

REPORT

By: Angela Slaven – Director of Youth and Community
Support Services, Communities Directorate

To: Supporting People in Kent Commissioning Body

16 December 2009

**Subject: Links between Kent Adult Social Services and
Supporting People**

Classification: Unrestricted

For Information

**Summary: The report highlights the importance of on-going links
between Kent Adult Social Services and Supporting
People and sets out areas of joint working.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Since its inception in 2001, the Supporting People Programme has been part of the Kent Adult Social Services (KASS) Directorate. Business planning for KASS included the programme and members of the Supporting People team have worked closely with colleagues in KASS.
- 1.2 In September 2009, the Supporting People Programme transferred to the Communities Directorate within KCC.
- 1.3 The transfer will not affect continued close working with KASS in areas of common interest. The following sections set out the key strategic links and key areas of joint work required over the next few years.

2.0 Context

- 2.1 The Supporting People Programme delivers housing-related support to a wide range of vulnerable people. A high proportion of its services are delivered to groups for whom KASS has statutory responsibilities: older people, people with physical/sensory disabilities (including people living with HIV/Aids), people with learning disabilities and people with mental health problems.

2.2 Both KASS and Supporting People share common values of promoting independence and providing preventative services in communities where vulnerable people feel secure.

2.3 Both KASS and Supporting People contribute to the council's corporate objectives of improved health and quality of life and a safer Kent. Supporting People services also contribute to KASS achieving its objectives of supporting vulnerable people to live independently in their own homes.

3.0 Strategic Links between KASS and Supporting People

3.1 The strategic links between KASS and Supporting People are rooted in three major policy areas where input/partnership work with Supporting People is vital to achieve the objectives.

3.2 Active Lives – The council's aspirations for KASS looking to 2016 include commitments to:-

- Work with partners including Supporting People to influence strategic housing issues including local development frameworks reflecting needs of disabled people.
- Personalisation agenda: implementing a person-centred approach that gives individuals direct control over resources (direct payments, individualised budgets), involves people directly in planning and developing future services, and planning support in a way which focuses on an individual's needs.

3.3 Kent's Policy Framework for Later Life – The main thrust of this initiative is to enable and maintain the opportunity for older people to live independently in their own homes as an alternative to residential or nursing care. It is planning for the:-

- Demographic changes and making the most of the opportunities which this brings as well as addressing the challenges.
- Future housing needs and providing a range of housing options that older people can select as their circumstances change.

3.4 Safeguarding – A paper dedicated specifically to the subject of safeguarding is presented as another agenda item to the Commissioning Body.

4.0 Key Area where Joint Work is required

4.1 Excluding safeguarding, the key area where joint work is required is the development of support that helps vulnerable people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible.

4.2 Joint working will encompass strategic planning, development and consultations with regard to the following:-

- Developing and implementing the Kent Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015.
- Developing and enhancing the role and scope of Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs) and Handyperson services in improving vulnerable people's living conditions and hence help to enhance their quality of life, and enable them to continue living in greater safety their own homes as part of local communities.
- Supported housing for older people
- Evaluating the possibility of embedding self directed support into the programme

4.3 Members of the Supporting People team will continue attending the appropriate KASS meetings, for example those relating to KASS housing strategy and policy.

5.0 Financial Impact Assessment

5.1 The financial impact of maintaining on-going links and partnership working between KASS and Supporting People should not have any material impact on budgets.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 It is important that there are on-going links between KASS and Supporting People.

6.2 Excluding safeguarding, major areas of joint working are the development and implementation of the Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015, and developing the role and scope of Home Improvement Agencies.

7.0 Recommendations

The Commissioning Body is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report.

Claire Martin
Head of Supporting People
01622 221179

Ute Vann
Policy and Strategy Officer
01622 694825

Background Information:

Active Lives (2006-2016)

Kent's Framework for Later Life (2009)

Report The Kent Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015 (see Item)

Report Safeguarding Links between Supporting People and KASS (see Item)