

**REPORT**

By: Caroline Highwood – Director of Resources, Adult Social Services

To: Supporting People in Kent Commissioning Body

**26 June 2008**

**Subject: Kent Five-Year Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010, Refresh 2008**

**Classification: Unrestricted**

**For Decision**

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**Summary: The report provides a summary of the Strategy Refresh which details progress against targets in the Five Year Strategy, newly emerging strategic contexts and priorities for the remainder of the Five Year Strategy.**

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**1.0 Introduction**

In March 2005, the Commissioning Body agreed the Kent five-year Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 which set out where the programme in Kent was at that point and where the partnership wanted to get to by 2010. It contained strategic objectives and targets and detailed how the strategy would be delivered and monitored. The strategy was submitted to the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in April 2005. Subsequent annual plans detailed the various actions required for working towards meeting the targets and measured overall progress.

In September 2007, the Audit Commission inspected the Kent Supporting People Programme. The management of the programme by Kent County Council and its partners was judged as ‘good’ and as having ‘promising’ prospects for improvement. However, the Audit Commission Inspectors made certain recommendations, in order to improve services further. These recommendations were accepted and an action plan agreed by the Commissioning Body.

One of the recommendations concerned the need to refresh Kent's original five-year Strategy to list progress made and identify future priorities.

## **2.0 Key Achievements**

The key achievements of performance and delivery 2005-2008 include:

- Establishment of effectively run governance bodies
- Strong partnership working with a wide range of stakeholders both at county and local levels, resulting for example in agreed countywide protocols for vulnerable young people, people with mental health problems, offenders and vulnerable families with dependent children
- Improved service user involvement in the programme through service reviews and establishment of the service user panel
- Agreed Eligibility and Reconnection Policies
- Strategic reviews of older persons services, floating support services and short-term accommodation based services and agreed recommendation and action plans resulting from the reviews
- Needs identified and new services commissioned, including specialist services
- Delivery of services within the grant, effective financial monitoring, and value for money and benchmarking exercises carried
- Regular performance reporting to the governance bodies, including data on the alignment of the programme with the Local Area Agreement 1
- All services reviewed by April 2007 and issuing of steady state contracts
- Improvements in the quality of services
- Regular promotion of the programme through a wide range of media and taking into account diversities

## **3.0 New Strategic Contexts**

Since the implementation of the Kent Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010, certain government policies/strategies and other developments have acted as change drivers resulting in newly emerging strategic contexts within which the programme operates. Particular change drivers are:

- Recommendations arising from the Audit Commission aimed at improvements to be made with regard to performance management and governance of the programme, value for money approach, service user involvement and access to and information about services.
- Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' setting out the new focus on Local Area Agreements as route to 'place shaping', more citizen engagement and the importance of joint procurement of services.

- National Supporting People Strategy 'Independence and Opportunity' stressing the importance of service user involvement, choice and control at the heart of the programme, and improved partnership working with the third sector (voluntary organisations).

The key challenges to the Supporting People Programme arising from these strategic drivers are:

- 1) The Commissioning Body's voluntary decision to fund Supporting People as part of the area based grant and deliver on a specific target under the Local Area Agreement 2 as from this year (rather than wait for the formal implementation of this mechanism in April 2009)
- 2) The forthcoming evaluation of the national pilots of individual budgets

Clearly, some of the issues are of longer-term significance and will need to be incorporated into planning for the new Kent Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015.

#### **4.0 Service User and Provider Consultation**

The Kent five-year Supporting People Strategy was widely consulted on with service users and providers. So far, the service user panel and people bank could only be consulted with on a limited basis. The refreshed strategy was discussed at the last Core Strategy Development Group. All the key issues affecting the refresh have been presented in previous reports to the governance bodies, such as individual budgets and the Local Area Agreement. The Supporting People Team hopes to shortly recruit a service user involvement officer to ensure that service users are as closely and as widely as possible involved in shaping the Kent Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015.

The provider consultative bodies have been re-engineered into the Provider Executive Board and east and west Kent provider forum. Again, providers will be closely involved in shaping the new Kent Supporting People strategy.

#### **5.0 Equality Impact Assessment**

An initial screening of the strategy refresh analysis has been carried out and found that the Analysis has no adverse impact on the different groups of service users.

#### **6.0 Financial Impact Assessment**

The costs of meeting the gaps in short-term services identified in the strategic review of short-term accommodation-based services, meeting the gaps in

floating support services, agreed funding of the Thanet PFI Bid have been included in the five-year forecast which is attached as Appendix 1.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

The Kent five-year Supporting People Strategy retains its overall strategic aims and priority client groups but the strategy refresh identifies additional areas to focus and move forward on. However, taking the identified change drivers into account, the priorities, for the remainder of the Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 are:

- 1) Implement the recommendations of the Audit Commission to:
  - Strengthen the strategic approach to Supporting People
  - Improve performance management and governance of the programme
  - Improve value for money
  - Improve service user involvement
  - Improve access and information in relation to the Supporting People Programme
- 2) Implement the transition of the programme funding into the area-based grant and any new administrative measures accompanying this, including establishment of effective links with appropriate partnership groups
- 3) Continue to implement the outcomes of the strategic reviews of short-term accommodation-based services and older persons services
- 4) Incorporate the provisions of the National Supporting People Strategy into the Kent Supporting People Programme
- 5) Plan for and consult widely on the Kent Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015 and present a Draft Strategy to the governance bodies by March 2010

The strategy document will be posted on the Kent County Council website [www.kent.gov.uk/supportingpeople](http://www.kent.gov.uk/supportingpeople)

## **8.0 Recommendation**

The Commissioning Body is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report.
- (ii) Agree the Strategy Refresh 2008

**Ute Vann**  
**Policy&Strategy Officer**  
**01622 694825**

**With contributions from Andrea Coleman, Senior Finance and IT Officer**

**Background Information:**

**Five-Year Kent Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010**

**Annual Plans 2003-2008**

**Audit Commission Inspection Report, December 2007**

**Audit Commissions Recommendations Action Plan**

**Appendix 1: Supporting People Five-Year Forecast 2008-2013**



## APPENDIX 1: Supporting People 5 Year Forecast 2008-2013

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>Grant £'000'</b>	32,025	32,025	32,025	32,025	32,025
Contract Commitments	29,561	32,280	35,683	35,352	34,309
* Inflationary Uplift	30,153	33,086	36,575	36,236	35,167
FS/Accommodation Based Services Jan 09	204	631			
FS Clearance Jan 09	624	1,922	-649	-1,927	
HIA Handy Person East & West Kent	444				
FS Waiting List B/C	463		-474		
Service User Involvement	100				
Horizons Thanet FPI Bid from 1.11.2008 Full year 97K	37	62			
Dual Diagnosis MH Service Dover from 1.11.2008 Full year 131K	50	82			
Rent Deposit Scheme	100		-100		
PFI MH Legal Costs	300	-301			
Reclaim	-196	201			
Annual Total	32,280	35,683	35,352	34,309	35,167
Balance (Expected Grant less Expected Spend)	-255	-3,658	-3,327	-2,284	-3,142
<b>Achieved Savings B/F</b>	<b>9,275</b>	<b>9,021</b>	<b>5,363</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>-248</b>
<b>Saving</b>	<b>9,021</b>	<b>5,363</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>-248</b>	<b>-3,390</b>

\* Future Rates estimated at 2.5%. Increase to be agreed by Commissioning Body