

REPORT

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To: Supporting People in Kent Commissioning Body

16 December 2009

Subject: The Kent Five-Year Supporting People Strategy 2010-15

Classification: Unrestricted

For Decision

Summary: The report presents the first draft of the Kent Supporting People Strategy 2010-15 and provides details of the objectives and strategic priorities over the next five years. The final draft of the strategy will be presented to the Kent Commissioning Body in March 2010 for decision. It will be accompanied by a commissioning plan based on the agreed strategic objectives and actions and the strategic review of investment.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Supporting People Programme is funded by the Communities and Local Government Department. The Programme is currently expected to spend just under thirty five million on housing related support services this financial year. These services enable vulnerable people to maintain their housing situation, and therefore contribute to the overall well-being of people within Kent. The Programme is a key contributor to the Local Area Agreement and promotes independence and contributes to the prevention agenda.
- 1.2 The Programme is committed to developing a five-year strategy that will be delivered by 2015. This will be within the context of a potential change of government, economic uncertainty, and potential cuts to public sector funding. This could lead to a reduction in funding of four million pounds by 2011/12.

2.0 Context

- 2.1 The Programme will become part of the Area Based Grant. The Audit Commission is expecting the Programme to continue to deliver within an Outcomes Framework, and the Programme will form part of the evaluation within the Comprehensive Area Assessment. There is also an expectation that services will become more person-centred.
- 2.2 The strategy is being developed within the framework of needs and supply analysis. Consultations with key stakeholders, and within assumptions relating to grant funding.
- 2.3 The strategic review of investment currently being finalised will inform the commissioning plan that will accompany the strategy and in turn, is informed by the strategic directions contained within the strategy document.

3.0 The Kent Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015

- 3.1 The vision is working in partnership to deliver well planned, value for money, high quality housing support services for vulnerable people and that are:-
 - accessible to those who need them;
 - promote independence and well being;
 - enable people to take control over their lives and to participate fully in the social and economic life of their communities; and
 - where appropriate complement existing care and support services.”
- 3.2 The strategic objectives are:-
 - To target resources on clearly evidenced support needs of vulnerable people living in Kent’s communities
 - To commission services that help the Programme’s partner agencies to deliver their priorities, contribute to achieving targets prioritised by the Local Area Agreement
 - To generate additional income to reduce reliance for funding on the Programme
 - To deliver efficient services that demonstrate value for money
 - To improve fair access and diversity to existing services
 - To ensure vulnerable people move on to independent living in timely fashion
 - Service user involvement at the core of the programme
- 3.3 The commissioning priorities for additional services are:-
 - Young people at risk (including young offenders)

- People who have mental health problems as well as substance misuse problems (dual diagnosis)
- Single homeless people
- Families with support needs (including teenage parents)

3.4 Key activities to achieve the priorities include:-

- Decommissioning of services that are not strategically relevant
- Limiting the maximum hours of support within long term supported housing and limiting the duration of floating support to one year
- Reviewing eligibility and reconnection policies
- Redressing the balance between accommodation-based services and floating support
- Retender all floating support services (and withdraw specialist provision from certain client groups)
- More joint funding of services
- Prevent practices restricting access to and throughput through services

4.0 Service User Consultation

4.1 During the Supporting People Service User Conference in December 2008, the Supporting People team held workshops scoping how service users want to be involved in the development of the strategy.

4.2 During the development of the strategy the Supporting People Team consulted with 72 service users as part of a range of focus groups. Members of the service user panel attended the consultation conference in September 2009.

4.3 A further 250 service users provided feedback through electronic surveys.

4.4 Consultation with the service user panel on this strategy will be undertaken.

5.0 Next Steps

5.1 The draft strategy will be distributed for feedback as well as presented to various bodies of stakeholders in the Programme.

5.2 The consultation timetable is as follows:

Fig. 1 Consultation Timetable

Deadline	Event
17 Dec 09	Draft Strategy presented at Commissioning Body
Dec 09	Draft Strategy and consultation feedback form distributed to stakeholders
Dec 09 – Feb 10	Draft Strategy presented to and feedback sought from stakeholders including service user panel, Adult Social Services, Children, Families and Education, Communities, Kent Partnership and Cabinet
1 Feb 10	End of consultation period
Feb 10	Amendments made to draft strategy
Mar 10	Final strategy presented to Commissioning Body for approval, accompanied by Commissioning Plan and Annual Plan 2010-2011

6.0 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An initial screening of the strategy has been carried out and found that there is no adverse impact on the different groups of service users. A further screening will be carried out when the commissioning plan is presented.

7.0 Financial Impact Assessment

7.1 The financial impact of the strategy relates to expenditure within a limited budget and addressing the projected overspend by 2012 and the potential cut in grant funding.

7.2 The new five-year strategy (and any appropriate transitional arrangements) will be fully costed, as part of the commissioning plan to be presented at the next meeting.

8.0 Conclusion

8.1 The report presents the draft of the Kent Five-Year Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015. It summarises the strategic objectives and commissioning priorities over the next five years and proposes measures to achieve the objectives.

8.2 A first draft was presented to the Core Strategy Development Group and following initial feedback was amended. The Supporting People team

also amended supply data contained within the strategy to reflect recent contract changes.

- 8.3 The consultation period on the draft strategy will last to 1 February 2010. A framework for commenting on the strategy will be distributed electronically.
- 8.4 The objectives and priorities set out in the strategy will be translated into a commissioning plan which will be based on the strategic review of investment. The final report on the strategic review and the commissioning plan will be presented at the next meeting of the Commissioning Body.
- 8.5 The document will be posted on the Kent County Council website www.kent.gov.uk/supportingpeople

9 Recommendations

The Commissioning Body is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report.
- (ii) Make initial comment on the Draft Kent Supporting People Strategy 2010-15 (Appendix 1).
- (iii) Agree to the Supporting People team starting formal consultation on the draft strategy.

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Background Information:

Five-Year Kent Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010
Annual Plans 2003-2008
Strategy Refresh, June 2008
Report Developing the Supporting People Strategy 2010-2015

Appendix 1: Draft Kent Supporting People Strategy 2010-15