

Report to: **Housing Overview and Scrutiny 23rd December 2004**
Executive Board – 10th January 2005

SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR 2004-2009

Report of:	<i>Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager</i>	WARDS AFFECTED <i>All</i>
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Lead Member Responsible:	<i>Housing Portfolio Holder</i>	
Scrutiny Committee Responsibility:	<i>Housing Scrutiny Committee</i>	
Key Decision:	<i>Yes</i>	

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report provides an update on the Supporting People Commissioning Strategy for Oxfordshire 2004-9. A copy of the draft strategy was deposited in the Members Room and seen by both the Executive Board and Housing Overview and Scrutiny in August 2004. The final strategy is due to be formally approved by Oxfordshire's Commissioning Body on 21st January 2005, following a consultation period during the summer.

The Strategy supersedes the Shadow Strategy 2003-7, agreed in October 2002, which set out immediate priorities and plans as well as the strategic framework to date. In February 2004, Oxford City Council's Executive Board decided that the Strategy would not form part of the Council's policy framework since the Council does not have sole responsibility.

Supporting People is a national programme providing co-ordinated funding for housing related support to vulnerable persons. The budget for Oxfordshire in 2003/4 was £21.1 million and funds 433 services in Oxfordshire providing housing related support to over 11,000 residents.

This report sets out the key changes made to the Strategy following the consultation over the summer. The full version of the Supporting People Strategy and all amendments with the Supporting People Team's response can be viewed in the Members Room or obtained through the

Council's Representatives on the Core Strategy Group (contact details above) or direct from the Supporting People Team in the County Council.

The Executive Board is ASKED to:

- 1. To endorse that the amended 5 Year Supporting People Commissioning Strategy and amendments made to the consultation draft.**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Supporting People Commissioning Strategy for Oxfordshire has been developed in partnership with service users, service providers, partner service commissioners and elected members. The Draft Commissioning Strategy was reported to Housing Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Board, whereby members were invited to comment.
- 1.2 Some amendments suggested by the City Council have been incorporated into the final strategy. Details of specific suggestions can be found in the Consultation Tracking Plan in the Members Room. The Strategy is due to be formally approved by the Commissioning Body on 21st January 2005, following a consultation period over the summer. The Strategy is due to be submitted to the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister no later than 31 March 2005.
- 1.3 The Commissioning Strategy sets out the vision for transforming housing related services for each client group as well as plans to reshape existing services to deliver the vision of well targeted, effective and comprehensive housing related support services for the people of Oxfordshire.
- 1.4 Whilst the strategy was written with the expectation that there will be no additional revenue funding available to fund housing related support services over the next five years, it is now apparent that significant savings will have to be made. The budget announcement for the next financial year was made by the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister on 2nd December, indicating that Oxfordshire will receive £19.7 million pounds of funding, a reduction of £1.5 million. In addition, it is anticipated that further savings of £1 million pounds will be made for each of the following 2 years with an overall 50% savings, if the ODPM's Allocation formula is implemented in its present format. The Core Strategy Group and Providers are currently under discussion with regard to how these savings can be made.
- 1.5 The Strategy links closely with Oxford Community Strategy's theme of providing opportunities for life, specifically 'improving access to services by encouraging joined up working across the city.'
- 1.6 The Strategy is also linked to the Council's Vision of 'Creating Local Prosperity and Sustaining Full Employment'.

2. SUMMARY OF MAIN CHANGES

2.1-Amendments to Key Themes

Feedback from the consultation concerning the key themes was made as follows:

Key Theme 1: The need to refocus existing accommodation based services to either:

- a. cater for those with high support needs who require long term support to live independently
- b. or to provide short term rehabilitative service to enable people to move into accommodation in the normal housing stock
 - Concerns over definition of “short term”
 - Concerns about “mix” of people in accommodation based services
 - Concern over how could be achieved (move – on issues)
 - Widespread support from commissioners
 - Current status: not amended as a key theme

Key Theme 2: To meet the needs of those with lower level support needs through floating support services that can support people in accommodation from within the normal housing stock, regardless of tenure.

- Concerns over lack of access to mainstream housing stock, especially young people
- Concerns over quality of mainstream housing stock, especially young people, mental health
- Widespread support from commissioners
- Current status: not amended as a key theme

Key Theme 3: To improve the targeting of all support services to ensure that funded services are delivered to people who have identified needs for those services.

- Universal support across all client groups
- Concerns over how needs assessments will be carried out
- Current status: not amended as a key theme

Key Theme 4: To ensure that referral routes and information about available services are improved to enable those in need of services to access appropriate support speedily and without unnecessary bureaucracy.

- Support for principle across all client groups
- Concern that existing good work was acknowledged and built upon
- Current status: not amended as a key theme

2.2 The following amendments were made affecting commissioning policy in client group areas:

1. Learning difficulties: none

2. Homelessness:

- Commitment to fund expansion of homeless families service through redirection of funding from singles services removed.
- Insertion of statement about move from blanket exclusion policies to risk based approach.
- Extension of floating services across tenures.
- Commitment to pump priming rehab services inserted.

