

REPORT

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

To: Supporting People in Kent Commissioning Body

19 March 2009

Subject: Growth Bids

Classification: Unrestricted

For Decision

Summary: This report outlines current progress in developing a new growth bid process and recommends an interim approach.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Commissioning Body asked for a renewed approach to the growth bid process. This was because it was felt that the Commissioning Body had no mechanism to satisfactorily determine whether the growth bids submitted met needs and priorities.

1.2 The Kent programme has tended to commission services following a strategic review (floating support, short-term supported housing, and older people's housing-related support services). The floating support referral mechanism has led to additional funding commitments being made on the basis of trends within the waiting list.

2.0 Developing a new approach

2.1 The Supporting People programme is currently in touch with other Administering Authorities in the South East. The Authorities that have been assisting us are; East Sussex, Medway, Oxfordshire and Southampton. We are hoping to broaden the discussion to other authorities.

2.2 Once we have concluded discussions with Administering Authority colleagues we will consult with the members of the Commissioning Body

individually to ensure that they are satisfied with the process before it is brought back to the Commissioning Body for final decision.

2.3 The Five Year Strategy and strategic review of investment will include a commissioning framework and development plan for future commissioning.

2.4 The exception to this position is the proposal for a direct access hostel in Thanet and a potential interim arrangement is required.

3.0 Service User Consultation

3.1 The service user panel will be consulted.

4.0 Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 An equality impact assessment will be conducted.

5.0 Financial Impact Assessment

5.1 All growth bids will need to be subject to a financial evaluation to ensure that the programme is able to sustain the cost in the medium to long-term.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 Following consultation with other Administering Authorities and key stakeholders within Kent a growth bid process will be recommended to the Commissioning Body in September 2009.

6.2 The delay in finalising the growth bid process is due to the need to ensure that no consultations take place with key stakeholders between April and June (elections).

6.3 An exception to the embargo on further growth bids being agreed until the process has been reviewed should be the potential need to develop a direct access hostel in Thanet and to put in place funding for an interim solution.

7.0 Recommendation

The Commissioning Body is asked to:

- (i) endorse the contents of the report
- (ii) agree to not approve growth bids until the process and framework has been determined

- (iii) agree the interim funding of a hostel prior to a direct access hostel being funded in Thanet

Claire Martin
Head of Supporting People
01622 221179

Ute Vann
Policy & Strategy Officer
01622 694825

Background Information: None