

**Draft Minutes of the Core Strategy Development Group  
Tuesday 17 November 2009  
Medway Room, Sessions House, 10am**

**Present:**

Pat Smith	Vice Chair – Sevenoaks DC
Angela Slaven	Director, Youth and Community Support Services
Claire Martin	KCC - Supporting People Team
Mike Barrett	Porchlight on behalf of Executive Board of Providers
Alison Haines	Dartford BC
Janet Walton	Tonbridge & Malling BC
Tim Hammond	Swale BC
Paul Whitfield	Dover DC
Nicola Martin	Maidstone Housing Trust
Ashley Stacey	Thanet DC
Adrian Hammond	Shepway DC
Dave Woodward	Kent Adult Social Services Mental Health Commissioning
Ute Vann	KCC – Supporting People Team
Dawn Apcar	KCC – Supporting People Team
Bob Backhouse	Chair of Service User Panel
Sonia Hicks	Invicta Telecare for Russet Homes
Helen Curtis	Lifeways WKHA
Melanie Anthony	KCC – Supporting People Team
Lesleigh Bounds	KDAAT
Alison Gilmour	Kent & Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Group
Richard Robinson	Ashford BC
Chris Cox	Kent Youth Offending Service
Helen Clarke	Tunbridge Wells BC
Kaks Chahal	Maidstone BC
Lisa Watson	Gravesham BC
Jay Edwins	NHS West Kent
Jacqui Bainbridge	Moat Housing Group
Margaret Turner (Minutes)	KCC - Supporting People Team

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Election of Chair</b></p> <p>Pat Smith the Vice Chair, confirmed that the Supporting People Programme was now part of the Communities Directorate. Caroline Highwood was therefore standing down as the Chair of the Core Strategy Development Group. The proposal was that Angela Slaven should take on the responsibility for Chairing the Core Strategy Development Group. Angela Slaven was nominated by Mike Barrett and seconded by Sonia Hicks. Angela Slaven was duly elected and</p>
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	chaired the remainder of the meeting.
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from;</p> <p>Caroline Highwood, Chair (Kent Adult Social Services)  Cathi Sacco, Kent Adult Social Services  Janet Hughes, Kent Adult Social Services  Rose Ellison, Maidstone Housing Trust  Charlie Beaumont, Youth Offending Service  Allyson Puxley, Amicus Horizon  Deborah White, West Kent Housing Association</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Introductions</b>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p> <p><b>Action Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item 3 - Feedback from the provider meeting about generic floating support has been received by the Supporting People team.</li> <li>• Item 5 – The Supporting People team proposed that the workshops be set up once the next Five Year Strategy 2010 – 2015 has been agreed.</li> <li>• Item 10 - The link to the Live it Well website will be sent to the Supporting People team for them to forward to the group's members.</li> </ul> <p>Separate Action Sheets to be set up in the future.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Performance Management</b></p> <p>It was explained that the Performance Management report was very brief this time due to late publication of performance information by CLG and poor outcome data returns from the Centre for Housing Research at St Andrews.</p> <p>The group asked if an alternative framework could be set up in Kent and managed locally. The Supporting People team explained that we do have to assume some reliance on the CLG infrastructure whilst it is still in place. The Supporting People team also explained that in some instances the information input by providers is the problem. The team make every effort to try and ensure that providers understand their duties and responsibilities in relation to the inputting of information that is fed into to client records, workbooks, and outcomes. The Supporting</p>

	<p>People team also plans to hold further outcome training in the new year.</p> <p>Providers feel the recent problems with the CHR may undermine provider confidence and affect their participation in the framework. There is a facility on the site for providers to monitor their own data, but this currently attracts a charge to CHR.</p> <p>It was agreed that providers should continued to be made aware of the significance of the framework to the future of the programme in Kent and their contractual obligations to supply it. The Audit Commission had made it clear that they will evaluate performance on the basis of Outcomes returns. The Outcome returns might prove pivotal to future investment in the Programme in Kent. The team monitor returns closely and discuss performance with providers by service, where there are concerns. The monitoring and review officers will only award A grades on the basis of exemplary performance against the Quality Assessment Framework and overall performance from April onwards. The Programme also audits work book and outcome returns.</p> <p>A question was asked about the values in Table 1.4 relating to the Grant and Contracts. It was reported that there is likely to be an overspend in 2012/13 or earlier if the funding from the CLG is reduced. The Supporting People team is using the underpsend from previous years to fund additional capacity within floating support within the current contractual period.</p> <p>The contents of the report were noted.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Kent Supporting People Five Year Strategy 2010 - 2015</b></p> <p>This report included the first draft of the Five Year Strategy 2010 – 2015 and will be presented to the Commissioning Body in December 2009. It is proposed that a second draft will go the Core Strategy Development Group in February 2010 and the Commissioning Body for decision in March 2010. The Supporting People team will also be presenting the strategy to various groups within Kent County Council for comment and information.</p> <p>Consideration needs to be given as to whether there is overprovision in some areas and for some client groups? The Supporting People Programme will need to carefully manage any decommissioning of services with assistance from partners including registered social landlords. The decisions made within the strategy should be made in full knowledge of any risks and with appropriate implementation which takes full account of the situation for providers and service users as far as practicable.</p>

The Chair of the Executive Board of Providers said that they would like to see a greater emphasis on joint working, particularly between providers. The group agreed that there needs to be further consideration given to how providers can become more efficient by cooperating on the reduction in costs in relation to training development and tendering. The programme would actively encourage the usage of consortia as an approach to delivering Supporting People services.