3. Older People:

- Statement about status of residential wardens inserted.

4. Mental Health:

- Inclusion of commitment to support people living with parents
- Inclusion of statement about intensive models of floating support
- Inclusion of statement about need for specialist floating services for many of those with mental health issues – link with accomm based service provision
- Removal of commitment for specialist BME provision. Statement amended to read ensure that services are available to meet needs.
- Insertion of commitment to extend direct payments options.

5. Teenage parents:

- Insertion of commitment to examine assertive outreach floating support models
- Removal of commitment to have an assessment role for accomm based services.

6. Young people at risk / care leavers:

- Insertion of commitment to examine assertive outreach floating support models
- Statement inserted that services must be provided close to where people live – geographically dispersed services
- Former relevant care leavers (18+) inserted as applicable client group
- Insertion of statement recognising role of supported lodgings
- Statement recognising needs of those placed in temporary accommodation inserted.

7. Offenders:

- Role floating support services can play recognised
- Importance of pre-release work stated.

8. Substance misusers:

- DAAT/Probation priorities restates
- Need for broader services for those at risk of losing accommodation but who are not accessing treatment included
- Need for specialist alcohol services included

9. Physical disabilities, sensory impairment and acquired brain injury

- Commitment to extension of services to areas of the county where no or very limited services included.
- Role of HIAs in meeting needs referenced.

10. Domestic violence:

- Commitment to address needs of men experiencing domestic violence through access to floating services.

11. Generic services

- Need for floating services to work within family settings stated.
- Move to risk based exclusion policies stated.

12. Refugees and asylum seekers

- Current concentration of need within Oxford City stated.

13. People living with AIDS / HIV

- New section

14. Gypsies / travellers

- New section

2.3 The following changes were made to specific sections:

C1. Vision

- Word "vulnerable" inserted.

C2. Values

- Social inclusion no longer last in list (not in priority order anyway so presentational issue).
- Needs led services value redrafted to show that needs change over time.

C3. Strategic objectives

- No amendments

D2. Priorities to guide reinvestment decisions

- Point 2 amended to include statement that: "Services will be developed on a needs led basis rather than solely on the basis of gaps in service provision."

3. FINANCIAL & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The strategy itself has no financial or staffing implications. However, the implementation of the policy is likely to have financial and staffing implications in the future, due to the realigning of services through the service review process. The ODPM has made it clear that it intends to cut funding to the Supporting People programme nationally and in Oxfordshire the grant is likely to be cut by 50% over the forthcoming years, which will affect services in the County. Oxford City Council has 4 Supporting People contracts; sheltered housing warden services, community alarms, homeless hostels and support to residents at Riverside Court. Funding for these services will remain at present levels until the service reviews are completed in 2007.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY: Penny Gardner: Financial and Asset Management Brian Johnson: Legal and Democratic Services Cllr Ed Turner: Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, Housing and Economic Development

There are no background papers.

Background papers:

Executive Board Report 9th August 2004

Appendix 1: Executive Summary

This is the first full five year commissioning strategy for the Supporting People programme in Oxfordshire. It builds on the work carried out to develop and agree the Supporting People shadow strategy which was agreed in October 2002 and set the direction of travel for the first year of the programme.

The basis of this strategy is the needs analysis work carried out by SSRADU to inform the Shadow Strategy. Additional work has been commissioned from SSRADU to further inform this five year strategy. This updates the original work to take into account the more recent census information and the waiting list information held by local providers.

This strategy details how we propose to reshape Supporting People funded services between 2004/05 and 2008/9. It has been developed in consultation with service users, service providers, partner service commissioners and elected members. It sets the strategic framework that will be used to judge whether we wish to recommission, reshape or decommission individual services through reviewing each service individually with its providers.

The primary aim of this strategy is to ensure that commissioned services have a closer fit with the aims of Commissioning partners, enabling housing related support services in the county to play the fullest role possible in delivering the priorities of housing, health, probation and social and health care partners.

The main themes running through the recommendations for reshaping services are:

- The need to refocus existing accommodation based services to either
 - cater for those with high support needs who require long term support to live independently
 - or to provide short term rehabilitative service to enable people to move into accommodation in the normal housing stock
- To meet the needs of those with lower level support needs through floating support services that can support people in accommodation from within the normal housing stock, regardless of tenure
- To improve the targeting of all support services to ensure that funded services are delivered to people who have identified needs for those services
- To ensure that referral routes and information about available services are improved to enable those in need of services to access appropriate support speedily and without unnecessary bureaucracy.

It is expected that this strategy will cover a period when resources available to fund housing related support services are declining. Many of the service objectives set out in this strategy will not require additional resources in order to be delivered. However the ability of the Commissioning Body to deliver against the priorities for service expansion specified in this strategy will be dependent upon whether it is possible to free up resources for reinvestment in excess of government savings targets.

This five year commissioning strategy sets out that framework for annual plans which will set out in detail how we wish to reshape services over each 12 month period to deliver the objectives set out here. The delivery plans appended as an Annex to this strategy set out the work programme that will need to be delivered through the annual plans that cover this five year period.