

Report



meeting

CABINET

date

13th September 2006

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH

SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING PLANS

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the letting of Supporting People contracts in line with the Five Year Supporting People Strategy for Nottinghamshire.
- 1.2 The recommendations in this report constitute a key decision as they seek approval for the establishment of contracts exceeding £1 million. The Supporting People programme affects the whole county. This decision was published in the Forward Plan on 4th September 2006.

2. Information and Advice

Supporting People Programme

- 2.1 This national programme was established in 2003 to improve the planning, funding and monitoring of a range of services identified as providing housing related support to vulnerable people. The programme is administered by 150 local authorities in England and is overseen by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) which provides the programme's grant funding.
- 2.2 The local programme provides support to around 19,000 people in around 300 services provided by 78 organisations including the district and county councils, registered social landlords (housing associations), local voluntary sector groups, private companies and private individuals. The support services funded and monitored by the programme include:
 - sheltered accommodation scheme manager/warden services and community alarm provision provided to nearly 17,000 older people
 - supported accommodation for around 800 people with learning disabilities or mental health needs
 - support services in hostels, women's refuges and other temporary accommodation settings, including those for young people at risk

- tenancy sustainment services provided to people who, for a range of reasons, may need low level support to maintain their home
- floating support services which provide peripatetic support to people in their own homes

2.3 In Nottinghamshire the programme is administered by the county council on behalf of a commissioning partnership comprising the county's seven district councils, primary care trusts, probation service and county council. The Supporting People Commissioning Body – on which the commissioning partners are represented - oversees the programme, monitoring performance and ensuring the local programme's five year Supporting People Strategy, which received Cabinet approval on 2nd March 2005, is implemented. Responsibility for managing the Supporting People Grant rests with the county council as the programme's administering authority.

Current and future commissioning

2.4 The commissioning of new services and any processes needed to find alternative providers for existing services will be undertaken using competitive processes in line with the developing Commissioning Strategy for Supporting People. Plans for service developments within Supporting People are contained within a published Investment Plan for the programme which forms part of the five year Strategy. The Investment Plan is approved by the Supporting People Commissioning Body and reviewed on a rolling basis. Current investment priorities are listed below, with more detailed information regarding each development being included within the Investment Plan attached as Appendix 1:

Extensions to existing services

Title of Development	Reference in Investment Plan
Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) Supported Accommodation - Broxtowe, Bassetlaw	IP1
The Kirkby Trust extension	IP5
Extension to current Refuge provision in South Nottinghamshire	IP6
Extension of Domestic Violence Floating Support in North Nottinghamshire	IP7
Teenage Pregnancy Support – Newark & Sherwood	IP14
Mental Health Supported Accommodation in Ashfield	IP25

Developments approved by the Commissioning Body and under development

Title of Development	Reference in Investment Plan
Drug Interventions Programme (DIP)	IP1

Supported Accommodation - Newark & Sherwood, Rushcliffe	
Extra Care provision – Rushcliffe	IP17
Newark Quick Access Hostel	IP26
Quick Access accommodation with support in South Nottinghamshire	IP24

New developments

Title of Development	Reference in Investment Plan
Pilot Prison Link Project	IP3
Direct/Quick access supported accommodation in Bassetlaw	IP4
Countywide Domestic Violence Floating Support	IP8
Additional Refuge provision – South Nottinghamshire	IP9
Generic Vulnerable People Tenancy Sustainment	IP10
Extra Care Provision – countywide coverage	IP16
Dual Sensory Floating Support	IP19
Community Outreach Advocates (Link Age Plus)	IP20
Winter Night Shelters (Bassetlaw and/or Mansfield, with the need for this provision subject to annual review)	IP22
Floating Support for Offenders	IP23

Cabinet is asked to approve these investment priorities which have been identified as strategic priorities by the Supporting People Commissioning Body.

- 2.5 There is an immediate need to let contracts for the following three services:
- A small floating support service for homeless people in Ashfield – this is a reconfiguring of a service previously attached to the Council’s hostel provision. The need for this service was identified as part of a Service Review.
 - A larger floating support service for homeless people in Rushcliffe and Broxtowe, to work alongside existing provision in Gedling. This is a new service identified as needed within the Supporting People Strategy.
 - A small supported accommodation service with attached floating support for young people with a learning difficulty in Mansfield. These are existing services; the current service provider has served notice to quit the contract.

Cabinet is asked to approve the letting of these contracts.

3. Statutory and Policy Implications

3.1 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Members' attention is however, drawn to the following:-

3.1.1 Personnel Implications

None.

3.1.2 Financial Implications

The costs of the developments outlined in paragraph 2.4 are anticipated to be in the region of £695,000 in the current financial year and around £1.5 millions in 2007/08 reducing to £1.37 millions in 2008/09. The cost of the developments identified in paragraph 2.5 is anticipated to be in the region of £500,000 per year for three years. The cost of these proposals will be met from Supporting People grant.

3.1.3 Equal Opportunities Implications

In developing the strategy for Supporting People within this partnership framework, equal opportunities are a central consideration.

3.1.4 Implications for Service Users

The approach outlined in the report is intended to assist the delivery of the Supporting People Strategy for Nottinghamshire and aims to improve the appropriateness of housing-related support services for vulnerable people.

3.1.5 Crime and Disorder Implications

The Supporting People Programme is intended to ensure that housing-related support services are provided to meet the needs of groups at risk of social exclusion.

3.1.6 Human Rights Act Implications

The Supporting People programme is part of the Government's agenda for improving the quality of family and private life of service users by fairer access to, and more effective delivery of, housing-related support services.

3.1.7 Corporate Property Implications

None.

4. Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that:

- (a) the commissioning of the investment priorities identified at paragraph 2.4 above and in appendix 1 be approved;
- (b) approval is granted for the letting of the three contracts identified in paragraph 2.5 and this responsibility be delegated to the Service Director, Older People and Strategic Partnerships, Malcolm Dillon, who is the County Council's Accountable Officer for Supporting People.

5. Legal Services' Comments (PTW 24/08/06)

5.1 The proposals are within the authority of cabinet. It should also be noted that any council procurements must be carried out in accordance with the Council's financial regulations.

6. Director of Resources' Financial Comment (DW 25/08/06)

6.1 The financial implications are contained within the report.

7. Background Papers Available for Inspection

7.1 Supporting People Strategy for Nottinghamshire 2005 – 2010.

7.2 Supporting People Annual Plan 2006/2007.

8. Electoral Division(s) Affected

8.1 Nottinghamshire.

COUNCILLOR DICK ANTHONY
Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health

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