

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 Housing Conditions and Neighbourhood Deprivation in Thanet**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

For Information

Summary: **This report provides a review of the interventions aimed at addressing housing issues and deprivation in two target wards of Cliftonville West and Margate Central. A first report was presented to the Commissioning Body in June 2009. The report details progress against some of the key actions identified.**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The first report to the Supporting People Commissioning Body, and Core Strategy Development Group detailed the challenges facing Margate. It set out the considerable efforts and successes in relation to regeneration. However, despite this deprivation levels have worsened in the last three years.

1.2 Cliftonville West and Margate Central have moved up the national deprivation rankings and have therefore been identified as being relatively more deprived on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007. Recent investment in the area will not bring about lasting change unless there is a 'step change' in the approach and level of resources/activity in the two wards.

1.3 There is an obvious role for the Supporting People Programme in working within a multi-agency context to assist in trying to resolve the issues that relate to Margate Central and Cliftonville West.

2.0 Context

2.1 A review of the Margate renewal programme resulted in a new plan for the two target wards where housing and social interventions are new major priorities. The focus is on reducing the number of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and substandard units and reducing the supply of low quality stock as well as addressing social conditions. However, this cannot be sustained without also reducing demand (i.e. new households coming in and placements into the area).

2.2 The delivery and success of the new plan requires a concerted and coordinated effort to tackle some of the wider challenges identified in previous reports such as the Thanet Inquiry, in particular out-of-area placements and provision of adequate health and social provision/interventions. The initiative to develop a multi-agency intervention is intended to focus on *supporting vibrant and cohesive communities* but provide a tactically critical activity to demonstrate the long term commitment of partners in the delivery of the housing strand.

2.3 The key partners (Thanet District Council, Kent County Council, Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT and the South East England Development Agency) have agreed to establish a comprehensive programme over a 5-10 year period to transform the housing and environment. This programme will include support to individuals and families, deliver skills and employment opportunities, reduce crime and create strong community cohesion.

2.4 The programme is one of the three projects in Kent which are run as pilots under the 'Total Place' initiative and will delve deeper into specific local issues in order to identify new ways of tackling them, with the emphasis on extending joined-up solutions and collectively tackling the obstacles. By mapping the total public expenditure in a geographical area, the programme looks to identify if monies can be used differently to make significant efficiencies and savings.

3.0 Planned Interventions

3.1 The inception meeting for the new approach took place in June 2009 and agreed on the following key activities:

- The development of a multi-agency 'task force' that will be responsible for strategic co-ordination, policy development, partnership working and delivery.
- The "Triple Aim" initiative currently being spearheaded by the Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT. Triple Aim is a concept designed to optimise the health system taking into account three dimensions when considering

intervention in a particular area: individual experience, identified health needs of the defined population and per capita cost for the population.

- The development of alternative proposals for placing vulnerable people in supported accommodation.
- Investigate the use of a new 'Clearing House' approach to direct vulnerable families towards alternative options inside as well as outside of Thanet. This would facilitate the placement of vulnerable people in temporary accommodation out with of the two wards where the greatest concerns are centred.

3.2 A core Steering Group will oversee the early development work and link with existing partnerships including the Margate Renewal Partnership Board and the Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

3.3 Appendix 1 contains a Margate Task Force diagram that illustrates how the task force fits within wider strategic partnerships and activities.

4.0 Update on Interventions/Activities

4.1 Development of the task force is being led by the Director of Thanet Works who has been seconded to get the task force up and running and will be looking at the extent to which public sector agencies are working together (the Triple Aim initiative is one construct within this partnership working). A broader dedicated reference group is to be set up that will include representatives from the different partner agencies. An initial draft action plan has been produced and can be found at Appendix 2.

4.2 Thanet District Council is looking for site for alternative intensive supported accommodation outside of Cliftonville for the vulnerable individuals currently residing at the hotel. They have in general high levels of support needs that cannot be met in existing supported housing. Thanet are looking at existing bed and breakfast accommodation in the two wards, and investigating appropriate alternative means of meeting needs.

4.3 The Joint Policy and Planning Board (housing) (JPPB(H)) evaluated the potential for a Clearing House. The JPPB(H) have reported back to the Safer and Stronger Communities Group and confirmed that they do not think that this is an option that should be pursued at the moment.

