

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **16TH OCTOBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

SUBJECT: **SUPPORTING PEOPLE OPERATIONAL PLAN**
2012/13

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To inform Cabinet about the Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) 2012-2013 and seek approval for the proposals detailed within the plan. (attached at Appendix 1)

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 In January 2010, Executive approved the three year Supporting People Strategy. The Supporting People Strategy set the direction for the Supporting People Programme for the next three years. The document contained a 12 month action plan for 2010-2011 and Executive were informed that this would be updated on an annual basis.

2.02 The SPOP for 2012-2013 has now been developed by the Supporting People Team, in partnership with the providers of housing related support services, and overseen by the Supporting People Planning Group.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The SPOP provides an update on the progress made against the action plan contained within the Supporting People Strategy and also the SPOP for 2011-2012

3.02 The Supporting People Strategy highlighted that Flintshire was expected to face significant reductions to the Supporting People Grant allocation. The SPOP provides further information regarding the level of cuts that will be made over the next 3 years, and the proactive way which Flintshire will maintain an efficient programme that will enable us to deliver efficiency savings, avoiding where possible cuts to valuable services. Flintshire will continue to prioritise funding for strategically relevant, priority need services where gaps have been identified and will seek to manage the reductions through a planned, strategic approach, in order to make the best use of available resources.

- 3.03 The SPOP also includes an action plan for 2012-2013. The action plan is split into three sections to reflect the three policy areas covered by housing related support services – Community Care, Community Safety and Homeless Prevention
- 3.04 The Community Care section covers those services which contribute to the strategic outcomes of Health and Social Care Services. The service user groups covered in this section are Learning Disabilities, Mental Health, Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment, Chronic Illness, Vulnerable Adults and Older People. This section provides detail on the reduction of Supporting People funding from core services. Proposed developments within this section include exploring further opportunities for joint commissioning with community care partners, and also wider commissioning opportunities on a regional basis
- 3.05 The Community Safety section covers those services which contribute to the strategic outcomes of the Community Safety Partnership. The service user groups covered in this section are Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse and Offenders. This section provides detail on the opportunity to improve existing services and the commitment to continue to work in partnership with providers and stakeholders to ensure that there is appropriate support in place for service users
- 3.06 The Homeless Prevention section covers those services which contribute to the strategic outcomes within the Homeless Strategy. This section covers the homeless service user group including families, single people and young people who find themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness. This service user group will often have multiple support needs. This section identifies the opportunity to pilot a project based on the 'Housing First' approach, in order to inform the future direction of housing related services within the County.
- 3.07 The planned transfer of the Supporting People Revenue Grant from the Welsh Government to the County Council was delayed by WG from 1 April 2012 to 1 August 2012.
- 3.08 The WG published the final version of the new SP Guidance in July 2012 in advance of the transfer on 1 August 2012. This sets out the role of the new Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC), which will provide advice to local authorities and other local stakeholders on regional and local collaborative delivery of the Supporting People Programme to ensure that the most efficient and effective services are delivered. Membership of the RCC will be Cabinet Members (holding the SP portfolio), NHS, Probation, providers and service users.
- 3.09 The WG guidance is available at <http://www.cymorthcymru.org.uk/docs/guidance-supporting-people->

[programme-grant-guidance-27.07.12.doc](#) and a hard copy is available in the members' library.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Cabinet notes the achievements against the updated action plan for 2011-2012.
- 4.02 Cabinet approves the proposals in the SPOP for 2012-2013.
- 4.03 Cabinet approves the Supporting People Operational Plan as a final version.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The Supporting People Grant is a specific grant for funding housing related support services. For 2012-2013 Flintshire County Council have been informed of a reduction to the grant of £172K, with further reductions anticipated over the next 5 years as a result of Redistribution.
- 5.02 The SPOP highlights new services for priority development; however, services will only be developed according to available funding as a result of any cuts/redistribution. The priority for development has been agreed with the Supporting People Planning Group and is contained within the Action Plan for 2012-2013.
- 5.04 Flintshire Supporting People Planning Group plans to meet the reductions in 2012/13 without cutting any services by carrying out the continuation of planned realignment of Social Services budgets by ensuring that all existing funding is eligible for Supporting People Grant. In addition, in anticipation of a future grant reduction, Flintshire had taken a prudent approach to the allocation of the grant in 2011/2012 which has led to unallocated grant of £150k which can be utilised as part of our strategy to manage the actual reductions in grant in future years.
- 5.05 A further explanation of how Flintshire Supporting People Planning Group plan to manage the reduction of funding for future years can be found within the Financial Strategy section of the SPOP (Appendix 1 – Page 6).

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

There are no specific anti-poverty implications within this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There are no specific environmental implications within this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

The Supporting People Programme was established to provide low-level accommodation support services to people with an assessed need for support. Access to these support services should be available to people living within the community and not just tied to Social Services provision.

At present, some services are delivered as part of Social Services core services. Releasing SPG funding from these 'core' services will provide the opportunity to develop services in the community. This will enable equality of access to accommodation support services amongst those in our communities who have a need for such support.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 N/A

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 No further consultation is envisaged.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Supporting People has held a forum to consult with providers of housing related support services. The team has also held one to one meetings with Senior Managers from within Flintshire County Council and Provider Organisations. The Supporting People Planning Group has agreed the draft

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Supporting People Operational Plan 2012-13

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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