

## **REPORT**

**By:** Caroline Highwood - Director Resources, Kent Adult Social Services

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

18 December 2008

**Subject:** **Needs Analysis Update**

**Classification:** **Unrestricted**

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### **For Information**

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**Summary:** **This report provides highlights from the latest needs analysis. The last needs analysis was presented to the Core Strategy Development Group in May 2008, and agreed by the Commissioning Body in June 2008.**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

The Audit Commission expects Administering Authorities to conduct a needs analysis on a six-monthly basis. The needs analysis details current provision, gaps in provision, and the differential between current provision and identified need.

- 1.1 Appendix One identifies schemes which have been commissioned, or are due to be commissioned in the light of identified need. With regard to accommodation-based services, in some cases appropriate accommodation has not yet been identified. In the interim time-limited floating support services are being commissioned. There are more floating support units than accommodation-based ones because commissioning of interim services was based on converting the units of supported accommodation into units of standard floating support which allows for more vulnerable people to be supported. Floating support is commissioned on the basis of two hours per service user per week for generic services and three hours per service user per week for specialist services. Therefore a conversion has been made from the accumulated average number of hours delivered within an accommodation based service to the typical number of hours of delivery for generic or specialist floating support. Therefore in the areas where floating support has been

commissioned in advance of accommodation-based services opening, there will be a diminution of the number of floating support units available once the accommodation based service is opened.

## **2.0 Context**

- 2.1 The full report contains detailed supply data and needs analysis/demand data by district/borough and client group. It also incorporates findings from strategic reviews of services and consultations undertaken as part of those reviews. The latest research reports and strategic needs assessments carried out by our key stakeholders are included (including Kent Adult Social Services (KASS), Health, and Probation). The Communities and Local Government Department has provided information to us via the University of St Andrews Client Records Forms data. There is also information relating to floating support extracted the Supporting People's centralised floating support referral mechanism.
- 2.2 Other data includes official statistics on homelessness. It is noted that such data only includes households where districts/boroughs made the decision that a housing duty is owed. However, the needs analysis augments such data with information provided by homelessness surveys which include homeless people not owed a duty.

## **3.0 Findings**

- 3.1 The updated needs analysis confirms the needs gaps identified in the June 2008 analysis. It is likely that additional accommodation-based services will be identified for investment. The client groups that have been specifically identified are young people under the age of twenty five, and offenders. There is a particular need for further service development for young people in the east of the County and for single homeless people across the county.

## **4.0 Audit Commission Inspection**

- 4.1 The needs analysis and any future analyses will continue to have due regard to the recommendations arising from the Audit Commission Inspection. These recommendations were that there will be continued enhanced work on identifying need through partnership working and regular monitoring and review of the needs of gypsies and travellers, minority ethnic groups, refugees and other hard to reach groups.

## **5.0 Service User Consultation**

- 5.1 Service users will be consulted on the next Five-Year strategy. Service users have been consulted on the Programme during strategic reviews,

and have been involved in specifications of service, tendering for services, and recruiting staff.

## **6.0 Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An initial screening of the updated needs analysis has been carried out and found that the analysis has no adverse impact on service users.

## **7.0 Financial Impact Assessment**

7.1 The Commissioning Body has agreed to the funding of services which been identified via the needs analysis, within the budgetary restrictions relating particularly to funding pressures in future years within the Programme. These pressures will be addressed within the next Five-Year strategy incorporating a strategic review of investment.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

8.1 The Programme continues to commission services within its budgetary limits which meet identified need.

8.2 The Core Strategy Development Group noted the report on 11 November 2008 and agreed to recommend the updated needs analysis for adoption to the Commissioning Body.

8.3 Some members of the group noted that official data on homelessness only provides limited information on need. This is acknowledged in the needs analysis document itself. The analysis incorporates additional data from other statistics and research carried out by a number of agencies.

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

## **9.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Commissioning Body:

(i) Note the contents of the report.

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**Background Information:**

Kent Five-year Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010

Strategy Refresh 2008

Strategic Review of Floating Support Services in Kent November 2005

Strategic Review of Short-Term Accommodation-Based Supported Housing in  
Kent February 2007

Needs Analysis November 2006

Needs Analysis June 2007

Needs Analysis November 2007

Needs Analysis June 2008

**Appendix One: Summary of all strategically commissioned schemes**