Russet Homes commented that it is difficult for providers to be innovative if their contract is only for 2 years. The meeting was advised by the team that funding from the Communities and Local Government Department (CLG) is confirmed for 1 year only and then indicative figures only are given for the subsequent 2 years. Kent County Council cannot put itself in a position where its contractual liabilities extend beyond the funding provided by the CLG.

There was concern about the level of engagement in Local Strategic Partnerships. The Group felt that there was not enough recognition given to the Programme by LSPs. The team confirmed that the profile of the Programme was relatively high within the over-arching body of the Kent Partnership but that there did need to be more of a profile within local LSPs. This had been achieved in the lead up to the Inspection, but not since then. There is anxiety that once the Programme comes within the auspices of area based grant that it may prove vulnerable to the funding being diverted from housing related support to fund other Programmes. The Audit Commission might act as a safeguard against this. The expectation was that socially excluded groups would have their needs addressed by councils, and the Programme was a major contributor to this.

Swale Borough Council felt that there may be overprovision of older person's accommodation based and floating support services. The Supporting People team acknowledged that the issue of older people is particularly sensitive. The strategy should look at the level of older people funding/investment in each area and if perhaps there is other funding available via housing benefit for concierge services, or recognition that other statutory and non-statutory services are being delivered to those older people. The draft Strategy has acknowledged that there is a lack of investment in services for older people in owner occupied and private rented accommodation except in the delivery of HIA/Handypersons services, and that this is something that needs to be recognised.

There are some Category 2 sheltered housing schemes where housing related support is indicated as being an integral part of the tenancy agreement.

It was commented that the Strategy identifies the main socially

	<p>excluded groups but further research was being continually undertaken to ensure that any emerging trends are recognised. It was pointed out that there is a specialist BME service in north Kent. The Strategy could revisit support to other groups. The Strategy recommends a review of housing related support for gypsy and traveller communities and this can be extended to minority ethnic communities across Kent. It was agreed that every effort would be made to identify BME issues within each client group, and to look at specific services that might be required to ensure that BME groups are not materially disadvantaged.</p> <p>There was a discussion around whether access should be restricted to people who are from Kent because of the number of people from outside of the county being placed in services within Kent, with the exceptions of certain primary client groups such as people escaping domestic violence and offenders. This initiative was dependent on Grant Conditions and a full evaluation of net importation into the County and the impact that this is having on the Programme. Grant Conditions currently do not allow local connection criteria to be imposed for short – term supported housing. The consensus was that this needs to be approached with care and consideration, but the general principle of trying to deliver services that meet the needs of the most vulnerable in Kent is a key objective.</p> <p>The strategy document was recommended for consultation to the Commissioning Body. Members of the Core Strategy Development Group are asked to provide feedback to the Supporting People team by the end of January 2010.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Strategic Review of Home Improvement Agencies</b></p> <p>The Supporting People team will be undertaking a review of Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs) in tandem with the Five Year Strategy 2010 – 2015. There has been a difficulty in accessing consistent, cohesive, and comparable performance management data across the three providers of services. Consideration would be given as to whether the In House agencies should remain or if there should be a countywide HIA or one in the east and one in the west of the county. The review will also look at the support HIAs provide now and what they might provide in the future. The objective was to make sure that HIAs are social enterprises able to generate income and deliver a range of services to enable vulnerable owner occupiers and private rented tenants to remain in the community. There was a need for full flexibility to generate income, and make some service delivery elements potentially self –financing e.g. handy person services.</p> <p>The review was welcomed.</p> <p>After further discussion the proposed strategic review of HIAs was</p>

	agreed. Report recommended to go to the Commissioning Body.
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Links between Kent Adult Social Services and Supporting People</b></p> <p>The purpose of this report was to highlight the importance of maintaining links with Kent Adult Social Services now that Supporting People sits within the Communities Directorate.</p> <p>The contents of the report were noted and the report recommended to the Commissioning Body.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Glossary</b></p> <p>This is a standard item.</p> <p>ERoSH to be added to the Glossary.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A paper will eventually be going to the Kent Children's Trust on accommodation and young people.</li> <li>• The dates for the Core Strategy Development Group in 2010 were given out.</li> </ul>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Meeting dates for 2010 commencing at 10am</b></p> <p>Tuesday 9 February – Medway room, Sessions House  Tuesday 11 May – Medway room, Sessions House  Tuesday 10 August – Medway room, Sessions House  Tuesday 2 November – Rooms Swale 1 and 2</p>