

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **15 March 2005**

By: **Acting Director of Adult Social Services**

Title of report: **The East Sussex Supporting People Strategy 2005 to 2010**

Purpose of report: **To note and approve the East Sussex Supporting People Strategy (2005 – 2010)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. approve the East Sussex Supporting People Strategy (2005 – 2010) for to submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM); and**
 - 2. agree that the Strategy is reviewed at least annually by officers and any major and significant changes are reported to the Cabinet**
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1. Financial Appraisal

- 1.1 There are no additional costs arising from the approval of this Strategy. Funding for the Supporting People Programme is currently paid as a specific grant to East Sussex County Council as the Administering Authority. In the current year this was £12.197million. However, the resources available nationally have decreased by £1billion for 2005/6 and this authority's grant has been reduced by over £600,000; a "real" reduction of 7.5% including inflation. The service grant can be kept within budget by utilising savings from reviews that had been intended for re-commissioning services. However, providers will not receive an inflationary uplift for the second year in succession and there is no available money for expansion or re-commissioning of services. Information from the County Council network and other sources still predicts a small gain for East Sussex under the distribution formula being worked through by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).
- 1.2 The Strategy sets out a programme for expansion of strategically prioritised services to meet the support needs of vulnerable people in East Sussex. However, this development cannot occur unless additional funding becomes available, either via additional grant (for which the Strategy makes the case) or via efficiency savings on the current budget, achieved through service reviews.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Background

The Supporting People Programme funds housing related support services to vulnerable people. Services are aimed at promoting independence or preventing crisis such as unplanned hospital admission or homelessness. The project went live in April 2003 and is administered on countywide basis by the County Council on behalf of statutory commissioners in Health, Housing, Social Services and Probation. The programme seeks, via a regulatory regime under contract, to promote the optimum cost/quality balance. It also introduces strategic, needs led approach to the planing of services and it is this approach which is set out in the 5 year Strategy. Services are provided by some 80 organisations including Registered Social Landlords, charities and the private and public sectors.

2.2 Strategy Development

It is a requirement of the ODPM that all Administering Authorities submit a five-year Strategy by 31 March 2005. The Strategy must be developed and agreed by the inter-

agency partnership board (“Commissioning Body”) for the programme. In January 2003 Cabinet approved a one-year Supporting People Shadow Strategy that forms the basis for establishing the strategic priorities and direction set out in the five year document. The current Strategy has three main chapters. The first chapter analyses the current supply of services and the changes in the market between April 2003 and April 2005. The second chapter sets out information on need and demonstrates the huge unmet need for Supporting People services within the County. The final chapter outlines commissioning issues including the financial picture. It sets out both the highest priorities among client groups for any future development and the overall direction of the programme for the next five years. These broad commissioning aims include maximisation and flexibility of the supply within the current budget. The chapter concludes with an annual work plan and a plan for service development should new money be allocated.

2.2 Consultation

There has been extensive consultation of the development of the strategy which is now in its third draft. The first draft was widely circulated to all stakeholders, including the Supporting People Members Group. The response was excellent and at the end of the twelve-week consultation period suggested changes were incorporated into the second draft. A further online consultation was held on the second draft. An executive summary of the Strategy is included in the Strategy. A copy of the Strategy has been circulated separately.

3. **Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The objectives and priorities of both central government and local administrations inform the strategic direction and operational detail set out in the document. The Strategy provides part of a way forward for delivery of these objectives. In addition it clarifies for service providers how the Commissioning Body wishes to see the programme utilised and developed. The document also acts as a vehicle for demonstrating to central government the urgent need for additional resources in East Sussex. It is therefore recommended that the Strategy be approved. It is further recommended that the Strategy should be reviewed annually.

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