

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 23 APRIL 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

SUBJECT: **SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING PLAN**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update Cabinet on the Supporting People Programme in Flintshire and seek approval for the Flintshire Supporting People Commissioning Plan.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Supporting People Programme in Flintshire now fits within regional governance arrangements. In 2012, Welsh Government merged the two Supporting People funding streams – Supporting People Grant (SPG) and Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPRG) into one Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG). The new SPPG also introduced a new governance framework for the programme with the establishment of a Supporting People National Advisory Board, chaired by the Minister, and the Regional Collaborative Committees (RCCs), with elected member and lead officer membership, to ensure high quality services are delivered effectively and efficiently across boundaries.

2.02 The Local Authority is required to develop a 3-year Commissioning Strategy that will inform the Regional Commissioning Strategy. Local Authorities in North Wales have developed 12-month Commissioning Strategies to cover the transition period and allow time for reviewing of existing services and the need for any additional/new services. Two year strategies will be developed from 2014/15.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Supporting People Strategy highlighted that Flintshire was expected to face significant reductions to the Supporting People Grant allocation. Flintshire received a reduction in funding for 2012/2013 of £296,221 and further reductions are as follows:-

2013/2014	-£284,374
2014/2015	-£341,249

- 3.02 The Local Commissioning Plan (LCP) details the strategic priorities for Flintshire from the Supporting People Strategy. Flintshire's Supporting People Team is focussing on ensuring that the programme funds the most appropriate housing related support services for the county, in order to maximise the outcomes achieved by service users. The LCP also covers a summary of the current need, existing supply and service gaps.
- 3.03 Consultation on the Supporting People Programme is an integral part of the work of the team. The LCP details good examples of partnership working and consultation. The LCP identifies the need to improve service user consultation and build on the work carried out by Us UnLtd in the county. This is included in the service developments in Section 6.
- 3.04 In order to make the best use of available funding, Flintshire plans to take forward a number of short term pilot projects during 2013/2014. These will be identified as 'off-the shelf' projects that can be implemented at short-notice in order to utilise non-recurring under spend. Supporting People will continue to work with partners to identify priority areas for one-off spend. In addition, the local Supporting People Planning Group will continue to work with providers, key stakeholders and service users over the next 12 months to identify efficiency savings and consider a range of innovative support approaches and options for collaboration that will enable as many vulnerable people as possible to receive much needed support within available resources.
- 3.05 The Local Commissioning Plan is included at Appendix 1. Many of the developments are cost neutral service improvements. Service developments which include changes to grant funding are detailed below.

The new commitments include:

- A contribution to the Flintshire Nightstop Service. This will provide a safe alternative to B&B accommodation for 16-18 year olds.
- The Service User Engagement Project which will enable Supporting People to improve the participation of service users across all aspects of planning and service delivery.
- The Co-ordination of Supporting People Services which will ensure that best use is made of resources including better matching of service users to projects, reduction in vacant places, improved turnover in projects and reduced risk of people with complex needs falling between gaps in services.
- Resettlement Officer for Llys Jasmine Extra Care Housing will provide short term funding for a number of weeks to Wales and West Housing Association to provide additional support for people to move and settle in.

The Realignment actions include:

- The development of an 'Activities Coordinator' at Llys Jasmine Extra Care. This secures funding for Flintshire County Council that was deemed ineligible.
- Investment in the Council's new Community Based Accommodation Support Service. This secures funding to an eligible strategically relevant service.

The reductions in funding include:

- A reduction of £280,000 for Social Services for Adults from services which are not eligible to be funded by Supporting People Programme Grant.
- A reduction of £35,000 created by joining two domestic abuse services together to create a unified service and releasing efficiency savings.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Cabinet agrees the Flintshire Supporting People Commissioning Plan.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The Supporting People Grant is a specific grant for funding housing related support services. For 2013-2014 Flintshire County Council have been informed of a reduction to the grant of £284,374, with further reductions expected in the following years as a result of redistribution.

5.02 The LCP highlights new services for priority development. However, services will only be developed according to available funding.

5.03 The LCP has identified a need to reduce funding to some services which are deemed ineligible for Supporting People funding. This will have an impact on Adult Social Services and as such Adult Social Services have planned for and managed this reduction.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

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

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 There are no specific environmental implications within this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 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 all people who need them.

- 8.02 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 A joint Supporting People and Homeless Forum which includes a range of stakeholders will be held in May to consult on the Flintshire Homeless Prevention Strategy and the Supporting People Commissioning Strategy. The commissioning Strategy will be presented to the Regional Collaborative Committee. The Supporting People Team will meet all providers individually to discuss their projects and explore opportunities to make best use of resources.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 Flintshire Supporting People have had a three year commissioning strategy in place which was developed in partnership with stakeholders and providers. Flintshire Supporting People Team hold a provider forum annually to keep providers informed about local, regional and national developments and consult on changes within the annual plans.
- 11.02 Information on need, supply and gaps is collected through information provided from service users, providers and wider stakeholders through the needs mapping exercise, the annual supply return, quarterly monitoring meetings and formal reviews.

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01 Appendix 1: Flintshire Local Commissioning Plan
Appendix 2: Flintshire Spend Plan 2013/14

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

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