

Report To: Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 4th July 2013

Lead Member / Officer: Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services
Corporate Director for Modernisation and Wellbeing

Report Authors: Service Manager: Strategic Development /Supporting
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Title: Update on Supporting People Funded Internal
Services in Denbighshire

1. What is the report about?

This report provides up to date information regarding the funding of internal services provided by the Supporting People Programme in Denbighshire and the planning to secure these services in the light of SP funding cuts.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Following changes to the Supporting People regime in 2012, and the creation of the Regional Collaborative Committee, Cabinet requested that Scrutiny consider the impact of the new arrangements on the delivery and funding of Supporting People services in Denbighshire, including identification of pressures caused and potential solutions to alleviate any pressures.

This report provides information regarding the funding of key internal services provided by the Supporting People programme in Denbighshire. These include:

- Extra Care Housing
- Support for People with a Physical Disability
- Support for People with Mental Health Needs
- Support for People who have a Learning Disability
- Telecare Services
- Reablement Services

3. What are the Recommendations?

That members ask questions and comment on the arrangements being made and the risks involved in securing internal services where Supporting People provides key funding.

4. Report details.

There are a number of internal services funded via Supporting People. The funding of these services amounts to £1,495,656 per year and is spread out across a variety of services. The majority of these services were originally funded via Supporting

People Grant (SPG) and were not subject to the same reporting requirements as Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPRG) monies.

The SP budget is facing cuts in the region of £330K pa for 2014/15 and 2015/16. This is part of a five year programme of cuts which will see the total SPPG grant to Denbighshire reduced by approximately 20% or over £1m.

Within a report to Cabinet in December 2012, it was stated that these cuts would be shared between internal and external Supporting People (SP) providers. Proportionally this would mean that DCC Adults Services will need to find minimum savings of £70k pa for the next two years. From initial meetings, it is expected that these savings will be identified by Adult Services and SP will be advised of where they will be applied.

In August 2012, SPG and SPRG were amalgamated to make a new funding stream which is now called Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG). There were a number of internal projects that would not have been eligible for SPPG. To ensure funding for the future, these services would, in some instances, need to make changes to the way support is delivered and they would also be required to comply with the monitoring requirements for SPPG.

From April to October 2012, an SP manager was seconded to work with Adult Services in identifying risks to funding and making recommendations of actions needed to mitigate these risks.

Supporting People are currently funding two full time Occupational Therapists (OTs) and a part time Lead OT who are working with Adult Services to assist in implementing the changes necessary to maintain Supporting People funding.

With this new grant comes new guidance that all Supporting People projects are now required to follow. This includes the requirement for each Service User to have a needs and risk assessment, along with a support plan which is reviewed regularly. Outcomes should also be reported every six months.

The following information is a brief summary of the key issues in individual service elements:

Extra Care Housing: The three Extra Care projects together receive funding of £98,628. This consists of £10,628 for alarms and £88,000 for Housing Related Support. The funding of alarms is benchmarked across all providers in Denbighshire and is unlikely to change significantly in future.

Following discussions with the Extra Care manager it is anticipated that savings can be made in 2014/15, these are yet to be agreed with the relevant service manager. The OT based with Extra Care will be funded until March 2015.

It currently appears that the Extra Care schemes are on track to ensuring compliance with the Supporting People Grant Guidance. Supporting People will continue to liaise with the OT and the staff of all three Extra Care schemes. All three Extra Care projects are due to be reviewed in March 2015.

Support for People with a Physical Disability : A relatively small number of service users receive housing related support funded by Supporting People. The current funding for this service element is £25,553. More detailed information is required to determine full compliance with funding conditions. This work will be undertaken by the Lead OT from June 2013. The review of this project is yet to be scheduled and will be dependent on the findings of the OT.

Mental health: This service was reviewed by the Supporting People team in October 2012. The review found that; there was no evidence of 24 hour on-call provision, there was an element of care being delivered via the SP funding and the project was not following referral processes necessary for this project .It was also recommended that the service introduced separate Housing Related Support (HRS) plans in order to provide clarity to workers around what HRS is.

