

**COMMITTEE:** SOCIAL INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009

**SUBJECT** SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRESS REPORT

**REPORT BY:** HEAD OF HOUSING (STRATEGY AND PRIVATE SECTOR)

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**IMPLICATIONS:**

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY	
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT	
FINANCIAL	✓	CONSULTATIONS	✓
STAFFING		OTHER	

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

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**PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise on progress on the outstanding issues within the Supporting People Programme, further to the Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee report of the 'Review of the Supporting People Strategy – Action Plan' of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the progress that has been made of the Luton Supporting People Programme.

**REPORT**

**Background**

3. Supporting People is the Government's long-term policy to enable local authorities to plan, commission and provide housing support services to help vulnerable people live independently. The national programme is managed by the Communities and Local Government (CLG), formerly the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).
4. The programme brings together legacy funding streams including Transitional Housing Benefit, Supported Housing Management Grant and the Probation Accommodation Grant scheme into a single pot administered by the 150 administering Local Authorities.

Services funded through this programme include

- Support services for vulnerable older people who wish to live independently, including those in sheltered housing;
  - Support services for vulnerable, socially excluded people who wish to live independently, including those who are travellers, gypsies, and refugees;
  - Temporary hostel accommodation – including probation hostels, teenage parents and those providing support for women fleeing domestic abuse;
  - Support services for people with mental health problems and learning disabilities;
  - Floating support to a range of vulnerable people including young people leaving care and people suffering with HIV/AIDS;
  - Support services for people from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities; and
  - Home improvement agency services whose work includes providing practical support to older owner occupiers, teenage parents and other vulnerable people to enable them to live independently and safely within their own home.
5. The Council acts as the administering authority for the Supporting People programme in Luton. The programme funds services within the council and within the voluntary and community sector.
  6. Although the funding is administered by Local Authorities, the CLG require that activity of each local programme is overseen and directed by a multi-agency Commissioning Body, with membership drawn at senior level from the Borough Council, the teaching Primary Care Trust, and the Probation Service.
  7. The Luton Supporting People programme was subject to an Audit Commission re-inspection May 2005. The Inspection found that significant

improvements have been achieved. In recognition of this the Audit Commission awarding the Luton Supporting People service one star. The re-inspection resulted in 16 recommendations.

### **Review of Action Plan**

8. The Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee received a report at its meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006 on the Supporting People Team's progress against meeting the 16 recommendations that featured in the Audit Commission Re-inspection Report. At that time the Committee asked to receive a further progress reports to this meeting on outstanding actions within the Action Plan.
9. In addition to this Committee's scrutiny on outstanding actions, the Supporting People Commissioning Body has also requested the Accountable Officer of Supporting People (Head of Housing - Strategy & Private Sector) to completing a detailed review of performance against the Action Plan. This was reported to the Supporting People Commissioning Body on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007.
10. Appendix A is an extract from the Audit Commission Inspection Report Action Plan reported to the Supporting People Commissioning Body, which has been updated and summaries the current position in relation to those recommendations and where there is still work in progress.

### **Work Programme**

11. This report briefly outlines the main elements of the work programme completed 2007/08 and reports the headlines themes of the 2008/09 work programme.
12. During 2007/08 the Supporting People programme continued to stabilised and the most significant elements of the work programme were:
  - Significant contribution to the Housing Corporation 2008-11 bidding round and the successful result of Luton securing funding for the Jill Jenkins extra care housing scheme
  - The significant contribution to the Department of Health bid round, which resulted n Luton securing funding for the second extra housing scheme, Betty Dodds
  - Continual active user and stakeholder engagement
  - The team have taken responsibility not only for the Adult Social Care service level agreements, but also since April 2007 for the Homelessness service level agreements.
  - Capacity building activity of providers - Supporting People and Adult Social Care

- Additional procurement of third sector services under Partnership for Older people projects (POPPs)
- The procurement of services, such as the following:
  - A dedicated floating support service called KEYMA ( a partnership with Mary Seacole Housing Association, Luton Accommodation & Move-On Project, Luton Community Housing and Centre for All Families Positive Health) to work in partnership with the Council to reduce the number of families living in temporary accommodation.
  - A floating support service to provide housing-related support to individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS including people from the BME community, people with mental health needs, and older people in Luton.
  - A housing-related floating support service, developed with LDAP, targeting the very vulnerable groups of people; women who sell sex, young people at risk, and offenders (PPO and DRR), to help them to stabilise, obtain accommodation, move-on and to maintain housing and independent living.

