

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**  
**23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2010**

**Supporting People Strategy 2010-13**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:</b>	Improved Health and Wellbeing
<b>CORPORATE PLAN AIM:</b>	Enabling Community Wellbeing
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor T.L Onslow
<b>DIRECTOR:</b>	Mike Parker, Director of Planning & Regulatory Services
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<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Supporting People Strategy 2010 – 13 <i>The appendix to this report has been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details).</i>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To outline the new Supporting People strategy 2010-13 which has been developed by the Supporting People team and supported by the Supporting People Commissioning Body, of which Wyre Forest District Council are a member.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that:**

- 2.1 **Delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services and the Cabinet Member for Housing & Environmental Services, to approve the final strategy.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Nationally the Supporting People programme offers housing related support to over a million vulnerable people in the UK. The Worcestershire Supporting People programme provides strategically planned housing-related support services to vulnerable people with the goal of supporting them to achieve a range of outcomes that will improve their quality of life.
- 3.2 The Supporting People team are based within the County Council and are responsible for commissioning and reviewing approximately £15m of support

services per annum. They currently work with 20,000 vulnerable people each year to attain or maintain independence through the provision of housing related support. Through the use of the Communities and Local Government social accounting format the Research and Intelligence Unit (at Worcestershire county Council) identify that the Supporting people services produce a public services cost saving of £65 million each year. They currently provide support to various groups including older people, people with mental health issues, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, homeless, offenders, teenage parents, travellers, and people with alcohol or substance misuse problems, those suffering domestic violence, young people and people leaving care.

- 3.3 The County Council in its role of administering authority, issues contracts to providers, makes payments and has responsibility for ensuring that the programme is effectively administered and delivered. The County Council has a key responsibility for the finances of Supporting People and the responsibility to work with its partners to deliver the best possible services within the resources available. Part of this responsibility is to ensure a robust Supporting People Strategy is in place setting out the direction in which services will change and develop to meet the needs of the local area.
- 3.4 The Supporting People programme was launched in April 2003 and comprises a funding, quality monitoring and needs assessment programme for housing related support services. Prior to Supporting People, housing related support was funded in a number of different ways and was not strategically planned and co-ordinated. Following the launch, one of the Supporting People responsibilities was to review all these services to ensure that they were strategically relevant, were eligible for SP funding, offered value for money and quality services.
- 3.5 During the previous Supporting People Strategy (2005 – 10), which has now expired, Supporting People and the Commissioning Body have reviewed services, driven down average weekly unit costs of service provision from £150 per week to £70 and commissioned a range of new services. They have moved away from accommodation based services to more floating support, outreach and resettlement allowing the support to be more flexible and less tenure specific.
- 3.6 Over the previous five years, funding for Supporting People has been ring fenced but from April 2010 the funding will form part of the County Council's area based grant and will therefore need to become more closely aligned to Local Area Agreement priorities as well as delivering on needs identified through the strategic review process. The funding and commissioning of services will remain the responsibility of the Supporting People Commissioning Body.
- 3.7 A number of strategic reviews of client groups have taken place (Single Homeless, Young People and Domestic Abuse) and more strategic needs analysis planned for people with a Physical and Sensory Impairment, with a mental health issue and for Gypsy and Travellers.

## 4. **KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Supporting People Strategy 2010-2013 (see Appendix) informs and embeds the commissioning intentions and priorities for helping the most vulnerable and excluded to contribute to wider society within Worcestershire. In addition it sets out how service users and providers can become a more integral element within the

commissioning of the programme. The intention is for the most vulnerable people within the County to have services which are appropriate and responsive to individual needs and expectations thus preventing the need for intrusive intervention at the point of crisis.

- 4.2 The strategy sets out the direction the programme for the next 3 years in meeting vulnerable client needs, becoming more flexible and creative in meeting the rising demand for support services (taking into account changing demographics within the county).
- 4.3 The strategy was developed in conjunction with stakeholders and providers through various consultation events. Service User Groups, including WAVES, were also consulted with during the process.
- 4.4 The strategy details the approach of the programme in aligning all 117 contracts to meet LAA priorities, a financial benefits model which identifies significant public cost savings as a result of these preventative services and a range of projects the programme seeks to commission in 2010/11.
- 4.5 The strategy will be accompanied by an annual work plan, which will detail and organise activity to achieve the requirements of the strategy. An element of this work plan will be to ascertain the distribution of funding per District. Currently, there is not an equal split of funding by District. This is based on the way SP commission it's provision – on need and priority target areas. Demographic and existing provision will determine the level of support needed by District, and it is also to be noted that the countywide provision will offer support per District also on need. The initial stage of the work plan will focus on the distribution of funding, identify changing demographics and ensure that allocation is representative. This will be supported by the District Council housing officers.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The County Council as the Administering Authority bears the full financial risk of the Supporting People programme and has the right to veto any decisions made by the Supporting People Partnership if likely to compromise the financial position of the County Council.
- 5.2 There are no financial implications for the District Council with regard to the programme. The administration (carried out by County Council) for the SP programme is fully subsidised by grant funding from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
- 5.3 The Programme's recurrent budget for 2010/11 has been set by DCLG at £14.5million. This recurrent budget is expected to be fully commissioned on provision and assessed to be meeting value for money expectation, services meeting the Quality Assessment Framework, and addressing the priority needs of the county in regard to these client groups.

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

**7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An equality impact assessment will be undertaken by the Supporting People team.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 There are no risk management implications.

**9. CONCLUSION**

9.1 Services provided by Supporting People support the District Councils in meeting their housing obligations including helping people to remain in good quality accommodation that is appropriate to their needs.

9.2 The Supporting People Strategy outlines key commissioning priorities for the next three years and effectively aligns Supporting People outcomes to the LAA targets which will be critical to ensure ongoing funding of vital floating support services.

**10. CONSULTEES**

10.1 Various stakeholders were consulted in developing the strategy including District Council Housing leads, PCTs, West Mercia Probation, Service provider and user representatives.

10.2 The draft strategy has been circulated to Wyre Forest District Council members for consultation which closes on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 Supporting People Strategy