

Report to: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 27th October 2016

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Social Care (Adults and Children's Services)/ Head of Community Support Services

Report Authors: Senior Housing Officer (Supported Housing) & Supporting People Team Manager

Title: Managing Supporting Independent Living (SIL), Reablement and the Health & Social Care Support Worker Service (HSCSW) in Denbighshire

1. What is the report about?

To outline the potential benefits of adopting a streamlined approach to managing the SIL and Reablement services for both Citizen's and the Council.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

It was agreed at the June 2016 meeting of the Scrutiny Committee that a report on the proposed SIL and Reablement merger would be brought before a future meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members consider the contents of this report, comment as appropriate;

4. Report details

- 4.1 SIL is fully funded by the Supporting People Grant, provided directly by Welsh Government and has been subject to a full Supporting People (SP) Service Review in September 2015, which resulted in 21 recommendations over 6 Outcome Areas. Only seven actions remain outstanding and the SIL manager is confident that these will be met within agreed timescales.
- 4.2 A new contract was issued to SIL commencing April 2016. Supporting People do not intend to make any further reductions to the SIL budget for 2017/18, however, as with all SP funded services, SIL must be prepared for future cuts in funding. It is also intended that Supporting People will part fund elements of the Reablement service from 2017/18.
- 4.3 Community Support Services are committed to developing services that are responsive and accessible for citizens. It is felt that placing SIL, Reablement and the Health and Social Care Support Worker Service (HSCSW) under a new aligned Supporting Independence in Denbighshire (SID) management structure will allow for this to happen.
- 4.4. The intention is to develop a seamless service which offers an increased pool of skills by bringing together all elements, ie, SIL, Reablement, HSCSW service.

- 4.5 The Supporting People programme is focussed on early intervention and prevention, which fits with the Reablement ethos and the core principles of the Social Care and Wellbeing Act.
- 4.6 From the citizen's perspective, they will be able to access the appropriate level of support for their needs from a single point of access. The new service will be outcomes focussed and delivered according to "what matters" to them.
- 4.7 In addition to possible cuts to the Supporting People budget, Community Support Services are expecting funding reductions for 2017/18. Therefore we need to ensure that we are working efficiently. The proposals will mean a reduction in management overhead costs and therefore provide some protection for front line service delivery in the future.
- 4.8 The management responsibility for SIL has been passed to the Service Manager for Localities as of the 4th October in anticipation of the merger.
- 4.9 Following a short transitional period, the review of the management structure will commence. It is expected that all changes will be implanted by April 1st, following extensive consultation with all stakeholders
- 4.10 This merged service will see each of the three service areas remaining essentially independent and distinct from each other, which would help in terms of performance monitoring, financial accountability and most importantly citizen understanding, but should facilitate greater integration between them, thus delivering a service of enhanced quality, at reduced overall cost.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

This project will contribute to supporting Denbighshire's Corporate Plan 2012-2017 in the following areas:-

- a. Vulnerable people are protected and are able to live as independently as possible
- b. Ensuring access to good quality housing. This project plays a key role in contributing to the prevention of homelessness for vulnerable people.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

It is expected that the proposals will have a positive effect on service delivery and there will be no additional costs. It is expected that savings will be found in 2017/18 as a result of streamlining the management of these services.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment?

The proposals to merge the SIL and Reablement services have been included in the draft Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan for 2017/18. A Wellbeing Impact Assessment (WIA) was completed 5th October 2016 (this was the first one undertaken for the LCP). This identified that the Plan had a positive impact on five out of the seven wellbeing goals; the remaining two being neutral. In terms of sustainability, the Plan scored 15/24 – this may in part be influenced by the uncertainty surrounding SP Grant funding; however, the WIA will be revisited following any revisions made from Scrutiny members / SPPG / Cabinet feedback.

Service reviews/contract management throughout the year additionally ensure that any negative impacts can be identified and addressed.

An Equality Impact Assessment had also already been completed for the LCP in July 2016. This confirmed that SP services are accessed by all protected characteristic group; that every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate negative impact on those with protected characteristics, and that SP will continue to monitor the impact of any changes made. The EqIA did not identify any detrimental impact brought about by the Plan on any protected characteristics.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 8.1 The proposals to merge SIL and Reablement have been included within the Draft Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2017/18, which underwent an 8 week consultation period with a range of stakeholders. Additionally, a Supporting People Day was held in Rhyl Town Hall on 12th September 2016, with attendees including citizens and staff from a variety of stakeholder agencies.
- 8.2 The Local Commissioning Plan and the final impact assessment will be submitted to Partnership Scrutiny Committee members, before the final document is submitted and signed off by Denbighshire County Council Cabinet.
- 8.3 There is a commitment to share good quality information regarding potential changes to SIL with citizens, staff and members.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

As stated above SIL is fully funded by the Supporting People Grant provided directly by Welsh Government. It is important that the service is delivered within the budget provided for by the Supporting People Grant. This report identifies a reasonable approach to delivering the service within the existing budget for 2016/17 as well as illustrating financial and service delivery planning for a likely reduction in grant levels in future years.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The main risk is that Supporting People Grant is reduced by more than expected in future years, creating a situation where further reductions to the SIL budget are made. The review of management arrangements will reduce this risk but there may be a need to further reduce the number of hours of direct support provided.

There remains additional risks to all budgets due to the uncertainty of future funding streams.

11. Power to make the Decision

Section 7 of the Council's Constitution of the Council's Constitution outlines Scrutiny's powers with respect to policy development and review and the Authority's performance in meeting policy objectives.

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