:
 1. Improving Access to Services
 2. Flexible services with positive outcomes
 3. Working towards greater independence
 4. Sustaining Independence
 5. Value for Money

The strategy sets out the principles behind these and the objectives agreed to commission services to meet these priorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve key priorities outlined in Supporting People Commissioning Strategy 2011-15.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS

- 3.1 Communities and Local Government budget announcements on 20th October 2010 indicated a clear commitment to protect preventative services for vulnerable people delivered through the Supporting People and Homelessness grants. CLG stated that 'cuts to the Supporting People programme have been minimised, with £6.5 billion to be invested at a national level over the next 4 years' (Head of Homelessness, CLG). In line with the prevention agenda, CLG also stated that 'because of the excellent value for money secured from homelessness grant and the key role it plays in supporting the vulnerable, Ministers have decided to protect this grant, holding it at this year's level of investment this year. Ministers attach particular priority to work to prevent single homelessness and rough sleeping' (Head of Homelessness, CLG).
- 3.2 Communities and Local Government announced budget cuts and efficiency savings of £780m required from this current financial year, 2010-11, on 10th June 2010. These cuts from various grants to Local Authorities included a cut in the 'Supporting People Administration Grant', which for Brighton & Hove is £163,540. This grant covers the cost of administering the programme, which includes staffing and associated overhead costs. Through the financial strategy the in-year grant cut has been absorbed and work is currently underway to develop a financial plan to deliver this ongoing efficiency saving in future.
- 3.3 During 2009, the Supporting People Commissioning Team completed a cost benefit analysis of the Supporting People Programme locally in Brighton and Hove. This piece of work measured the impact of housing-related support services funded by Supporting People grant and presents a business case for investment of these services.
- 3.4 The CLG model shows that Supporting People Programme makes the city a £36.6million saving for a spend of £11.3million which equates to the fact that for **every £1 spent on SP the city saves £3.24**. This takes into account reductions in costs for housing departments, DWP, NHS, and other social costs such as crime and homelessness.
- 3.5 The methodology is based on examining the financial impact if SP funded services were replaced by the most appropriate positive alternatives.
- 3.6 Communities and Local Government Select Committee and the Audit Commission both conducted reviews of the Supporting People Programme at a national level in 2009. The key recommendations and findings from these reviews indicated that the Supporting People Programme has successfully:
 - Improved quality of services, meeting local needs, delivering better outcomes of service users and more effectively involved service users

- Achieved Value For Money through benchmarking and delivering efficiencies and within an improved commissioning and contracting monitoring framework
- Delivered more personalised, flexible and responsive services
- Established a robust governance structure involving commissioners, providers and service users and that this structure is a good blue print for partnership working

3.7 In Brighton & Hove we have shown significant improvement in line with the national changes outlined above:

- since 2005 positive move on in short term services has increased from 44% to 72%
- Quality against the QAF has increased year on year with 56% achieving 'best practice' on all objectives
 - Diversity data collected to inform impact assessments and commissioning
 - Outcomes Framework - Example - 1 in 10 service users have significant self harm issues – 80% resolve this with an SP service

This has meant better outcomes have been commissioned at a reduced spend as the SP budget has reduced in real terms every year of the last strategy.

Despite this we have continued locally to commission innovative services that maintain and improve independence these include:

- Translation and interpreting service
- Remodelling of Recovery Support Houses
- Outreach service for street drinkers
- Deposit guarantee scheme
- Tenancy Access Project
- LD Access service
- High Risk offenders floating support
- Three work and learning services for single homeless people
- Crisis response service
- A drop in service for the Integrated Support Pathway
- Peer support service

3.8 We have renewed our commitment to the model of Sheltered Housing and have recently commissioned a new support service for a sheltered scheme that was designed in partnership with residents and the community.

3.9 Also we have remodelled services to improve outcomes for service users in achieving greater independence.

3.10 The previous Supporting People Strategy was agreed in 2008 and has been implemented as part of a three year action plan with updates to Cabinet each year; the last in July 2010.

- 3.11 The original Supporting People programme began in 2003 with the first SP strategy which expired in 2007 after all services had been formally reviewed using the Quality Assessment Framework.
- 3.12 This strategy has been developed throughout 2010 with an open consultation event for providers, staff, and the community held in March 2010.
- 3.13 All Supporting People contracts are scheduled to end in March 2011 so the new commissioning recommendations need to have been agreed to ensure that sufficient timescales are in place in implement change.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 We have consulted with third sector providers and partners throughout 2010 including specially convened forums and events. Service users have been involved through existing networks with advocacy agencies involved in supporting this process.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 During the recent Comprehensive Spending Review, it was announced that the Supporting People Grant will be rolled in Formula Grant (from Area Based Grant) with effect from 2011/12. The grant funding received for this financial year is £11.2m, however, the sum to be included in the formula grant is yet to be confirmed and members will have discretion on the level of expenditure to be applied for the programme. Due to these funding uncertainties, actions to address the key priorities of the strategy will be subject to budget provisions agreed by Budget Council in March 2011

Finance Officer Consulted: Michelle Herrington

Date: 08/11/10

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Council's Contract Standing Orders require every contract let by the Council to comply with the EU Treaty, the EU Public Service Directives and all relevant EU and domestic legislation. The type of services which are to be commissioned as part of the strategy are "Part B" services for the purposes of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, and as such are not subject to the full application of those Regulations. However, the 'spirit' of the procurement regime should apply to such services, and they should be monitored and tendered competitively where possible. Where such tendering is not immediately possible due to the limited marketplace and/or the circumstances of service users, the services should be benchmarked against similar services to demonstrate the Council is getting value for money. The Human Rights Act makes it unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a European Convention right. It is not considered that any individual's Human Rights Act rights would be adversely affected by the recommendation in this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley

Date: 12/11/10

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed in developing the Supporting People Strategy in 2008

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The commissioning intentions of housing-related support services as part of the Supporting People Strategy are in accordance with sustainability objectives and housing objectives that aim to reduce the reliance on resource heavy residential services

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The commissioning intentions of housing-related support services as part of the Supporting People Strategy are in accordance with the local objectives to prevent crime and disorder. The fundamental aim of Supporting People services is to promote independent living, social inclusion and integration, all of which aim to prevent crime and disorder.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The key objectives and strategic actions within the Supporting People Strategy contribute to a number of Council priorities, outcomes and national Indicators as part of our Local Area Agreement.

Supporting People services deliver diverse and innovative services to a range of client groups, from people with mental health and substance misuse problems, to older people and single homeless people with support needs. The services are preventative and achieve long-term, positive benefits for service users to maximise independent living. External partners have worked well to deliver the programme and any risks to providers, services, service users and local employment opportunities, need to be carefully managed and mitigated in partnership with our providers.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Supporting People Strategy contributes towards delivering Corporate priorities and contributes towards achieving a number of outcomes in the local Sustainable Communities Strategy and national indicators as part of the Local Area Agreement.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 It has been previously agreed that a Supporting People Strategy would be drafted and implemented

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To continue to achieve the positive outcomes outlined in the main report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Supporting People Commissioning Strategy, 2011-15