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To: Supporting People Commissioning Body – October
2014

Subject: Supporting People Review

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary

The following paper gives information about the recent review of housing related support. It sets out a number of proposals about the integration of the services into the wider social care context, including revised governance arrangements.

Recommendations

The Commissioning Body is asked to:

- (1) Note and discuss this report
- (2) Agree the proposals sets out in paragraphs 5 (1) to (4) and timescales set out in 6 (1) to (3)

1. Introduction

- (1) Following the dissolution of the county council's Customer and Communities Directorate in April 2014 the Commissioned Services function has been transferred to the Social Care Health and Wellbeing Directorate. This included the element of the team responsible for the commissioning of housing related support services.
- (2) The change prompted a review of the current structures and arrangements for the commissioning of these services. The review was conducted between May and September 2014 and its initial findings are presented in this paper.

2. Context

- (1) Existing housing related support services broadly fall into four categories
 - **Services for young people**, including young offenders, young people leaving care and teenage parents
 - **Services for older people**; these include support within sheltered accommodation, community support and alarm services

- **Services for people with disabilities;** these include services for people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory impairments and people with mental health problems.
 - **Services for people considered socially excluded;** these include homeless people including homeless families and rough sleepers, offenders including mentally disordered offenders, people at risk of domestic abuse, gypsy travellers and more latterly ex-service personnel
- (2) Since its inception, the delivery of housing related support in Kent has been directed and guided by the Supporting People Commissioning Body. Membership consists of:
- The elected member and/or senior officer with the portfolio lead for housing in the twelve districts and boroughs
 - The portfolio holders and appropriate senior officers within the former Customer and Communities Directorate and Families and Social Care Directorates (now the Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Directorate)
 - The most appropriate senior officer within Public Health
 - The most appropriate senior officer within the Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company) formerly Kent Probation Trust.
- (3) There is an existing Memorandum of Understanding that sets out the role and responsibility of the Commissioning Body including the decision making process.
- (4) The Commissioning Body approved both a Strategy and Commissioning Plan that establish the principles and objectives for the service and how these should be delivered. It sets out intentions to reshape and reconfigure services to integrate, simplify and jointly commission services to shared strategic objectives.

3. Internal Review

- (1) An internal review of the service has been carried out. This had three elements:
- *Strategy and priorities* - to identify, map and analyse the key priorities of housing related support services with the current and future service and commissioning intentions of the Social Care Health and Wellbeing directorate and the wider council.
 - *Services and integration* - to articulate and establish options on how Commissioned Services is best integrated in to the Directorate.
 - *Governance and oversight* - to chart the existing governance arrangements together with related partnerships required in delivering housing related support. To map these to the current changes in the partnership landscape within and outside of KCC so as to ensure a strong strategic fit.

- (2) The views of the Core Strategy Group were sought at a workshop held on 1st September 2014.

4. Findings

- (1) There is synergy between most housing related support services and the commissioning intentions for adult social care. Prevention and early intervention services such as housing related support are integral to the county council's strategies for children's and adult social care. It is sensible that these services should be considered in the wider context of social care transformation.
- (2) There are opportunities and advantages in integrating the governance of these elements of the service with existing structures within the county council.
- (3) The team should be fully integrated into the directorate to best deliver directorate and whole council transformation.
- (4) Housing related support services delivers to socially excluded groups or cohorts not currently directly commissioned by adult social care, e.g. domestic abuse, homelessness and offenders
- (5) The current governance arrangements struggle to garner effective health representation and this is a potential barrier to integration and joint commissioning. Robust partnerships between housing, health and social care are essential in delivering health and wellbeing services.
- (6) The delivery of housing related support services requires continued effective partnerships with Districts and Boroughs, not least as housing authorities.
- (7) There is a range of well-placed alternative arrangements that could be considered to give appropriate expertise and oversight for the socially excluded cohorts outside the traditional social care groups. These include the Joint Policy and Planning Board, Kent Housing Group, the Kent and Medway Reducing Offending Board and the Community Safety Board. The inclusion of the local and county health and wellbeing boards should also be considered in any future arrangements.

5. Proposals for change

- (1) The governance of housing related support for Mental Health, Learning Disability, Older People and Physical Disability should be considered under the county council's Adults' Transformation Portfolio.

- (2) The governance of housing related support for Young People should be considered under the county council's Children's Transformation Portfolio.
- (3) Further detailed work is needed to establish the county council's views and plans for future provision for socially excluded cohorts outside traditional social care.
- (4) Once these views are established, appropriate governance arrangements should be put in place for these cohorts, taking into consideration of 4 (7) above.

6. Delivery timescales

- (1) It is proposed that the preparatory work to integrate the governance arrangements for Adults' and Children's services begins with immediate effect.
- (2) The views of the county council regarding those cohorts outside of social care should be established in December 2014.
- (3) A report will be brought to the January meeting of the Commissioning Body to summarise the progress of these changes. The report will make further recommendations based on the county council's view on future commitments to the socially excluded cohorts.

7. Conclusion

- (1) There is an opportunity to better align governance and delivery of housing related support services with the delivery and governance of the council's wider arrangements for social care.
- (2) Whilst in traditional cohorts there are existing structures to do this, for social excluded groups this is less straightforward.
- (3) The county council will decide its commitment to the social excluded groups. This will enable recommendations to be made regarding the future governance arrangements for these groups.

8. Recommendations

The Commissioning Body is asked to:-

- (1) Note and discuss this report
- (2) Agree the proposals sets out in paragraphs 5 (1) to (4) and timescales set out in 6 (1) to (3)

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