

Report to: Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 15 September 2016

By: Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Title: Update on the impact of the 2016/17 Supporting People and Commissioning Grants Prospectus savings

Purpose: To update the Committee on the impact of 2016/17 savings in relation to Supporting People and Commissioning Grants Prospectus funded services

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the impact of the Supporting People and Commissioning Grants Prospectus savings agreed for the 2016/17 Adult Social Care budget.

1. Background

1.1. The Adult Social Care Department's RPPR savings proposals for 2016/17 included significant savings to the Supporting People programme of funding and to Commissioning Grants Prospectus (CGP) funded support. For some services this meant removing all funding, while for others it meant a funding reduction.

2. Supporting information

2.1. The Supporting People savings proposals agreed at cabinet on 26 January 2016 were:

- Sheltered housing schemes: Removing 100% of Supporting People funding.
- Extra care housing schemes: Removing 100% of Supporting People funding.
- Home Works visiting support service: Removing 8% of Supporting People funding to save £300,000. This was a reduction on the original proposed saving of £835,000.
- Refuge service accommodation based schemes: Removing 20% of Supporting People funding to save just under £80,000.

2.2. Due to contractual notice periods the savings came into effect from 10th May 2016.

2.3. The Commissioning Grants Prospectus savings proposals agreed at cabinet on 26 January 2016 will deliver a total of £980k **in savings in 2016/17**.

3. Impact of savings

3.1 In preparing this report we have reviewed relevant performance data and feedback mechanisms to identify potential impacts resulting from the Supporting People savings. The data review was carried out in early August, meaning that only around three months had passed since the funding changes came into effect. It therefore may be too early to see the impact on services and the people who use them.

Supporting People: Sheltered housing

3.2 We have worked closely with providers throughout the decommissioning process. This has included supporting providers to produce an impact assessment. Actions agreed have included

advising staff to refer clients to STEPS (a Supporting People-funded visiting support service) and other services, such as the Welfare Benefit helpline.

3.3 We have seen an impact of the removal of funding on the STEPS service, with 23 referrals from previously Supporting People-funded sheltered housing services made in Quarter 1 of 2016/17. In addition, there have been 3 referrals to the Home Works service.

3.4 Adult Social Care no longer has a contractual relationship with any sheltered housing providers, but we will continue to monitor referrals to the STEPS service from providers and respond to complaints where relevant. See **Appendix 1** for further details.

Supporting People: Extra care

3.5 Supporting people funding previously made a contribution toward the funding of a scheme manager at each extra care scheme. We worked closely with providers to manage the removal of this element of funding.

3.6 Prior to the removal of the funding, all three landlords of the seven schemes put in place plans to ensure that there continued to be an onsite presence and that a level of service continued to be provided to residents.

3.7 All three landlords have advised that it is still relatively early days to understand the impact this change has had on resident's lives, although some schemes have seen an impact on the level of support they are able to offer people. See **Appendix 2** for feedback from extra care providers.

3.8 In Quarter 1 2016/17, STEPS received 2 referrals from previously Supporting People-funded extra care schemes.

Supporting People: Home Works

3.9 The funding reduction has been a decrease of support hours provided per week and a reduction in staffing levels (through 3 redundancies and a reduction in posts by 10.5 Full Time Equivalent posts).

3.10 There has been a significant increase in demand for services over the equivalent period last year. Circa 300 referrals a month cannot be accommodated by the reduced service. We will continue to monitor the terms and conditions of the contract, including the requirements of the service specification. In light of the increase in referrals, we are also working with the service manager to revise the eligibility criteria.

3.11 There were no complaints about this service in the relevant period.

Supporting People: Refuges

3.12 We have worked closely with the provider to agree a revised staff structure and the outcomes that can be achieved with less resources. The contract continues to provide 47 units of accommodation for women and children who are experiencing domestic violence.

3.13 There has been a 17% reduction in the number of housing support hours delivered to women occupying the units and staffing has reduced by 1.5 posts across the programme.

3.14 There were no complaints in the relevant period. However, a Councillor query about service capacity was raised. We will continue to monitor the terms and conditions of the contract, including the requirements of the service specification.

Commissioning Grants Prospectus

3.15 Following the decisions made by Cabinet in January 2016, a number of services were notified that funding would cease. For those services where funding continued, business as usual has been maintained. The main exception to this is that East Sussex Disability Association has gone into liquidation. No reductions in funding were made to these services and the reasons for the organisation's demise are not as a result of this process.

3.16 The impact on the services where funding has been ended is as follows:

- 10 services have continued to deliver the same level of service by attracting other funding streams
- 5 services have continued to deliver a reduced service, sustained by other funding streams
- 2 services ceased completely
- 1 service delivered early outcomes and was brought to a natural conclusion

3.17 In some cases where funding was reduced, agencies have been proactive and successful in securing funding from other sources. In other cases providers have reduced the opening days in order to reduce operating costs. Similarly, by changing the service model from paid staff to volunteers one agency has been able to continue to provide a service to existing clients. (See **Appendix 3** for details).

3.18 Protecting the services offered directly to carers through the Commissioning Grants Prospectus mitigated some of the impact in areas where funding was reduced. There was acknowledgement and appreciation expressed through service providers that carers services were protected in this way.

4 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 The Supporting People savings were implemented relatively recently. It is not possible therefore to say what the impact will be in the longer term. It is evident that providers have worked closely with their residents to minimise the impact where possible.

4.2 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on this report.

KEITH HINKLEY
Director of Adult Social Care and Health

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None