

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 20th March 2012

Lead Member: Councillor P.A.Dobb, Lead members for Health, Social Care and Well-being

Report Author: Supporting People Manager

Title: Changes to the Supporting People Strategy for 2012 to 2014 and Supporting People Operational Plan for 2012/13.

1. What is the report about?

The Welsh Government require the Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) on an annual basis. A three year Supporting People (SP) strategy was agreed in Denbighshire for 2011/14 setting out the strategic priorities for the Supporting People programme in the county as a framework for revenue resource allocation. The SPOP considers the housing-related support services required to meet the needs of vulnerable people for the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To agree changes to the SPOP for 12/13 & SP Strategy 2012 to 14, prior to plans being submitted to the Welsh Government.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To agree the changes to the Supporting People Strategy for 2012 to 2014 and Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) for 2012/13.

4. Report details.

The SP strategy for 2011-14, which outlined the SPOP for 2012/13, was originally agreed in 2010. Planned actions for 2012 -4 have changed over time and in response to consultation. A summary of changes proposed are set out in appendix1. The updated plan is included in appendix 2. (Actions for 2012 to 2014 are set out in full in appendix 2 page 11 onwards).

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

Supporting People funded services underpin cross cutting multi-agency priorities as well as contributing directly to Denbighshire's priorities.

Education

The provision of accommodation and appropriate support helps vulnerable people to sustain their accommodation and independence by developing

life skills to maintain a home. Vulnerable families are supported in developing skills to support their families, crucial to ensuring school attendance and attainment for their children. Support is also provided to vulnerable adults and young people (16+) to develop the skills and confidence to access education and training and engage with community activities to enable social inclusion.

Regeneration

Projects support service users in addressing issues of multiple deprivation including housing deprivation and needs. This is essential if Community Regeneration is to be achieved. Supported housing services enable tenancies and independent living to be sustained for many of our most vulnerable people within our communities.

New supported housing development will be outside of the West Rhyl Area and a supported accommodation strategy will be developed to support the Rhyl Going Forward strategy.

Demographic Change

Support is provided to children and families in need and people who need housing and contributes towards tackling the issues of transience and poverty. Support promotes independence, enablement and prevention through early intervention. This contributes to countering dependency and a culture of reliance on statutory services, necessary in addressing future demographic challenges faced by Denbighshire with a growing older population.

The employment of an occupational therapist will expand the adoption of a reablement approach into housing services. Investment in alarm services will further support independent living.

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

The projects and changes identified will be managed within the existing Supporting People budget allocated to Denbighshire by the Welsh Government.

Supporting People Grant will continue as a single programme grant in 2013/14 however, the grant available will be reduced going forward with a cap on reduction of 5% per annum. Services identified can be managed within the grant available and projected cuts. Further consideration would be required for 2013/14 onwards once final grant allocations are known. There is an action within the strategy to consider the strategic priority to fund services in 2013/14 in response to funding reductions.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

The Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG) held 6 meetings during the development of this report and considered "Strategic Priority to Fund"

commissioning tools, Needs Mapping Exercise (NME) data, outcomes reports, supply map information and feedback from stakeholders and consultation meetings.

A consultation event for current support providers was held in July 2011 and feedback reported to the SPPG to inform the development of this plan.

Further consultation with providers & stakeholders was conducted during July and August. A final consultation event was held in February. A draft document was circulated to all existing planning groups and forums linked to Supporting People.

A joint Communities & Partnerships scrutiny seminar was held on 22nd February 2012 to consult with members on the changes proposed. Members commented in relation to the following areas:-

- Domestic abuse services should be accessible to both male victims of domestic violence in addition to female victims. It was confirmed that provision had been made available to accommodate male victims in addition to women's refuge provision and that two organizations Hafan Cymru and North Denbighshire Women's aid worked with both genders.
- A query was raised regarding replacing supported housing affected within the two regeneration intervention areas. It was confirmed that Clwyd Alyn Housing association (CAHA) as the landlords are finding alternative provision for seven units. Replacement provision would be outside of the intervention areas but likely to be in the Rhyl area due to the availability of provision. CAHA are working with providers to ensure suitability of replacement property. A supported housing strategy will be developed to look at this in further .
- Concerns were raised regarding some individuals moving into Denbighshire & the operation of some B&B's. It was confirmed that people are able to choose to live where they wish. In some circumstances placements may be multi- agency arrangements, for example in relation to public protection or risk management. However such arrangements also operated on a reciprocal basis, so people from Denbighshire in similar circumstances may be placed in other counties. If members had queries regarding homeless placements these should be referred to head of service and if queries related to specific B&B's who may not be operating as B&B's, these should perhaps be referred to Denbighshire's planning department.
- Members requested that the table on page 5 of the strategy document where completed and details provided back to communities scrutiny members.

Final feedback from consultation processes was presented to the Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG) on 7th March 2012 and final changes were made. The draft plan was then signed off by SPPG on 7th March 2012.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The cost of delivering the plan must be contained within the funding available. The reductions in grant funding and the implications on the Supporting People programme - and the wider impact on other budgets will have to be carefully managed. The council has been prudent and made some financial provision to dampen the impact of funding reductions but the programme and the services it funds will have to be kept under review to ensure expenditure does not exceed the allocated funding.

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

Reduced funding is being managed by using under spend to cushion cuts in year 1 and by managing additional commitments with short term funding allocations.

10. Power to make the Decision

To determine the content of any plan, strategy or other policy document
Requires approval by the Lead Cabinet Member in accordance with Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2291 (W,179) Regulation 4 (3)(c) + (d).