4.4 The JPPB(H) have however agreed a new countywide protocol on how to deal with households placed in temporary/emergency accommodation. The measures agreed include information sharing between placing agency and Local Housing Authority, keeping such placements to a minimum time and ensuring that vulnerable households are referred for housing-related support. There was also recognition of collective responsibility to ensure that more

vulnerable people do not end up in Thanet than in the rest of Kent and that provision must be made for this.

4.5 The Head of Supporting People has joined the Thanet 'Task Force' and attends regular meetings.

5.0 Financial Impact Assessment

5.1 The Commissioning Body has already agreed to the possibility of a Floating Support/Outreach Service being commissioned as part of the multi-agency task force.

5.2 The other potential intervention is an intensive accommodation based short term supported housing scheme designed to meet the high levels of support needs of the most vulnerable adults that will be displaced by the housing renewal activity. Any financial contribution would need to be agreed by the Commissioning Body.

5.3 Neither of the schemes has yet been costed. It would be possible to scope the cost of the floating support based on recent tenders. It is also possible to base costings for the accommodation based scheme on current funding of other comparable services once there is greater clarity about the number of bed-spaces required.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 The report details key activities identified to be undertaken in order to address housing and social conditions in two wards in Margate: Cliftonville and Margate Central. Both wards experience high levels of multiple deprivation, polarisation of the housing market in private rented properties (often HMOs) and a concentration of often highly vulnerable populations.

6.2 Key stakeholders have agreed to multi-agency intervention through key interventions including the establishment of a Margate Task Force.

6.3 The report provides information on progress on developments since the last report was presented to the governance bodies and confirms that growth bids are likely to be made for a new type of floating support/outreach service to work within the Task Force, and an intensive supported housing scheme.

6.4 The Core Strategy Development Group agreed to recommend the report to the Commissioning Body but requested that the concepts of 'Total Place' and 'Triple Aim' be expanded on. This has been done.

6.5 This report incorporates new developments that have taken place since it has been presented to the Core Strategy Development Group.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 The Commissioning Body is asked to:

- i) Note the contents of the report.

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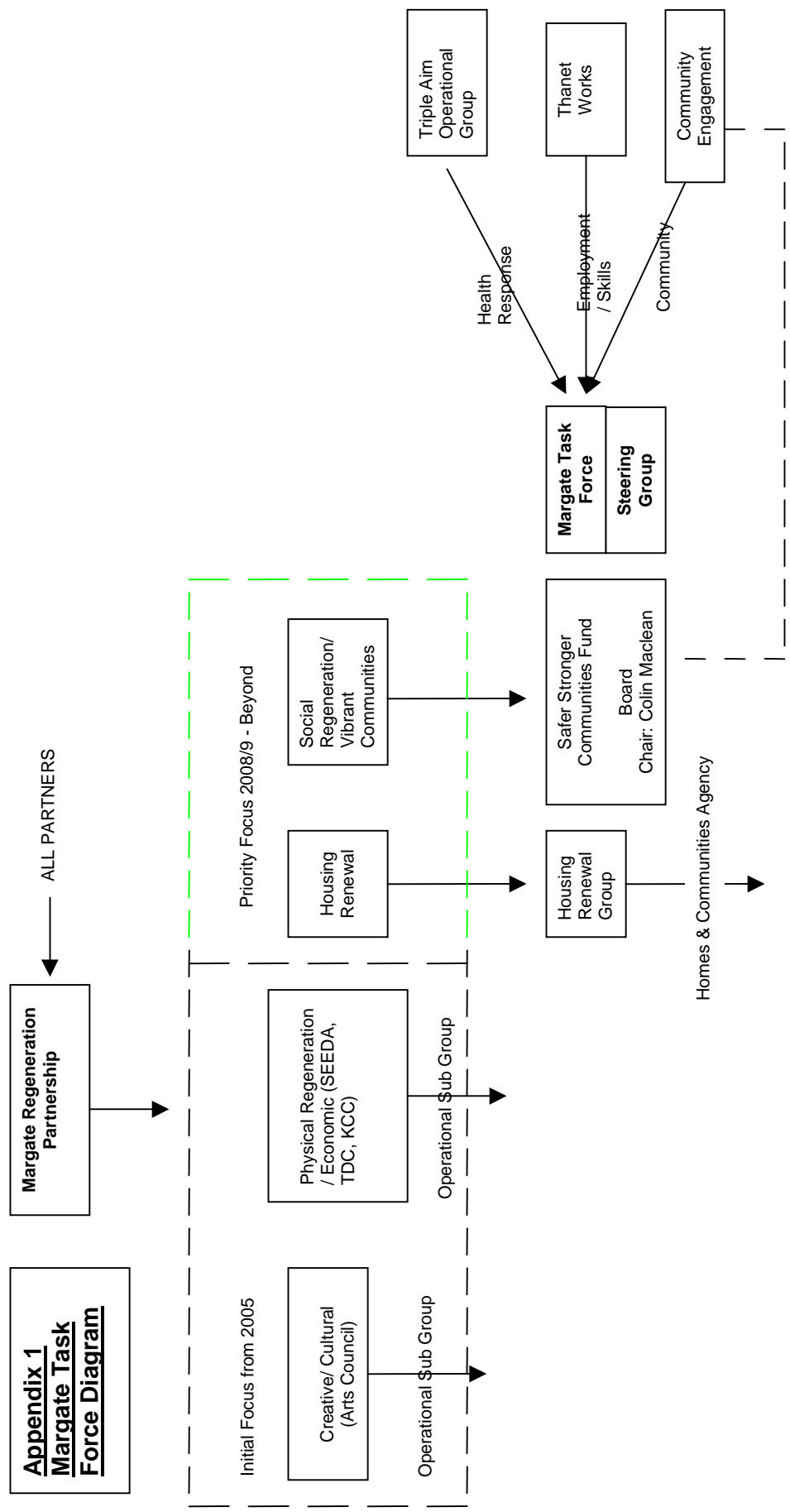
Background Information:

