

# Report



Draft 1

meeting ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH  
DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING

date 11<sup>th</sup> October 2007

agenda item number **6.**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, STRATEGIC HOUSING AND SUPPORTING PEOPLE**

### **SUPPORTING PEOPLE PERFORMANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To update members on the performance of the Supporting People programme and future changes to the partnership working arrangements.

#### **2. Background**

##### Context

- 2.1 The Supporting People programme commenced in 2003 and changed the planning, funding and monitoring arrangements for support services for vulnerable people to help improve their quality of life by providing a stable environment which enables greater independence.
- 2.2 The County Council administers an annual Grant, from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), which is used to fund services for a broad range of people in sheltered housing, supported housing and hostel type accommodation. A five year Supporting People strategy defines the extent to which services meet the needs of local people and help to deliver other key strategies; it outlines plans to develop and improve services and defines how these plans will be implemented.
- 2.3 The strategy and commissioning decisions are agreed by commissioning partners through the Supporting People Commissioning body, which includes the County Council, seven District Councils, Primary Care Trusts and National Probation Service for Nottinghamshire and is chaired by Councillor Rhodes. Wider consultation has also been undertaken with service users and carers, service providers and other stakeholders.
- 2.4 A county council Supporting People team is responsible for ensuring the programme operates in line with national Directions and Grant Conditions.

This work includes maintaining and managing contracts, including ensuring quality standards are maintained with around 80 organisations providing 300 services to over 20,000 people.

#### Performance to date

- 2.5 Since 2003 the local programme has grown and now delivers services to around 2000 people who did not previously access a Supporting People service. At the same time the programme has delivered significant efficiency savings of around £4 millions and improved service quality.
- 2.6 Nottinghamshire is one of nine regional champions across the country responsible for disseminating good practice around the Supporting People programme.

#### Future plans

- 2.7 A national Supporting People strategy, *Independence and Opportunity: Our Strategy for Supporting People*, recently highlighted the importance of the programme in improving the lives of many vulnerable people, delivering the government's agendas, enabling people to have a say in the way services are developed and delivered, working with the voluntary sector – which provides much of the programme's services, delivering in the new government landscape, delivering efficiency and reducing bureaucracy. Local plans are already in place to deliver many of the national strategy's aspirations.
- 2.8 In 2008, the Supporting People programme will be integrated within the Local Area Agreement. Work is underway to ensure the most effective elements of existing partnership working arrangements within Supporting People are retained during this process; that valued services are not lost, but that the flexibility provided by the LAA is used to benefit service users and deliver strategic outcomes.

**RUTH RIGBY**

**Service Head, Strategic Housing and Supporting People**

**(COMM/DB11)**