

REPORT TO: CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING 17th March 2009

REPORT BY: ALAN CUFLEY HEAD OF COMMUNITY HOUSING

WRITTEN BY: DOMINIC DEW SUPPORTING PEOPLE MANAGER

SUBJECT: SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Cabinet Member for Housing with an update on progress made on ongoing issues within the Supporting People programme in Portsmouth.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Housing notes progress made in implementing a range of improvements to the Supporting People programme.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member for Housing notes the ongoing issues currently being resolved.
- 2.3 That the Cabinet Member supports further communication with Communities and Local Government on the potential detrimental effect on services to vulnerable residents as a result of reducing financial support

3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The Supporting People (SP) programme was introduced by the Government as a single pot of funding to finance housing-related support services for vulnerable groups of people and to promote independent living.
- 3.2 Until the late 1990s, such support was funded through the Housing Benefit system, and as such, was effectively 'hidden' in rental costs. This position was overturned in a court case, leading the Government to develop alternative arrangements for the financing of supported housing. A Transitional Housing Benefit (THB) scheme was put in place, until this was replaced with Supporting People funding from April 2003.
- 3.3 The strategic oversight of the SP programme rests with the Commissioning Body (CB), chaired by Margaret Geary, Strategic Director and comprises senior officers from Housing, Social Care, Probation, and Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust (PCT).
- 3.4 The SP budget for Portsmouth in 2008/09 is £8.498 million, a reduction from 07/08 of £422k, excluding inflationary pressures. This currently funds 76 services, provided by 26 agencies to around 3,300 vulnerable people in the city (see also appendix 1).
- 3.5 Portsmouth City Council Supporting People Team administers the SP grant and the Head of Community Housing is the Accountable Officer.

4. CURRENT STATUS REPORT

4.1 Supporting People Team

The current SP Team consists of Supporting People Manager, Contracts Officer, 2 x P/T Programme Development Officers, and a Finance & Administration Officer.

Communities and Local Government (CLG) continue to make a contribution towards the city council's costs of administering the programme. In the current financial year an administration grant of £171k has been provided by but this will reduce to £156k in financial year 2009/10 and £135k in 2010/11.

These reductions mean it is inevitable that, with the considerable workload for the existing staffing resources involved in the administration of Programme, there will be an ongoing budget pressure in future years.

However, the implementation of a new IT system for the SP Team has been successful and administrative savings are already being realised for data reporting, accessibility and quarterly submissions to the CLG.

4.2 Strategic Reviews

As reported previously to the Executive Member for Housing, Health, and Social Care in July 2008, the Commissioning Body agreed to undertake a series of Strategic Reviews of all SP funded services in Portsmouth. The purpose of these reviews was to examine the appropriateness of the currently funded provision based on the strategic priorities of the SP partners, and a robust assessment of service user need with a view to making future commissioning decisions based on the analysis.

Following on from last years review of Socially Excluded services, a second strategic review of Support with Care (mainly Learning Disabilities and Mental Health) and Older Person's services commenced in the autumn. This review will again look at strategic needs and priorities for this new cluster, in the knowledge that further substantial savings of around £400k (15% of the review target's budget) are required in order to balance the SP budget in future years, even before any re-investment can be considered.

Consultation with all stakeholders about the future and development of these services is ongoing and is due to end 27th April 2009. This review is also taking place in close collaboration with Adult Social Care and LA Housing Management in light of their own ongoing respective reviews.

4.3 Budget update

As a result of the strategic review successfully completed last year, there will be an estimated £120k underspend on this year's budget. However, due to currently only having an 'indicative' budget of £8.07m for 09/10, there are uncertainties about funding levels and savings targets for future years.

Since it is likely that reductions will take place in accordance with the indicative figures, which show grant funding for 2009/10 and 2010/11 reducing by £425k and a further £403k respectively, it is these figures that have been used in calculating the required savings in paragraph 4.2. It is also for this reason that the Commissioning Body have decided not to award any inflationary uplift to providers for the year 09/10.

