

By: Mark Lobban, Director of Strategic Commissioning, Social Care Health and Wellbeing

To: Supporting People Commissioning Body – January 2015

Subject: **PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO SOCIALLY EXCLUDED GROUPS AND FUTURE GOVERNANCE ARRANGMENTS**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The commissioning of housing related support has been transferred to Social Care Health and Wellbeing. Housing related support is also commissioned to assist groups of vulnerable people outside of the traditional social care groups such as victims of domestic abuse, rough sleepers and offenders. The paper outlines the county council's views on any ongoing commitment to these groups in order that future commissioning and governance arrangements can be planned.

Introduction

1. (1) At its October meeting the Commissioning Body received a report on the findings of the recent review of structures and arrangements for the commissioning of housing related support services in light of its transfer into the Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Directorate within the county council.
- (2) The review found that there were synergies between most housing related support services and commissioning intentions for adults and children's social care. It concluded that the commissioning of these services should be considered within the wider context of social care transformation under the governance of the county council's Adults Transformation Portfolio and 0-25 Transformation Portfolio respectively.
- (3) The review noted that a further consideration of the governance arrangements for socially excluded groups, who do not fall into traditional social care groups and do not directly fit into either of the transformation arrangements would be necessary.
- (4) The report highlighted the need for further, more detailed work to establish the county council's views and plans for future provision for those vulnerable people socially excluded namely;
 - Vulnerable homeless people including homeless families and rough sleepers,
 - offenders including mentally disordered offenders,
 - people at risk of domestic abuse,
 - gypsy/travellers
 - ex-service personnel

Current Context

2. (1) The council spends £7.4m on services in the socially excluded category for vulnerable people who are:-
 - **Vulnerable Homeless** – singles or families, including ex service personnel and rough sleepers (£4.64m)
 - **Offenders** (£648k)
 - **People at risk of Domestic Abuse** (£1.74m)
 - **People from Black and Ethnic Minority Communities** (£83k)
 - **Gypsy Travellers** (£18k)
- (2) Those who use these services present with highly complex needs and histories, and chaotic back grounds including mental health problems, offending, problematic use of drugs and alcohol and learning difficulties. These issues lie at the heart of their homelessness. Whilst they may not reach the threshold for statutory services, such as social care, without help their needs might escalate to levels that do require these more costly interventions.
- (3) Homelessness is governed by legislation and is the statutory responsibility of the district and borough councils. Vulnerable people who access KCC's services do receive advice and guidance from housing authorities but it is the support element, provided by these commissioned services, that prevent tenancies from breaking down leading to repeat homelessness, and an escalated call on public services including adult social care.

Key Issues

3. (1) The county council's view on its ongoing commitment to socially excluded groups was sought in a meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 4 December. Representatives of the Supporting People Core Strategy Group and Commissioning Body were given the opportunity to have their views represented.
- (2) The committee received a report outlining the purpose of the services and the county council's current financial commitment.
- (3) The report set out the preventative benefit of this provision and its value in diverting demand away from a wide range of statutory provision. The likely impact on the authority's own services and those of strategic partners such as the Police, districts, probation, CCGs and other NHS partners should the services cease was also highlighted.
- (4) Information was provided about the contractual make-up of these services and of the Commissioning Body's ambition to reshape them in light of the findings of the Needs Analysis conducted by the Chartered Institute of Housing in 2013/14. The committee was advised that savings were expected to be delivered as a result of this work via
 - Change in the configuration of contracts and reduction in their number,
 - A reduction in duplication of provision, within the local authority and that of its partners

- Defining, aligning and improving the preventative role to reduce demand on more expensive statutory services
- Increasing capacity by the reduction of artificial boundaries between services and delivering 3 pipeline schemes.

(5) The report drew attention to the requirement for strong effective partnerships with Districts and Boroughs, particularly in their capacity as housing authorities.

(6) The committee was asked to consider the information about these services and agree whether the council should continue to support them to enable future work to be done to reshape them.

Views of the Cabinet Committee

4. (1) The Committee noted the preventative value of the services for socially excluded groups.
- (2) The need to work closely with local housing authorities and other strategic partners such as Probation was also recognised.
- (3) The Committee agreed to continue support to these groups in order that they may be reshaped in a more efficient manner.

Alternatives and Options

5. (1) Having established and secured the support of the authority to continue to fund services for socially excluded groups, the future governance arrangements for the commissioning of these services can now be considered.
- (2) The delivery of housing related support services requires continued effective partnerships with Districts and Boroughs, The authority remains committed to working alongside its district and borough partners and their views will continue to be sought throughout any transition.
- (3) There are a range of well-placed alternative arrangements that could be considered to give appropriate expertise and oversight for the socially excluded cohorts e.g. 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.
- (4) In its September and December meetings, the Core Strategy Group has discussed a range of options and configurations of future oversight and a wide range of possibilities were expressed and considered.
- (5) Work continues to refine these views into a workable set of options from which a decision can be made

Recommendations

12. The Commissioning Body are asked

- a) To NOTE the decision of the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee to continue to support preventative services for socially excluded groups
- b) To DISCUSS alternative governance arrangements that would support the ambition that services across the socially excluded cohort should be better integrated and more clearly aligned with the preventative agenda.

Contact: Melanie Anthony
Tel No: 03000 417 208
e-mail: Melanie.Anthony@kent.gov.uk

Background Information:

[Agenda and Reports pack for the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee meeting of 4th December](#)