

REPORT

By: Angela Slaven - Director of Youth Services and Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT), Communities Directorate

To: Supporting People in Kent Commissioning Body

13 October 2009

Subject: **Update on the Implementation of the Recommendations from the Strategic Review of Short-Term Supported Accommodation.**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

For Decision

Summary: **This report provides a position statement in relation to the commissioning decisions resulting from the strategic review of short-term supported accommodation. This was agreed by the Commissioning Body in March 2007.**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Supporting People Programme carried out a strategic review of all short-term supported accommodation in the financial year 2006 to 2007. The report was presented to the Commissioning Body on 22 March 2007.

1.2 The recommendations included the development of a countywide Reconnection Policy and Move-on Accommodation Strategy. In addition, the commissioning of the following services was agreed:

- Commission an Outreach and Resettlement Service in East and West Kent.
- Re-designate two services for people with mental health problems: one service from a short-term to a long-term service, and one service to become a service for people with dual diagnosis.

1.3 The following short term accommodation based services were identified and prioritised;

- A dedicated service for young people at risk, including 16 and 17 year olds, in west Kent (within the Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells area)
- Dedicated services for people with mental health problems in Ashford and Tonbridge & Malling
- A dedicated service for people fleeing domestic abuse either in the Sevenoaks or the Tonbridge & Malling boroughs
- A service for people misusing substances (Alcohol) in west Kent
- A service for teenage parents in Maidstone

1.4 The Core Strategy Development Group and the Commissioning Body will need to consider as part of developing the Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015 and the strategic review of investment whether or not these services are still considered to be a priority and whether or not the commissioning of services should be reconsidered where little or no progress has been made in accessing planning permission, and grant funding from the Homes and Communities Agency. There may be other priorities which supersede the priorities which have been identified within the review.

2.0 What Has Happened Since?

2.1 The following services have been commissioned:

- A countywide outreach and resettlement service went live in January 2008 and was delivered by Porchlight at an initial 144 units. Due to demand for the service, these units were increased to 214 as from December 2008.
- A previously short-term accommodation-based service for people with mental health problems in Shepway has been re-designated as a long-term service and was reinstated as from November 2008.
- A dual diagnosis scheme is being developed in Dover District Council.

2.2 The other services to be newly commissioned are still at the planning or development stage as detailed at Appendix 1.

3.0 Interim Measures

3.1 The original financial forecasting had led to the conclusion that the new services would be up and running in the financial year 2010/11 and that a total funding of £820k would be required for these services.

3.2 The Commissioning Body agreed the recommendation by the Core Strategy Development Group that the Programme should fund floating support services to the relevant service users until the accommodation based services can be commissioned.

3.3 The commissioning of interim floating support services was based on converting the units of supported accommodation into units of standard floating support that allows for more vulnerable people to be supported. Therefore in the areas where floating support has been commissioned in advance of accommodation-based services opening, there will be a decrease in the number of floating support units available once the accommodation based service is opened.

3.4 The Commissioning Body agreed the proposal in March 2008 and the identified funding has been converted into 228 floating support units.

4.0 Service User Consultation

Service users in a wide range of client groups had been consulted as part of the original strategic review and their views were incorporated into the report and its recommendations.

5.0 Equality Impact Assessment

An external assessor carried out an Equality Impact Assessment of the report of the original report.

6.0 Financial Impact Assessment

The cumulative value of the recommendations was affordable within assumptions at the time.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 The strategic review of short term accommodation based supported housing has resulted in the strategic commissioning of a number of services that require Supporting People funding.

7.2 The review identified gaps in services for specific service user groups in particular districts and boroughs and the Commissioning Body agreed to address these identified needs.

7.3 There is still some work to be done to finalise the actual commissioning, contracting and tendering details. This work is underway and making progress. In the meantime, floating support services have been commissioned to be delivered until accommodation based services can be delivered.

