

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

11 November 2013

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME UPDATE

Summary

This report is to inform Members of the Kent Supporting People Commissioning Intentions for the period 2014-2017.

- 1.1.1 Supporting People is a government programme that funds housing related support services that a landlord such as a housing association in or other provider such as a voluntary organisation can provide. Support in this context means advice and help to make it easier for vulnerable people to maintain their independence in their home. People can receive support in a supported accommodation environment (hostel), in sheltered housing or other types of supported living as well as support being provided to people in their own homes through floating support services.
- 1.1.2 In 2009, the ring-fence around the Supporting People funding stream was removed. It is now a wholly decentralised programme, administered through Kent County Council. From 2011-12, Supporting People funding was rolled into the Formula Grant. There is now no specific budget allocation for Supporting People services as it is part of this single grant.
- 1.1.3 Kent County Council however, is continuing to allocate funding to deliver the Supporting People programme across Kent. The programme's current value is £24 million, which is spread across 280 contracts tendered to 100 providers.
- 1.1.4 In the summer of this year Kent Supporting People commissioned a "Needs Analysis" that will be used to inform the commissioning intentions for housing related support over the next three years.
- 1.1.5 The initial findings of the needs analysis has determined that the current service models will be neither affordable nor sufficient to meet needs within current resources. Consequently fundamental changes are required across housing-related support services to enable the delivery of a system that is personalised, responsive, flexible and offers real choice and control to individuals. There is likely to be significant changes in the types of services that are currently available

and changes to how resources are utilised, with a greater focus on prevention and early intervention.

1.1.6 The recommendations from the needs analysis include:

- reducing the number of contracts, making the programme more manageable and enabling more flexible provision;
- introducing clear pathways in and out of services so that customers can better understand the programme they are on;
- giving consideration to reduce the high support hours in some services;
- exploring the needs of ex-service personnel;
- improving service models to enable increased utilisation and throughput;
- reviewing older persons services in light of changing needs;
- improving customers ability to sustain future tenancies; and
- using a single assessment tool.

1.1.7 Based on these findings it is proposed that the following ten commissioning intentions will be the focus of service improvement and redesign over the next three years:

- Domestic abuse;
- Homelessness including rough sleepers;
- Learning Disability;
- Mental Health;
- Physical and Sensory Disability;
- Offenders;
- Older People;
- Young People at Risk and Teenage Parents;
- Substance Misuse; and
- Ex-Service Personnel.

1.1.8 These intentions will need to be discussed, debated and approved by the Supporting People Commissioning Body. This is the body that governs the

Supporting People Programme and of which the Borough Councils' Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Mrs Jill Anderson, is vice chair.

- 1.1.9 This Board will of course be kept informed of the commissioning programme over the coming months.
- 1.1.10 Members will be aware that the Tonbridge Young People at Risk Service (New Wharf Road) is managed by Porchlight and part funded through the Supporting People Programme on a three year contract. This contract is due to expire on 31 March 2014 and will be re-tendered. The procurement process will begin in late November 2013 and be completed by March 2014 with the new contract going live on 1 April 2014. Officers from TMBC will be involved in drafting the tender specification and will sit on the evaluation panel. Members will be informed of the outcome of the process at a future meeting of this Board

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 None associated with this report.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 None directly arising from this report as this is a County Council Budget.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 None associated with this report but as the Commissioning Plan develops the Council will need to influence it to ensure that services within the borough are maintained in order that vulnerable households can continue to live independently in the community.

Background papers:

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Nil

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