4.4 Local Area Agreements and the Local Strategic Partnership

On the 26th November 2008 the CLG wrote to all Local Authority Chief Executives announcing that, as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, the Minister of State for Local Government was to make changes to the Supporting People programme grant. In 2009/10 the Supporting People programme grant will be paid under section 31 as an un-ringfenced named grant and from 2010/11 will be paid as part of the Area Based Grant (ABG).

The removal of the ring fence is intended to provide the opportunity to come up with flexible and innovative ways to support vulnerable people in a range of different situations.

In light of the decision to keep Supporting People as a specific grant for a further year, there will be a need for revised Grant Conditions (although these will not direct how the funding should be spent), which will be consulted on and issued shortly.

In 2010/11, the SP grant will form a significant proportion of the total ABG grant. Therefore the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), in deciding the future funding priorities for the city based on the Local Area Agreement and National Indicator (NI) priority targets, will need considerable support to understand the SP Programme and its outcomes for the vulnerable residents in Portsmouth.

The delivery of successful housing support is monitored through two indicators in the national indicator set (NIs 141 and 142) and research has shown that the programme is more than paying for itself through reduced costs in health services, tenancy failure, crime and residential care.

Within the Local Area Agreement, NI 141, (% of vulnerable people achieving independent living) has been included as one of the 35 priority targets for Portsmouth. A stretch target of 60% by 2010/11, from the current 55.5%, has been agreed with GOSE, and services in Portsmouth are already exceeding this target at the present time.

4.5 Individual Budgets

The Department of Health has now reported back on the Individual Budgets (IB) pilot programme, designed to test new ways of giving people who use social care and support services a greater say in the assessment of their needs.

The pilot's findings included that Mental Health clients and adults with a physical disability reported higher quality care; increased satisfaction with help received and reported a significantly higher quality of life. Adults with a learning disability felt more in control of their lives, though older people reported lower psychological well-being since they found the IB system difficult to use and some did not want to manage their own money.

There was also little difference found between the average cost of an IB and conventional support, and particular concerns about safeguarding vulnerable adults were raised.

Concerns have also been raised by some local authorities and an agency about the sample size used to come to the above conclusions.

Whilst no announcement has been made how exactly these will proceed within SP, work is currently underway to prepare for any implementation and to consider the numerous varied models of individual budgets that could be put in place, and to which client groups they would be most beneficial.

This may also help contribute to Social Care's National Indicator target (NI 130) of increasing the number of people receiving direct payments.

4.6 New Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) Pilot

Portsmouth was chosen by the CLG to pilot a new quality assessment process intended to streamline and improve on the existing methodology. This provided the Portsmouth SP Team and its provider partners with an excellent opportunity to help shape the process that will accurately assess the true quality of services in Portsmouth.

Whilst the pilot was completed successfully on schedule at the end of October 2008, a number of concerns were raised, by both the SP Team and providers, about the new processes that have been proposed in terms of continuing complexity and being overly cumbersome. These findings have been formally fed back to the CLG and we await news of any resulting revisions for the new QAF which is due to commence 1st April 09.

5.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Background List of documents

Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts and matters which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report

Report to Leader of the City Council – August 2006

Portsmouth City's Five-year Supporting People Strategy (2005-2010)

Independence and Opportunity – Our Strategy for Supporting People, Department of Communities and Local Government (June 2007)

6.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As this report is an update on an existing programme an Equalities Impact assessment is not required

7.0 SIGNING OFF THE REPORT

Signed.....
Alan Cufley, Head of Community Housing

Dated.....

