

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

To: Supporting People Commissioning Body – April 2015

Subject: **FUTURE CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS IN THE COMMISSIONING OF HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The commissioning of housing related support has been transferred to Social Care Health and Wellbeing. This paper summarises the council's recommendations on how it intends to include key strategic partners in future joint consultation arrangements.

Introduction

1. (1) The Commissioning Body has previously received two reports 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 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. Further consideration would be necessary to establish the consultation arrangements for the commissioning of services for those outside of traditional social care groups:-
 - Vulnerable homeless people, including homeless families and rough sleepers
 - People at risk of domestic abuse
 - Gypsy travellers
(3) The Core Strategy Group have discussed and considered alternative consultation arrangements in their meetings of September, December and February. This report summarises the conclusions of this group.

Current Context

2. (1) The delivery of housing related support services requires continued effective partnerships with Districts and Boroughs and other key strategic partners.

(2) In order to deliver to the commissioning strategy and to enable a broad collaborative approach, any revision to the consultation arrangements should include partners who are not currently represented yet have a strategic interest in future commissioning e.g. Kent Police, Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue service, CCGs.

(3) There are a range of existing well-placed expert groups with appropriate representative membership that could be considered to give expertise and oversight for the socially excluded cohorts.

Alternatives and Options

3 (1) In its February meeting, the Core Strategy Group concluded that alternative consultation arrangements within these groups and boards could be established for all within the socially excluded cohort.

(2) A summary of the Group's agreed proposed arrangements is provided in Appendix 1.

(3) The proposal will secure elected member oversight and influence, as well as strategic and operational overview at officer level. Use of these existing structures, with their broad membership would lend themselves well to future, collaborative joint commissioning of more holistic, joined up services.

Financial Implications

4 (1) The county council intends to use any residual reserve for its original purpose.

Recommendations

5. The Commissioning Body are asked to agree to:-

- a) Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health that the Commissioning Body is dissolved.
- b) Implement with immediate effect the revised consultation arrangements as set out in Appendix 1.

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Background Information:

Appendix 1 Summary of Alternative Consultation Arrangements