

# **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **Agenda Item 19**

Brighton & Hove City Council

**Subject:** **Housing and Support :  
Preventative services to achieve Social  
Inclusion**

**Date of Meeting:** **8<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Report of:** **Jugal Sharma  
Lead Commissioner - Housing**

**Contact Officer:** Name: Narinder Sundar Tel:  
Commissioning Manager

E-mail: Narinder.Sundar@brighton-hove.gov.uk

**Wards Affected:** All

### **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

#### **1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 This report provides background information on the 'Supporting People Programme'. This programme was introduced in 2003 by central government to fund 'housing-related support' services that provide preventative support to vulnerable people. Services cover a range of client groups providing support to people with mental health and substance misuse support needs, rough sleepers, single homeless people, young people, older people and people with learning disabilities. Services are preventative and help people to live more independently by providing life skills support, resettlement support, tenancy sustainment support, money advice, crisis support and support within the community. The aim of these services is to maximise social inclusion and create pathways to independence.
- 1.2 At a local level in Brighton and Hove, the programme has been very successful in meeting support needs of vulnerable people. It 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 delivering high standards and maintained a strong level of commitment to deliver the programme, despite year-on-year reductions to funding.

- 1.3 In January 2011, the Housing Cabinet Member Meeting from the previous Conservative Administration approved the current Commissioning Strategy and Commissioning Plan for 4 years, 2011-2015. This commits all funding available for housing-related support within current contracts for services over 4 years, delivering 3% efficiency saving each year.

Commissioning decisions have been based on:

- Maximising all opportunities to deliver the same outcomes for service users by re-configuring and integrating services/contracts to maximise the social return on investment (e.g. merging contracts to deliver more flexible/responsive services to better meet service user support needs and delivering a pathway of services to promote independence such as maximising access to work / learning / training opportunities)
- Extensive consultation with providers, commissioners and stakeholders on local priorities / needs for housing-related support services in the city
- An assessment of each service/contract against the Supporting People Strategy review criteria to include: strategic relevance; quality; performance; value for money; outcomes; contribution to local priorities

- 1.4 The current Green Administration has adopted the Commissioning Strategy and Plan approved by the previous Conservative Administration and has confirmed their commitment to support both the strategy and plan.

- 1.5 Communities and Local Government budget announcements in October 2010, as part of the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, indicated a clear commitment to protect preventative services for vulnerable people delivered through the Supporting People Welfare Grant by minimising reductions to this grant. It was announced at this time that the Supporting People Welfare Grant will become part of the Formula Grant with effect from 2011/12. In addition to this there are grant conditions no longer exist that were previously stipulated by central government. All allocations to funding are based on local decisions to meet local priorities. The previous Conservative Administration protected housing-related support services by minimising reductions to funding by 12% over 4 years.

- 1.6 This report will provide information on the following areas:

- A Local Context: Overview of key priorities and strategic actions in current Commissioning Strategy for Brighton & Hove over the next 4 years, 2011-2015
- Cost Benefit Analysis of housing-related support services
- Overview of quality and performance of housing-related support services
- Findings from national reviews of the Supporting People Programme

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That members note contents of report.

### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 3.1 **A Local Context: Overview of key priorities and strategic actions in current Commissioning Strategy for Brighton & Hove over the next 4 years, 2011-1015**

The key priorities of this new strategy have been developed in partnership with providers and commissioners.

The following are the 5 key priorities of the strategy and some examples of work that is being done against each priority:

- 1. Improving Access to Services:** commission services that support people to move on into private rented sector and services that support people with mental health needs to move on from acute to residential care
- 2. Flexible services with positive outcomes:** commission services to support people with learning disabilities in the community and services that provide personalised and specialist support for people with substance misuse issues
- 3. Working towards greater independence:** commission a tiered service to support people with complex mental health needs; commission services to support young people to sustain tenancies in private rented sector
- 4. Sustaining Independence:** commission dispersed alarm services for older people and commission outreach services that offer a mix of levels of support to include low-level, preventative support, specialist support and sign-posting to other services
- 5. Value for Money:** commission services that offer good Value For Money (such as sheltered housing) and re-configure services to improve Value For Money

The full Commissioning Strategy provides more details on above and is attached as an appendix to this report.

#### 3.2 **Cost Benefit Analysis of housing-related support services**

The national Communities and Local Government cost benefit analysis model applied locally to Brighton and Hove, indicates that housing-related support services make the city a £36.6million saving for a spend of £11.3million, which equates to every £1 spent on housing-related support, saving the city £3.24. This takes into account reductions in costs for housing departments, DWP, NHS, Social Care and other social costs such as crime and homelessness. This model is based on examining the financial impact if housing-related support services were replaced by the most appropriate, positive alternatives services.

### **3.3 Overview of Quality and Performance of housing-related support services**

All housing-related support services are measured against national Quality, Performance and Outcomes frameworks. Services have indicated significant improvements in achieving higher standards, for example:

- 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 service objectives
  - Diversity data collection has improved access to services and informed equalities impact assessments
  - Outcomes delivered have significantly improved, for example increasing numbers of clients with substance misuse support needs have accessed treatment services and increased numbers of clients with self-harm issues have been resolved within support services

### **3.4 Findings from National Reviews of Supporting People Programme**

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

## **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 During 2010, extensive consultation has taken place with third sector providers and partners as part of the strategy review process. Service users have been involved and consulted to give their feedback through existing networks and forums supported by provider organisations and with advocacy agencies also involved in supporting this process.

## **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Funding for the Supporting People Programme included in the 2011/12 revenue budget is £10.9m. The requirements of the Supporting People Commissioning Plan will be taken into account in the budget strategies for future years which are currently being developed.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michelle Herrington Date: 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

We are obliged to have in place both a Housing strategy and a Homelessness Strategy, with obligations to consult in relation to both. This has been achieved. No further decision is required and so the legal advice from the previous reports applies and have been complied with.

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: Simon Court                      Date: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011

### **5.3 Equalities Implications**

Commissioning proposals have considered outcomes of equalities impact assessment to ensure risks have been minimised and effectively mitigated.

### **5.4 Sustainability Implications**

The commissioning intentions of housing-related support services as part of the Commissioning Strategy is in accordance with sustainability objectives and housing objectives that aim to reduce the reliance on residential services.

### **5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications**

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

### **5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications**

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

Housing-related support 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. Our external partners have worked well to deliver the programme and any risks to our providers, services, service users and local employment opportunities, need to be carefully managed and mitigated in partnership with our providers.

### **5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications**

The Commissioning 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.

## **Background Documents**

1. Commissioning Strategy, 2011-15