7.0 APPROVAL TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS

**The recommendations set out above were approved / approved as amended /
deferred / rejected by the Cabinet Member for Housing on.....**

Signed.....
Councillor Steve Wylie
Cabinet Member - Housing

Appendix 1 - Supporting People funded services in Portsmouth

Support Service ID	Service Name	Provider Name	Contract Value (08/09)	Units/Capacity
	Generic			
266	Portsmouth City Council Floating Support Service	Portsmouth City Council Housing Service	£ 459,000	290
420	Long Term Floating Support	Signature Care and Support	£ 120,000	54
2			£579,000	344
	Homeless Families with Support Needs			
71	Catherine Booth House	The Salvation Army	£ 226,305	20
244	Family Tenancy Support Worker (PHA)	E C Roberts Centre	£ 149,874	28
245	EC Roberts Centre Floating Support - Intensive	E C Roberts Centre	£ 53,443	23
271	E C Roberts Centre Assessment Flat	E C Roberts Centre	£ 5,272	28
72	Catherine Booth House Resettlement Floating Support	The Salvation Army	£ 16,610	12
155	EC Roberts Centre Supported Housing	E C Roberts Centre	£ 100,624	28
6			£552,127	139
	Offenders or People at risk of Offending			
174	Offenders Supported Housing (wef. 1/4/09)	Two Saints Ltd	£ 50,000	11
1			£50,000	11
	Older people with support needs		<i>*all values are max possible under contract</i>	
166	Oak Lodge	Anchor Trust	£ 3,515	11
167	Beamond Court	Anchor Trust	£ 6,680	39
168	The Willows	Anchor Trust	£ 6,407	30
179	Dhekelia Court	CESSA Housing Association	£ 5,948	20
180	St Georges Court	CESSA Housing Association	£ 8,783	40
181	Trafalgar Court	CESSA Housing Association	£ 8,169	29
42	Friendship House	Hermitage Care	£ 23,438	34
233	Yew Tree Court	Hermitage Care	£ 71,215	24
274	Alexandra Court	Housing 21	£ 4,862	39
31	Sydenham Court	James Butcher Housing Association	£ 22,265	95
32	Portsmouth Town Court	James Butcher Housing Association	£ 9,774	52
88	PCC - Cat 1 Sheltered	Portsmouth City Council Housing Service	£ 248,502	699

Support Service ID	Service Name	Provider Name	Contract Value (08/09)	Units/Capacity
99	PCC - Cat 1+ Sheltered	Portsmouth City Council Housing Service	£ 59,923	188
127	PCC - Cat 2 Sheltered	Portsmouth City Council Housing Service	£ 154,493	245
122	PCC - Cat 2.5 Sheltered	Portsmouth City Council Housing Service	£ 513,884	347
373	Community Rehab Support	Portsmouth City Council Social Services	£ 34,579	5
352	Elderly Persons Housing & Support Service	Portsmouth Housing Association	£ 1,014	109
269	Charles Clark House	Portsmouth Rotary Housing Association Ltd	£ 1,103	27
275	Harrison House	Portsmouth Rotary Housing Association Ltd	£ 1,304	30
276	Lindsey House	Portsmouth Rotary Housing Association Ltd	£ 1,066	25
278	Woodpath House	Portsmouth Rotary Housing Association Ltd	£ 1,132	20
33	Coronation Homes	The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth's Coronation Homes	£ 6,461	74
23			£1,196,492	2227
	Substance Misuse Problems			
243	Phoenix Substance Misuse Service	Phoenix House Alpha Service	£ 33,426	7
45	Foster Road	Two Saints Ltd	£ 52,553	12
2			£85,979	19
	Learning Disabilities		<i>*all values are max possible under contract</i>	
70	Learning Disability Services	Southern Focus Trust	£ 187,996	20
83	North End Projects	Signature Care and Support	£ 207,950	10
415	2-8 Breech Close	Mencap	£ 155,719	8
178	69 Goldsmith Avenue	Community Intergrated Care	£ 62,759	5
210	68 St Ronans Road	Community Intergrated Care	£ 81,183	6
230	Northern Parade Services	Mencap	£ 17,964	3
418	94 Laburnum Grove	Signature Care and Support	£ 44,628	4
259	180 Stride Avenue	Teekew Care & Support (Fareham & Gosport PCT)	£ 73,005	3
260	144 Chichester Road	Teekew Care & Support (Fareham & Gosport PCT)	£ 71,788	3
261	69 North End Avenue	Teekew Care & Support (Fareham & Gosport PCT)	£ 82,597	3
408	Binstead Rd	Community Intergrated Care	£ 118,541	7
413	Winerton Flats	Community Intergrated Care	£ 29,911	2
414	Nelson Ave	Community Intergrated Care	£ 17,328	1