13. The completion of the work programme has been accomplished despite significant staff changes; with 2 officers leaving the service for career development, an officer going on maternity leave and temporary officers being recruited.

14. During 2008/09, the focus has been the continued stabilisation of the programme ensuring the procurement of new services that meets the needs of the most vulnerable people, as identified in the Commissioning Plan. The key tasks for 2008/09 are:

- Combining of contract and performance management processes of Supporting People, Adult Social Care and Homelessness services
- Luton Supporting people governance being an integral part of the Local Strategic partnership governance structures, reporting directly to the Health & Well-being Board
- Define an approach to refreshing the Supporting People commissioning prioritise with the third sector and key partners to maximise the programme grant
- Initiation of a new revised service review regime for the Supporting People, Adult Social care and Homelessness contracted provision.

- Development of the Luton approach to prevention, describing the Housing and Community Living (including the Supporting People programme) contribution to the delivery of preventative services.
- Planning the redevelopment of a direct access accommodation service to have a pathway of support and training for the most socially excluded adults in Luton
- The commissioning and procurement of new services:
  - A housing related floating support service to gypsies and travellers in Luton to complement the existing Education Service and the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer.
  - A Home Improvement Agencies (HIA) to provide advice, support and assistance to elderly, disabled and vulnerable people to help them remain independent and/or in their own homes. They provide assistance to help people repair, improve, maintain or adapt their home to meet their changing needs. HIA in operation in Luton is a partnership with the Council's Private Sector Housing, the Affordable Warmth programme, Age Concern Luton (an accredited Supporting People provider) and Working Luton which is a registered Charity and social enterprise that supports and trains disadvantaged young people in gaining vocational qualifications to obtain employment.
  - A flexible Independent Housing Advice service to meet the needs of individuals and families from the most diverse communities of Luton, including migrant workers, refugees and people at risk of re-offenders. The service is a mixed model of walk-in support and active floating support.
  - The Luton Local Involvement Network (Luton LINK); a network of networks for the citizens of Luton to monitor the delivery of health and adult social care services
  - Actively involved in the project planning of the Noah Enterprise project to build a multi purpose centre, which involves re-locating their current; social enterprise, welfare, health and outreach services and the provision of new short-term (up to two years) accommodation.
  - Contribute to the leadership of the Luton Multi-Agency Forum for migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers in order to develop effective, good quality, value for money support services that achieve the best outcomes for the service users.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

15. There are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed with the relevant solicitor in Legal Services on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009.

## **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

16. Luton, like all Administering Authorities, is charged to ensure that over time the range of services commissioned through Supporting People reflect the needs of the community.
17. Luton Supporting People have undertaken an equality impact assessment for the local programme and all services reviews have undergone an equality review through the comprehensive quality assessment framework (QAF), with outcomes for the provider and the Luton Supporting People team. These outcomes have formed part of the work programme and are an integral part of the BME Housing Strategy and the refreshed Supporting People Commissioning Plan.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

18. To provide as much stability as possible, the CLG has announced two-year allocations to enable authorities to plan and manage their programmes effectively. For 2007/08, an increased allocation was awarded to the Luton Supporting People programme and this remained the same for 2008/09. The subsequent allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11 are shown below:

	2009/10	2010/11
Administration Grant (within Area Based Grant)	£109,987	£94,275
Programme Grant	£4,520,292	£4,520,292

19. Plans have been implemented to ensure one-off expenditure on innovative pilot projects (pilot innovation grants) and the growth of provision for third sector providers to engage with and provide support for the most excluded citizens in Luton.
20. The administration grant has become part of the new Area Based Grant for 2008/09 onwards. From 2009/10 onwards the ring-fence around the programme grant has been removed and so it is no longer a requirement that it is spent on Supporting People services. Hence there is a need to ensure clear commissioning priorities and the procurement of services.

21. This report has been agreed by the Finance Manager (Housing and Community Living) on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009.

### **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

22. None

### **CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS**

23. None. The Supporting People programme is actively involved and engaged in regular and formal user and stakeholder groups, as part of SP Communication & Engagement Policy.

### **APPENDIX**

24. **Appendix A:** an extract from the Audit Commission Inspection Report Action Plan reported to the Supporting People Commissioning Body, which has been updated to reflect activity from 2007/08 and 2008/9.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

25. None