As a result of the review, an alternative proposal was submitted by the project to address the issue of on-call. This proposal has been accepted by the SP team. A new 12mth SLA (with option to extend for an additional two years) has been issued.

The current SP funding for this project is £112,094. As a Service Level Agreement (SLA) has only recently been issued, it is unlikely that this funding will change significantly over the next three years. This project element was reviewed last year and an action plan produced .The SP team is satisfied that this is being implemented within an appropriate timescale and that this project element delivers eligible HRS. This project is due to be reviewed again in 2015.

Reablement : On the basis of the case examples provided in 2012 and a snap shot of the caseload on 29/9/12, it has been agreed that between 4 to 8 people will be identified as receiving SP support at any one time by the reablement service. This should cover the current funding allocation of £47k, which will be reflected in an SLA in terms of hours. A SP SLA will be issued shortly.

As reablement support is intensive and for short time scales, the turnover and work involved in ensuring compliance, completing monitoring requirements and reporting outcomes to the Welsh Government and regional governance group is quite challenging.

The value of this project element is currently £47,300. More detailed information is required to determine whether there are any implications for this funding in the future. This work will be undertaken from June 2013 onwards. The review of this project will subsequently be scheduled.

Learning Disability : SP contributes £1,187,308 towards this project element. During her secondment, the previous SP manager reported that between £900k and £1m was potentially justifiable HRS. In light of the overall reduction in SP budget and the commitment of Adult Services to find SP savings in the region of £70k pa for 14/15 and 15/16, it is likely that funding will be reduced by at least £70k pa for the next two years.

The part of her reports which considered risks stated:

“Having reviewed the housing support hours provided by the LD service at the end of September, I would suggest there is in a significant risk that the service has overestimated housing support hours and in cases of high need, there doesn't always seem to be a fair balance between care and support.”

It has been assumed that some of the critical and substantial needs of LD service users are eligible for SPPG in accordance with SP guidance (effective from 1/8/12), and that such needs are not a statutory duty for adult services to fund. There is some risk involved in this and there will be a need to ensure that all the expenditure fully complies with SP funding requirements.

One of the key requirements is to report on outcomes for each service user so that the Regional Collaborative Committee can clearly see that SP funding is being paid appropriately. There is a need to undertake further work with this project element in terms of compliance and eligibility and this will be scrutinised at a full service review.

Telecare : The value of this project is £12,603. More detailed information is needed in order to determine whether there are any risks for this funding in the future.

Further work will be undertaken so that SP monitoring returns are completed in order to demonstrate that this service element being delivered appropriately in accordance with grant conditions.

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

The County Council has a key role in supporting the health and wellbeing of its citizens and the range of services funded by Supporting People is of critical importance in relation to meeting the housing support needs of numerous people who face disadvantages.

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

The total value per annum of SP financial support for the range of internal services referred to in this report is nearly one and a half million pounds and there is a need to ensure that all grant conditions are fully complied with to prevent risk of any claw back. This report identifies that a reduction of £70,000 in support for these services due to a reduction in the overall grant.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?

Not required in relation to this report.

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

A report was presented to Cabinet in December 2012 to “agree the changes to the Supporting People Strategy & Spend Plan for 2013-14, prior to plans being submitted to the Regional Collaborative Committee and the Welsh Government”

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

It is essential that the Council's spending plans are contained within the Supporting People grant available and also comply with the conditions of the grant. Also, the Council does currently have a Supporting People Reserve to help offset any potential reductions in grant but this is only a short term solution.

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

The main financial risks are referred to in the main part of this report. There are strict requirements attached to the Supporting People Grant Programme and significant risks can result if services that benefit do not fully comply with these.

11. Power to make the Decision

Article 6.3.2(d) refers to the reason why this report is presented to scrutiny

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