Support Service ID	Service Name	Provider Name	Contract Value (08/09)	Units/Capacity
417	Learning Disabilities Services	Pinnacle Support	£ 162,672	28
229	Trafalgar Mews	Mencap	£ 62,316	6
197	Resettlement Service Learning Difficulties	Downland Housing Association	£ 24,924	15
16			£1,401,283	124
	People with Mental Health Problems		<i>*all values are max possible under contract</i>	
44	Cumberland Street	Two Saints Ltd	£ 107,548	6
225	Ashford Close	Richmond Fellowship	£ 126,367	4
77	Shadwell/Stubbington Road	Richmond Fellowship	£ 132,469	8
132	9 Outram Road	Southern Focus Trust	£ 94,282	6
135	Mental Health Services	Southern Focus Trust	£ 377,338	28
140	7a-7d Outram Road - 30 Basin Street	Southern Focus Trust	£ 35,665	5
143	7 Outram Road	Southern Focus Trust	£ 291,239	6
416	109 Locksway Road*	Richmond Fellowship	£ 14,390	2
8			£1,179,298	55
	Single Homeless with Support Needs			
23	Managed Move on (SAiL)	Southern Focus Trust	£ 331,569	54
34	St Pauls House	Ports & Dis Free Church Womens Coun Hous Ass Ltd	£ 235,821	14
36	99 Somers Road	Ports & Dis Free Church Womens Coun Hous Ass Ltd	£ 25,697	6
43	Mill House Hostel	Two Saints Ltd	£ 823,838	47
47	400-402 Locksway Road	Two Saints Ltd	£ 104,771	18
54	Two Saints Move-on	Two Saints Ltd	£ 76,145	0
64	Single Womens Service	Southern Focus Trust	£ 82,665	6
287	Leamington House (Flat 9)	Ports & Dis Free Church Womens Coun Hous Ass Ltd	£ 8,517	3
158	Resettlement Service (SAiL)	Southern Focus Trust	£ 34,372	10
9			£1,723,396	158
	Teenage Parents			
35	St Monicas House	Ports & Dis Free Church Womens Coun Hous Ass Ltd	£ 113,604	10
1			£113,604	10
	Women at Risk of Domestic Violence			

Support Service ID	Service Name	Provider Name	Contract Value (08/09)	Units/Capacity
10	Womens Refuge Service	Southern Focus Trust	£ 286,364	19
1			£286,364	19
	Young People at Risk			
11	Portsmouth Foyer	Portsmouth Foyer	£ 299,339	73
63	115 Victoria Road South	Southern Focus Trust	£ 164,391	18
85	All Saints Direct Access Hostel	Southern Focus Trust	£ 408,116	25
163	Young People at Risk	Southern Focus Trust	£ 36,372	0
410	Foyer Emergency Placements	Portsmouth Foyer	£ 71,805	7
86	Accommodation Support Service First Base	Southern Focus Trust	£ 54,886	38
184	Foyer Young Person's Move-on Scheme	Portsmouth Foyer	£ 63,725	22
421	Young Person low level Supported Housing (wef.1/3/09)	Southern Focus Trust	£ 60,000	15
8			£1,158,635	183
	Young People Leaving Care			
221	Supported Lodgings	Portsmouth City Council Social Services	£ 64,719	10
1			£64,719	10
78			£8,390,897	3299