7.4 The services identified will need to be reviewed on the basis of current and projected need and the progress or otherwise in the development of these services. Where planning permission has been sought, and grant funding has been allocated the process cannot and should not be halted, and this indicates that the services are needed. However, where this is not the case the situation will need to be reviewed as part of the development of the strategy and strategic review of investment.

7.5 The Core Strategy Development Group agreed the contents of the reports. Some members of the group raised similar concerns regarding the practicalities of planning for new services and how to deal with change as expressed at the report on the updated needs analysis. As set out in the recommendations of that report (see item no. 5) it was suggested working groups are to be set up to address these issues.

8.0 Recommendation

In the meantime, the Commissioning Body is asked to

- i) Note the contents of the report
- ii) Agree that as part of the strategic review of investment the commissioning of new services that have not progressed to the planning application stage is to be reviewed.

Claire Martin
Head of Supporting People
Tel: 01622 221179

Ute Vann
Policy and Strategy officer
Tel: 01622 694825

Background Information:

Final Report, Strategic Review of Short-Term Accommodation Based Supported Housing in Kent, 2007

Commissioning Body Report, Strategic Review of Short-Term Accommodation Based Supported Housing, March 2007

Commissioning Body Report, Budget and Growth, March 2008

Appendix 1: Strategic Commissioning of Supporting People Services

Appendix One Strategic Commissioning of Supporting People Services

District/Borough	Client group	Unit No.	Current Status	Planning Permission	Development Partner	SP Tendered for Provider	Likely Commencement Date
Accommodation							
Supported Housing (Tonbridge Wells)	Young people at risk	6	Subject to planning consent being obtained, shortly seeking members' approval to dispose of site owned by TWBC to Russet	Being sought	Circle Anglia		2010
Supported Housing (Tonbridge & Malling)	Young people at risk	9	Site secured via Section 106 agreement		Circle Anglia		2010
Supported Housing (Sevenoaks)	Young people at risk	6	No suitable sites in Sevenoaks. Investigating potential to share units with Tonbridge and Malling or develop scheme in Dartford.	-	-	-	N/A
Supported Housing (Dover)	Dual Diagnosis	11	Work continuing with Orbit to deliver this scheme. Planning application for general needs accommodation live (a further application for change of use to be made afterwards)	Planning application lodged, expiry date for decision is 30.10.09	Orbit		2010
Reinstated Mental Health Properties (Shepway)	Mental Health	9	Remodelled from short to long-term service, Provider Carr-Gomm			No	Operational and funded since November 2008
Maidstone	Teenage Parents	6	Maidstone Housing Trust looking for appropriate site.		Maidstone Housing Trust		N/A
Mental Health Scheme (Ashford)	Mental Health	6	Ashford BC and MH Accommodation Manager still looking to identify appropriate location for service				N/A
Mental Health Scheme (Tonbridge & Malling)	Mental Health	6	Dispersed housing project. Provider Richmond Fellowship			Yes	Operational and funded since April 2009
Refuge (Sevenoaks)	Women	16	Sevenoaks currently looking for				N/A

District/Borough	Client group	Unit No.	Current Status	Planning Permission	Development Partner	SP Tendered for Provider	Likely Commencement Date
and T&M)	Fleeing DV (8 in each district)		a site.				
West Kent	Misuse of Alcohol	12	Further work to be undertaken. Looking at potential to relocate service to North Kent.				N/A
Outreach & Resettlement (Rough Sleepers)	Floating Support (Kent Wide)	213				Yes	Operational and funded since January 2008
Interim Floating Support/ Accommodation Based Services: Sevenoaks, TW & T & M	Young People at Risk (18)	73	Provider Catch 22			Yes	All services operational and funded since April 2009
Ashford and T&M	Mental Health (12 in each district)	33	Provider Richmond Fellowship			Yes	
Sevenoaks & T&M	Women	45	Provider Carr-Gomm			Yes	
Maidstone	Fleeing DV (8 in each district)	27	Provider MHT			Yes	
West Kent	Teenage Parents (6) Misuse of Alcohol (12)	50	Provider Carr-Gomm			Yes	