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**To:** Supporting People Commissioning Body 17 April 2012

**Subject:** Access to Short Term Accommodation Based Supported  
Housing and Floating Support Services

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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### **Summary**

The Kent Supporting People Programme is working on the automation of access to short term accommodation based supported housing and floating support services. This paper provides an update on the status of work currently being undertaken by the Supporting People Programme. Discussions with Locata about the development of the tool indicate that the cost will be a maximum £10,000 to implement this.

## **1. Introduction**

- (1) The Commissioning Body agreed on 11 October 2011 that referrals to all short term accommodation based supported housing with the exception of women's refuges should be managed utilising a centralised referral mechanism within the Kent Home Choice system. Kent Home Choice is already managing a choice based lettings system provided by Locata on behalf of all the Local Housing Authorities and Housing Associations in Kent.
- (2) The Commissioning Body also agreed to automate the floating support centralised referral mechanism within the Kent Home Choice system. This is currently administered by the Supporting People Programme.

## **2. The Current Status of Implementation**

- (1) The Supporting People Programme has created a Task and Finish Group of providers. The Task and Finish Group are working with Supporting People to co-produce the processes, procedures and rules on which the referral mechanism for short term accommodation based supported housing will be based.

## **3. Consultation and Communication**

- (1) As part of the strategic review of access to short term accommodation based supported housing, the Programme consulted with a wide range

of stakeholders, including districts/boroughs, the Probation Service, providers and current service users. An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out.

- (2) Once the Task and Finish Group has concluded its work on the processes and procedures relating to access. A further consultation exercise with all key stakeholders including district and boroughs, providers, and service users will be undertaken.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- (1) Discussions have been held with Locata about developing the tool required for automation. Locata has indicated that the cost of developing the automated referral system for both floating support services and short term accommodation based supported housing will be a one off cost of a maximum of £10,000. This presents a cost pressure on the current budget and would therefore have to be met through the use of reserve funds.

#### **5. Risk and Business Continuity Management**

- (1) The Supporting People Programme will ensure a smooth and managed transition to the implementation of automation by Kent Home Choice/Supporting People of access to short-term accommodation-based supported housing and floating support services through continued monitoring and review.

#### **6. Conclusion**

- (1) The Supporting People Programme has commenced work to develop the tools required to implement centralised and automated referral mechanisms for both short term accommodation based supported housing and floating support services. The developer Locata has estimated that the cost of developing the mechanism will be a one off cost of a maximum of £10,000.

#### **Recommendations**

The Commissioning Body is asked to agree that;

The cost of the implementation for the automation of both the floating support and short-term accommodation based supported housing referral a mechanism is met through the use of reserve funds. This will be at a maximum cost of £10k.

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