

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Adult & Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Committee **13th December 2006**

Report Title **Supporting People – Progress Report**

Summary This report updates on progress on implementing the Improvement Plan for Supporting People.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommendation decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members Councillor F McCarney, Councillor M Stanley, Councillor Mrs J Compton, Councillor R Dodd, Councillor R Randev
- Cabinet Member Councillor C Hayfield
- Chief Executive
- Legal Jane Pollard, Alison Hallworth
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils

Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

**Adult and Community Services
Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13th December 2006**

Supporting People – Progress Report

**Report of the Strategic Director of Adult,
Health & Community Services**

Recommendations

- That the Committee consider the content, actions and recommendations of the report and approve the proposed next steps in the Supporting People governance and needs analysis work.
- That all Members agree to continue to raise the profile and importance of the Supporting People Programme in their localities and provide regular feedback to the Accountable Officer on emerging local issues and priorities.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Making good progress with improvements to our Supporting People programme is a critical requirement of our current Corporate, Directorate and partnership agenda.
- 1.2 On 17 August 2006 the Committee was asked to note the Audit Commission Supporting People Programme Inspection judgements and consider the report submitted to the Leaders Liaison Group on 29th June 2006. The following report to the Committee highlights the progress to date in responding to the judgements and recommendations of the Audit Commission report and highlights the requirement on all officers and members to ensure we have a high level of confidence about the results of our next inspection in October 2007.
- 1.3 Key events and meetings have occurred since the last Scrutiny meeting that have been influential in shaping and defining the next steps and actions for the programme. These include:
- Meeting with the Audit Commission lead Inspector for Supporting People and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) lead on 13th October 2006
 - The Big Event – 3rd October 2006. Organised by the Supporting People Team to capture views from the people of Warwickshire on current and future supported housing services.

- A Partnership Workshop on 16th October that reviewed the current Governance arrangements and reviewed the Needs Assessment framework and analysis developed to date.

1.4 It is now important that the commitment and ownership required for the programme to improve is increasingly evident in the actions and key decisions that are made by all contributors. A summary of the key issues and outcomes from the recent key activities is outlined below.

2. Meeting with the Audit Commission Inspector and Department for Communities and Local Government lead (DCLG) – 13 October 2006

2.1 The meeting was the first opportunity since the published Audit Commission judgement to update the inspectors about our initial responses and activities to address the report recommendations. At the meeting the Inspector and lead officer received an outline of the Directorates approach to integrating Supporting People into the joint commissioning developments. Both were reassured both by this approach and also by the specific initiatives focused on producing well documented approaches to needs analysis, community engagement, and diversity and equality standards. The Inspector and lead officer commented and noted our 'determined progress' to accelerate improvements on the programme. The DCLG lead also proposed that their team could further support the preparation of a joint improvement plan to help ensure that the Programme achieves a successful re-inspection. The Inspector confirmed that the next inspection would commence in the autumn of 2007.

2.2 In addition, the lead Inspector offered a pre-inspection audit at a fee to be discussed, that would identify the key actions required six months before the inspection is due. The Inspector suggested that the pre-audit would identify any additional work required to ensure a successful result.

2.3 Both the Inspector and the lead officer from DCLG offered to discuss with Supporting People and Warwickshire's governance groups what excellence in a supporting people programme represents. Clearly this is an offer we would want to accept, once new governance structures are in place.

3. Actions agreed following the discussions with Inspectors

3.1 Bi-monthly progress meetings will be scheduled between Supporting People and the Audit Commission to assess the progress on the improvement plan whilst also reviewing the quality of the evidence that underpins these and other specific developments. Actions will be agreed with the Inspector following the discussions, to agree any performance gaps and ensure our position continues to improve.

- 3.2 The initial diagnostic meeting will assess our progress to date and ensure our improvement plan is set up to deliver the right outcomes and provide regular progress monitoring. The meeting to carry out the diagnostic is on the 10th, 13th and 14th November 2006.
- 3.3 The Supporting People team will agree with the Inspectors the arrangements and timetable for the development of a joint improvement plan. The Supporting People Plan will be integral to the current Adult Health and Social Care Service Plan and will be closely aligned to and reflected within local Housing Strategies.
- 3.4 The Inspector also suggested that contact with the Director in Lincolnshire would be helpful as this Council is making good progress having been inspected and ranked as a double zero.

4. The 'Big Event'

- 4.1 The Supporting People Team organised a major community engagement event on 3 October 2006 that was held at the Agricultural Grounds, Stoneleigh. This was a very successful day, with over 450 attendees. Its aim was to consult on the needs analysis issues and gather the views of service users and the wider Warwickshire community on current and future commissioning priorities. Key results and feedback from the event were presented at the Partnership Day on 16th October to inform the discussions and agreements.

5. 16th October – Supporting People Partnership Event

- 5.1 All key players currently involved in the Supporting People Programme were invited to an event on 16 October and reviewed two key improvement areas.

