

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY SERVICES)

REPORT NO: DCS21

DATE: 9th May 2005

TITLE:	SUPPORTING PEOPLE – 5 YEAR STRATEGY
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	NO
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	N/A

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	CATEGORY B VULNERABLE PEOPLE
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	Minor
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	This report and its appendix is publicly available via the "Local Democracy" link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Supporting People (England) Directions 2003

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 Supporting People is a partnership between service users, service providers and service commissioners. The Partnership comprises representatives from housing, health, probation and social care services. All these stakeholders have been involved in developing the Constitution and Memorandum of Understanding.
- 1.2 In accordance with Section 5 paragraph (1) (a) of the Memorandum of Understanding one of the functions of the Commissioning Body is to prepare and agree a strategy for Supporting People.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to endorse the Supporting People 5-Year Strategy.

3.0 DETAILS OF REPORT

3.1 All Supporting People Schemes within the country must submit strategies to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This is a condition of the Supporting People Grant. Following extensive consultation the Supporting People team have prepared the attached 5 Year Strategy (Appendix A).

3.2 The Strategy identifies six user groups where investment should be focused. Priorities between the groups have not been established because it is felt that services need to be developed in all areas.

- Older people.
- Young people.
- Homeless people.
- Women fleeing domestic violence.
- People with mental health problems.
- People with physical and sensory disability.

3.3 The Strategy proposes that all activity covered by Supporting People should:

- Adopt a more joined-up approach linking with priorities established by Crime and Disorder Partnerships and by the Primary Care Trusts.
- Develop more flexible services responsive to the needs of individual service users.
- Meet the needs of the diverse community including minority groups not currently catered for. Specifically those vulnerable people coming from minority ethnic backgrounds.
- Ensure quality, choice and value for money in service delivery across Lincolnshire.

3.4 The Strategy does give overarching priority to people with complex needs and multiple vulnerabilities. For example; this could be service users with mental health problems who also misuse substances. These groups of people are particularly challenging for service providers and would benefit from access to specialist support services. It has been recognised that people who misuse substances and abuse alcohol impact significantly on service providers. The strategy provides a focus to address this area in the understanding that there are only a few service units in Lincolnshire capable of supporting these people. Many intensive frontline service providers report that their work is restricted by

lack of suitable accommodation for service users to move onto. The Strategy gives priority to the development of move-on accommodation. This is particularly the case when a service user has developed more independence and no longer needs intensive support services but neither are they ready for complete independence. The lack of less intensive support services that enable the service users to move to half-way house provision is resulting in slower throughput in frontline services.

3.5 In relation to future funding the Office of The Deputy Prime Minister (O.D.P.M.) announced that the national level of funding for supporting people would be reduced from its 2004/2005 level of £1.8 billion to £1.72 Billion in 2005/2006 and then to £1.7 billion in each of 2006/2007 and 2007/2008. Lincolnshire's allocation for 2005/2006 will be £21.75 million, which represents a reduction of 4.7% on the previous years grant. The Financial strategy has been developed on the expectation of a year on year reduction in grant allocation of 5% per annum for the years 2006/2007 to 2009/2010.

3.6 Although the financial forecast suggests that budgets will be reducing there is an expectation of improved service quality. A service quality and review programme has been implemented. The national quality assurance framework (QAF) which has been implemented at a local level, indicates that many services do not meet the required national standards. The strategy reflects the need to support development and training to enable them to be better informed.

4.0 COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

It is recognised that the 5 year strategy will have an impact on the Provider Service provided by South Kesteven. We need to ensure a robust service can be delivered within the resources available by working closely with those developing the Strategic Vision for Supporting People.

5.0 COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE MANAGER DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

Under the Supporting People (England) Directions 2003 the Commissioning Body is required to produce a strategy for supporting people.

6.0 COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR REGULATORY SERVICES

The Supporting People Strategy and Financial Strategy are integral to the delivery of Housing support services for vulnerable people, and the strategy identifies the following specific service user priorities:-

- Young People
- Homeless People
- Women fleeing domestic violence
- Older people
- People with Mental Health problems
- People with physical and sensory disability

The Council is currently reviewing its Housing Strategy and will need to ensure that there are good linkages with the Lincolnshire Supporting People Strategy 2005 – 2010 to facilitate a joined up service partnership approach, particularly as funding for those support services will be dependent on the financial strategies of the Commissioning Body.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The Administering Body and Commissioning Body have adopted both the Constitution and Memorandum of Understanding on an interim basis while the constituent organisations on the Commissioning Body consider whether or not to approve and adopt the documents. It appears that the arrangements are working satisfactorily.

8.0 CONTACT OFFICER

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25th April 2005