

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

7 June 2011

Joint Report of the Director of Health and Housing and Cabinet Member for Housing

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 KENT FIVE-YEAR SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY 2010-2015

Summary

This report seeks authorisation for the Director of Health and Housing to sign, on behalf of the Council, the recently reviewed Supporting People Commissioning Body Memorandum of Understanding. It also provides an update on the present position with regard to floating support services for older people across the borough.

1.1 Supporting People Commissioning Body Memorandum of Understanding

- 1.1.1 The Supporting People programme came into effect on 1 April 2003 to deliver housing-related support services to vulnerable people through a single funding stream. Nationally the programme is funded and monitored by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). It is administered by Kent County Council in partnership with the County's 12 district and borough Councils, the health sector and Kent Probation.
- 1.1.2 Membership of the Commissioning Body comprises elected members and/or senior officers from each partner organisation. It meets on a quarterly basis.
- 1.1.3 At its meeting in January 2011, the Commissioning Body approved a revised version of the Memorandum of Understanding, which sets out its role and responsibilities. As a result, it was recommended that each district/borough consider within their own constitutional arrangements what procedures would need to be followed in order that it be signed.
- 1.1.4 The Council's Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the most appropriate signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding is the Director of Health and Housing. Cabinet is therefore recommended to authorise this accordingly, and a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding is attached at **[Annex 1]**.

1.2 Floating support services for older people

- 1.2.1 Members will recall from earlier reports to this Board that from April 2011, the Supporting People funding that enabled EPIC Trust (formerly Invicta Telecare) to deliver floating support to older people in Tonbridge and Malling was significantly reduced. The majority of households that received this service were tenants of Russet Homes.
- 1.2.2 Assurances were received from Kent County Council some months earlier that no individual would be disadvantaged as a result of this change and Members were advised in February that of the 1449 households affected, alternative services had been secured for all but 200 households, whose needs were being further assessed.
- 1.2.3 These needs assessments have now been completed and all of the households concerned now have a service that reflects their needs. However, Russet Homes are continuing to monitor the situation extremely closely and the telephone helpline that was set up when customers were first advised that there would be some change to the services they receive, will be available until the end of May.
- 1.2.4 In addition, Russet Homes are continuing to deliver the scheme manager service for those who occupy properties adjacent to Russet-owned category two sheltered housing.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None arising from this report.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 None arising from this report.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 As a member of the Supporting People Commissioning Body, it would be inappropriate not to be party to the Memorandum of Understanding.
- 1.5.2 Some of the Supporting People funded services in the borough were discontinued from April 2011. Russet Homes, and its care and support partner EPIC Trust have reviewed the service to ensure that none of the households who received a service originally, were disadvantaged.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- **AUTHORISE** the Director of Health and Housing to sign the Supporting People Commissioning Body Memorandum of Understanding that is attached at **[Annex 1]**
- **NOTE** the update in respect of floating support services for older people.

The Director of Health and Housing confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Janet Walton

Nil

John Batty
Director of Health and Housing

Councillor Jean Atkinson
Cabinet Member for Housing

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The decision required relates to the administrative arrangements for the Supporting People Commissioning Body. The Supporting People programme funds housing-related support services for a range of vulnerable people.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	As above.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.