5.2 Governance Arrangements

- 5.2.1 The first objective was to review and agree with the members of the three primary partnership groups (Partnership Board, Commissioning Body and the Strategy Group) what changes would ensure delivery and appropriate oversight of the Supporting People programme
- 5.2.2 Several models from Councils who had been ranked as good or better following a Supporting People Inspection were circulated to attendees in advance of the discussions. Three models were circulated, with Oxfordshire the favoured and most comparable model to Warwickshire and the detail of these respective arrangements considered in detail within work groups. Agreement from the governance discussions included:

5.3 Actions and Agreements on Governance:

- 5.3.1 The Accountable Officer agreed to lead the development and production of a one stage model that is simple, takes account of and builds upon better practices of successful partnerships and has sound scrutiny arrangements with clear accountabilities for all. The Warwickshire model will be drafted and circulated in time for the joint supporting people programme meeting of 14 December 2006.
- 5.3.2 The membership of the governance arrangements will be refreshed, ensuring that we have the right people at the right level with the right responsibilities to appropriately advance the programme. The Strategic Director is also convening a meeting on 1st November with the Leaders, Chief Executives and portfolio leads for housing of the Borough and District Councils to advance the commitment and ownership at senior and elected member level to deliver a successful Supporting People programme. Similar meetings with senior officers of all Districts and Boroughs are currently taking place to help raise the profile of the Directorate's developments, particularly the work underway as part of the SP programme.
- 5.3.3 Renewed commitment and ownership by all players involved in the Supporting People Programme to the new arrangements will be underwritten by January/February 2007.
- 5.3.4 Partners will sign up to new agreement, including the principles, vision and outcomes required from the new arrangements prior to re-launch.
- 5.3.5 The new arrangements will be implemented with a review in 12 months time, having performance managed progress to clear indicators of success and commonly agreed priorities
- 5.3.6 Interim arrangements will commence with joint rather than separate meetings between the Partnership Board and the Commissioning Body immediately. The first joint meeting will be on 14 December 2006.

5.4. Development of a Needs Assessment Framework

- 5.4.1 The second objective of the workshop was to review and agree the emerging priorities from the development of the needs assessment framework. The review work included the needs analysis output for all sixteen client groups and each of the five localities to determine the immediate and medium term commissioning decisions.

5.5 Actions and Agreements on Needs Analysis

- 5.5.1 All attendees at the workshop agreed that the needs analysis work needs to continue with a high level of commitment and ownership by all key partners to the output and outcomes with a view to publishing a first draft of needs assessment framework by 14th December 2006. Existing Economy and Environment, Supporting People and Adult Commissioning Unit staff will continue to be the core group driving this programme.

- 5.5.2 Attendees who were lead commissioners for each of the client groups were provided with a specification to allow them to fill the gaps in information and data. On the 1st November the identified commissioning leads will discuss the next steps required to advance the quality of the needs assessment framework and outputs. Their contributions need to be completed against the specification by the beginning of December 2006.
- 5.5.3 The needs assessment feedback from the working groups highlighted that overlaps in information between client groups should be taken account of by the next stage of the developments. Whilst some account has been taken of these issues, flexibilities between client groups will be a key consideration in advancing the analysis.
- 5.5.4 The areas of additional information identified in the feedback groups will be pursued to advance the quality of the analysis.
- 5.5.5 Account will be taken of the importance of cross boundary needs issues, for example the relevance of the sub regional housing groups that cut across Warwickshire boundaries, both North and South.
- 5.5.6 A programme of work will be presented to the joint Supporting People meeting (Partnership Board and Commissioning Body) outlining the priority funding requirements for the programme at the meeting on the 14 December 2006.

6. Developing Strategic Commissioning and Joint Commissioning Strategy

- 6.1 The Inspection report commented on the proximity of the Supporting People Programme to the Adult Commissioning functions and management arrangements. Work has now commenced to accelerate the integration of all commissioning and contracting functions within the Directorate. Supporting People and the Adult Commissioning Unit will become more integrated between November and February 2007.
- 6.2 The approach ensures that the Directorate is:
- Reviewing and assessing the available skills across both teams to enable optimum use of resources across commissioning, contracting, planning and performance functions
 - Proposing revised management arrangements embracing both key areas of business
 - Making good progress to streamline Directorate resources prior to the joint strategic commissioning appointment between health and adult services.
- 6.3 In addition, the joint commissioning developments are underway to develop the strategic approach using Supporting People developments to advance the discussions.

- 6.4 A successful and motivating joint meeting was held on 17 October between the Adult Commissioning Unit and Supporting People teams that resulted in agreed joint priorities. Work now begins to ensure team members with common roles and priorities begin to work together towards the achievement of the identified joint priorities. Regular team discussions will now commence to aid this process of integration.

Graeme Betts
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24 October 2006