- 1. Margate Draft Renewal Framework and Implementation Plan, 2007/08*
- 2. Thanet Inquiry: Report of the Kent Child Protection Committee Inquiry into the general concerns expressed by officers and politicians in the Thanet area*
- 3. Margate Renewal Study, Shared Intelligence 2008*

Appendix 1: Margate Task Force Diagram

Appendix 2: Margate Task Force Draft Action Plan

Appendix 1
Margate Task
Force Diagram



Appendix 2 Margate Task Force - Draft Action Plan (17/07/09)

Theme	Action	Timescale	Lead
Strategic/Leadership Direction			
	1. Initiative led by a Steering Group including 3 Chief Officers from KCC, TDC, PCT.	20-Jul	Amanda Honey
	2. Full action plan presented to 3 Chief Officers. Full action plan to be sent for comments to all champions from the meeting held on 8th June.	14 July/20 July	Colin Maclean/Amanda Honey
	3. Steering Group Terms of Reference and action plan to be considered/approved at next meeting.	August	Colin Maclean
	4. Director post to report to Steering Group.	20 July	Colin Maclean
	5. Final action plan to be presented to the MRP Board.	1 October	Colin Maclean/Amanda Honey/Richard Samuels
	6. Joint meeting of KCC/TDC Cabinets and PCT Board planned.	Late Autumn	Richard Samuels
Operational Management Approach			
	7. Identify 1 or 2 people from each agency who can be committed to a dedicated team working to the Director. Initial core to be formed from Triple Aim Project Manager (Penny Myles); KCC Policy Officer (Tim Woolmer); Administrator (to be funded by FJF/Thanet Works).		ALL/Colin Maclean
	8. Group of others (at senior management level) to come together with Director/facilitator- to get their views and achieve buy-in.	August/Sept	Colin Maclean/Andy Scott-Clark
	9. Scope the business case and opportunities for a base which provides optimum co-locational potential.	TBC	Colin Maclean
Team/Services Development			
	10. Resource mapping exercise	Summer	Colin Maclean
	11. Key service agencies/teams to be identified and mapped against local priorities.	Summer	Colin Maclean
Community Involvement			
	12. Bring together a core group of community reps to act as the client for oversight of the Community Involvement activity (building on the SSCF Board model)	August	Colin Maclean
	13. Identify core outcomes and develop and agree the key tasks e.g. mapping, communications, meetings to achieve the next phase of engagement. This is likely to involve commissioning external and internal capacity through Total Place.	August	Colin Maclean/All

Source: Colin Maclean, Director, Thanet Works, Head of Partnerships KCC