

REPORT

By: Angela Slaven – Director of Youth and Community Support Services,
Communities Directorate

To: **Supporting People in Kent Commissioning Body**

21 September 2010

Subject: **Review of the Core Strategy Development Group**

Classification

For Decision

Summary: This report presents the findings and conclusions of the task and finish established following the Commissioning Body Meeting in June 2010 to review the role and functioning of the Core Strategy Development Group. The report makes recommendations for the way forward and presents revised Terms of Reference for agreement by the Commissioning Body.

1.0 Introduction

1.1. The Commissioning Body asked for the establishment of a task and finish group to review the role and function of the Core Strategy Development Group (CSDG). The Commissioning Body requested that several key issues be addressed in relation to the role and membership of the CSDG. The Commissioning Body sought guidance

- on the role and responsibilities of the membership,
- the contribution and accountability of the officers who attend,
- the appropriateness of the attendance of providers,
- to seek an improvement in the relationship between the functioning of the CSDG and the reporting and advice to the Commissioning Body.

2.0 The Role of the Task and Finish Group

2.1 The task and finish group has met on three occasions and comprised the Chair of the CSDG, the Chair of Kent Housing Group, the Chair of the Service User Panel, and the Head of Service for Supporting People. The Chair of the Joint Policy and Planning Board (Housing) was invited but was unable to attend any of the meetings due to other commitments. The meetings have reviewed the existing Terms of Reference of the CSDG, considered the Memorandum of Understanding of the Commissioning Body and have considered the inter-relationship of these two key strategic forums.

3.0 The Future

3.1 The conclusions reached are that the CSDG should comprise the officers who accompany elected members to the Commissioning Body, or where the district or borough chooses not to send an elected member that officer themselves. This will ensure that the officers who attend the Commissioning Body have a direct responsibility for the nature and content of the papers that are submitted to the Commissioning Body for ratification and decision. The CSDG should have senior officer representation from the three key Directorates within Kent County Council that hold the responsibility for key strategic and operational delivery and connection to the Programme; Kent Adult Social Services, Children Families and Education, and Communities.

3.2 The CSDG will represent the strategic development of the Programme. The CSDG will ensure that there is appropriate representation of the views of providers and service users within its decision making processes. This will form part of the Terms of Reference.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 The proposal for the newly constituted CSDG will create a forum that is fit for purpose to meet the considerable challenges that will face the Programme in 2010/11 and beyond.

4.2 The conclusion of the task and finish group is to propose to the Commissioning Body that subject to approval of the revised Terms of Reference that they agree the findings of the review and the implementation of the proposal is effective in November 2010 when the first meeting of the reconstituted CSDG will take place. This would be followed by the Commissioning Body in January 2011.

5.0 Recommendation

- 1) That the CSDG model as outlined is approved.

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Appendix One

CSDG Terms of Reference