

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

2 NOVEMBER 2006

**REPORT OF
CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

**Adult Services & Health – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Cains
Housing – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Leonard**

SUPPORTING PEOPLE 4-YEAR STRATEGY 2006 - 2010

1. Summary

This Supporting People 5-Year Strategy, approved by Cabinet on 8th September 2005 has recently been updated and reviewed because of a number of changes within the programme both on a national and local level. These include a national review of the Government's approach to the programme, and the local situation with the known outcomes of service reviews, the acknowledged under funding situation within the local programme and the announcement of the allocation for 2007/08. The Supporting People Commissioning Body have taken this opportunity to update and review the Strategy in the light of these changes and publish a revised version covering the period 2006 – 2010.

The Supporting People 4-Year Strategy identifies the key SP commissioning and work priorities within the Borough. The revisions provide clear outcomes and priorities for the programme over the next four years focusing on both the immediate and longer term priorities. In addition the Strategy identifies work priorities for the Supporting People team. The Supporting People programme locally gets £2.75 million / year from the DCLG and will get an additional £205k in 2007/08. To meet all our strategic plans we need in the region of an additional £1.3 million to enable the Supporting People Commissioning Body to achieve the outcomes of the 4-year Strategy and in order to meet the identified gaps existing within the Borough. The ability of the programme to attract the required additional funding is based on the outcome of national consultation on the SP distribution formula and 2007 Spending Review.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the Supporting People 4-Year Strategy 2006 – 2010 and support the continued development of the Strategy.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The Supporting People 4-Year Strategy requires the approval and support of Cabinet.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee, etc.; whether or not they are a member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting, and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room during consideration of the relevant item.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

2 NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

SUPPORTING PEOPLE 4-YEAR STRATEGY 2006 – 2010

SUMMARY

This Supporting People 5-Year Strategy, approved by Cabinet on 8th September 2005 has recently been updated and reviewed because of a number of changes within the programme both on a national and local level. These include:

- a national review of the Government's approach to the programme,
- the local situation with the known outcomes of service reviews,
- the acknowledged under funding situation within the local programme, and
- the announcement of the allocation for 2007/08.

The Supporting People Commissioning Body have taken this opportunity to update and review the Strategy in the light of these changes and publish a revised version covering the period 2006 – 2010.

RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is asked to approve the Supporting People 4-Year Strategy 2006 – 2010 and support the continued development of the Strategy.

DETAIL

1. Supporting People is now in it's fourth year of the programme. The aim of the programme is to establish a strategic, integrated policy and funding framework, delivered locally in response to identified local needs. This replaces the previous complex and uncoordinated arrangements for providing housing related support services for vulnerable people. The Supporting People programme covers a wide and diversified range of client groups.
2. The Strategy for Supporting People over the next four years of the programme identifies the key SP commissioning and work priorities within the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. The methodology used to develop the identified priorities was based on discussions with stakeholders in provider and service user meetings, with representatives of the Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership and members of the Commissioning Body and Planning and Strategy Group. These priorities are based on the updated analysis of the previous research into each of the individual client group areas.
3. This Strategy is in essence the building blocks for implementing the Supporting People vision of services for the period 2006 to 2010. It is intended as a guide and business-planning tool for organisations providing supported housing services in the Borough. The priorities may change over the next four years as new information is gathered from stakeholders and further needs analysis. Any potential changes will be consulted with stakeholders and agreed by the reporting structures within Supporting People.

4. The affect of limited growth of funding within the Supporting People programme has an enormous impact on services to vulnerable people within the Borough. When we published our first 5-Year Strategy in September 2005 we had an Action Plan that was to cost £1.4 million to implement. At that time the ODPM were indicating a review of the distribution of grant funding to individual local authorities. We were expecting considerably more grant based on the draft distribution formula. In fact the published expected increases showed a 177% required increase for Stockton-on-Tees to bring it in line with spending on support services for vulnerable people in other local authorities. We now know we are not going to get the level of funding we require.
5. Taking this into account the revised Strategy provides clear outcomes and priorities for the programme over the next four years focusing on both the immediate and longer term priorities. In addition the Strategy identifies work priorities for the Supporting People team. The Supporting People programme locally gets £2.75 million / year from the DCLG and will get an additional £205k in 2007/08. To meet all our strategic plans we need in the region of an additional £1.3 million to enable the Supporting People Commissioning Body to achieve the outcomes of the 4-year Strategy and in order to meet the identified gaps existing within the Borough.
6. The Strategy therefore reflects the current position alongside our vision for services in the longer term should we ever receive the additional funding more in line with the amount we need. We are working with the current resource to maximize its impact and connecting with partners to explore additional funding streams where available. The Government is undergoing a Spending Review in 2007 and longer term funding for Supporting People will be dependent on the outcome of that process. At present the outcome of the needs based Distribution Formula debate is unresolved but it is hoped the outcome of recent Government consultation will keep the future grant methodology open for discussion even if progress to balance current inequalities is slower than originally expected. With this in mind we have maintained a similar vision of supported housing services in the longer term and this is reflected in future plans.
7. The detail of the revised Supporting People Strategy 2006 - 2010 is included in Appendix 1 and Members are asked to focus on the Executive Summary pages 6 – 15, which provides a summary of the key changes since September 2005.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. To be funded within existing Supporting People programme from Grant provided by Central Government. The legal implications are linked to compliance with contract obligations for existing Supporting People services.

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. This Supporting People 4-Year Strategy 2006 – 2010 is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

10. The Supporting People Strategy has been developed in line with national guidance provided originally by the ODPM. Many of the objectives outlined in the Supporting People 4-Year Strategy 2006 – 2010 are linked to Council corporate objectives delivered in conjunction with partner agencies through the Community Strategy. The Supporting People 4-Year Strategy impacts mainly on three of the key policy themes; Liveability, Safer Communities and Healthier

Communities & Adults through the promotion of quality, well managed services for vulnerable people, improvement of vulnerable people's individual health conditions through focused support and ensuring a secure and safe environment for vulnerable people living in our local communities.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

Environment

- None in the report but the aim of the Supporting People programme is to improve the quality of life for vulnerable people in need.

Community Safety

- None in the report, however the programme influences the provision of supported housing schemes / services for vulnerable groups of people and to ensure adequate support services are provided for their safety and well being and the communities in which they live.

CONSULTATION

- The Supporting People 4-Year Strategy impacts all wards and ward councillors. The Strategy has been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholder organisations including Children, Education, and Social Care, Housing Strategy along with Registered Social Landlords and other housing and support providers; service users; Members of the Housing & Neighbourhood Partnership Board, Council Members and the Supporting People Commissioning Body and Planning & Strategy Group.
- The Supporting People Commissioning Body, made up of representatives of Stockton Borough Council, North Tees Primary Care Trust and the National Probation Service (Teesside) have considered and debated the content of the Strategy and support the content.

**Corporate Director for Children, Education and Social Care
Corporate Director for Development and Neighbourhood Services**

Contact Officer Peter Smith (Strategic Manager – Independent Living)
Telephone No. 528462
E-mail address p.smith@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers Supporting People Policy into Practice (DETR), January 2001; Administrative Guidance (DTLR), October 2001; Supporting People Interim Financial Package (ODPM), June 2002; Cabinet Report Supporting People Shadow Strategy, September 2002; Supporting People 5-Year strategy 2005-2010; Cabinet Report Supporting People Charging Policy and Financial Implications, February 2003.

Education Related Item? No

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward specific; involves all Wards

Property Implications N/A