

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Cabinet
2. Date:	5th June 2013
3. Title:	Supporting People Programme – Proposed Governance Arrangements
4. Directorate:	Resources Directorate, Commissioning, Policy and Performance

5. Summary

- 5.1 The Supporting People Programme Governance Framework was determined by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) until 2010. The funding and administration of the Programme is no longer regulated by DCLG, allowing arrangements for governance to be locally determined.
- 5.2 This report proposes changes to the governance arrangements that will strengthen the role of Cabinet Members across Council portfolios putting them firmly at the heart of decision-making on spend and service direction.
- 5.3 The proposals will raise the profile of the Supporting People Programme and redefine its strategic contribution to Council priorities.
- 5.4 Specific proposals are:
- The terms of reference for the current SP Commissioning Group and the Core Strategy Group are amalgamated to form a 'Supporting People Programme Strategic Group' with senior representation from NAS, CYPS, Public Health, and key strategic partners.
 - All issues requiring agreement and/or decision-making that emerge from the Strategic Group to proceed to the appropriate Cabinet Member.
 - An annual report to be tabled at full Cabinet to agree the plan for the year ahead.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 **That portfolio holders agree the recommendations contained in this report.**
- 6.2 **That this report be tabled for formal consideration at Cabinet.**

7. Introduction

The vision and direction of the Supporting People Programme aligns with the Prevention and Early Intervention agendas in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan. The main aim of the programme is to influence social inclusion and enable vulnerable people (over 15 years) to maintain or to achieve independence through the provision of housing-related support. Its impact on citizens extends at its broadest across all Council Member portfolios and all Directorates.

The SP programme is commissioned mainly from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and Registered Social Landlords. In the main, services that are commissioned are targeted at customers who do not meet the Council's eligibility criteria for access to social care services.

The key priority groups are:

- People who have been homeless or rough sleepers, including families with support needs.
- Ex-offenders and people at risk of offending and imprisonment.
- People with disabilities and long term conditions, this includes people with learning difficulties, people with mental health problems, and people with HIV and AIDS.
- People at risk of domestic violence
- People with alcohol and drug problems
- Teenage parents
- Older people
- Young people at risk

Prior to 2010 the SP programme operated at arms length from revenue funded Council services, bringing together a number of housing related funding streams across housing, health and probation. The SP Programme had national direction from the DCLG through an established framework of governance and Key Performance Indicators, and taking direction from Local Strategic Partnerships.

Since 2003 the Rotherham Programme has been managed via a Commissioning Body, with representatives from NAS and CYPS, Rotherham PCT, and South Yorkshire Probation Service. Until the ringfence arrangement ceased in April 2010, the SP Commissioning Body reported directly to DCLG.

Currently the Programme is funded by Formula Grant within the Neighbourhoods and Adults Services (NAS) Directorate, and the DCLG steer has been removed. Issues arising from the Commissioning Body requiring decision-making or endorsement proceed to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. The original governance arrangements are now at odds with the usual democratic Council processes.

The Programme was reviewed in 2012/13 to inform future funding arrangements, strategic direction, and governance arrangements.

Summary of findings:

- The review indicates that the services available through the SP Programme are well regarded and highly valued by more than 11,000 vulnerable people, from across the priority groups, living in Rotherham. The Programme provides services which are, in the main, good value for money and effective.
- The review was able to provide evidence that SP services meet key targets to assist people to acquire, regain and maintain skills for independent living, and promote healthier lifestyles and lifestyles that divert people from crime and offending behaviours.
- The review has shown that the Programme is poorly understood, and that work is needed to embed its agenda within the NAS Service Plan, and to link the Programme into the wider Council strategies and plans.
- The review shows that the roles of strategic partners are under review within their own organisations and there is a need to rethink their contribution.

Imminent changes to the structure and governance of the local NHS, which include a central role for the local Health and Wellbeing Board; along with changes to the national governance of Probation Services, and the transfer of Public Health responsibilities to the Council, make this an opportune time to review the governance arrangements for the Supporting People Programme. Future arrangements should allow the Programme to have the maximum impact on Council Member portfolio areas and fully support Health and Wellbeing priorities.

8. Current Arrangements

SP Commissioning Body

The Commissioning Body makes recommendations about Programme priorities, and resource allocation, and acts as budget-holder for the SP budget.

Where executive decisions are required, recommendations progress to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

Membership:

- Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods (Chair)
- Rotherham PCT(now RCCG) – Assistant Chief Operating Officer
- Rotherham Probation – Assistant Director
- RMBC CYPS – Director of Safeguarding
- RMBC Commissioning – Strategic Manager

Also,

- Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care; and Children; and Young People, and Families are invited for items of interest to their portfolios

N.B Partner influence and attendance at this group has deteriorated since the Programme started as organisational structures have changed and priorities have shifted.

Core Strategy Group

Core Strategy team members form the expert group who are the authors of the Supporting People Plan, and advise the Commissioning Body.

Formal membership consists of Service Managers across all stakeholder partner organisations, who have commissioning interests in the client groups served through the SP Programme.

N.B Attendance at this group has deteriorated since 2010, membership has drifted from senior managers to operational staff without delegated powers, which has diluted the team's impact.

Provider Forum

Membership consists of representatives of all providers. Non-voting reps attend the Core Strategy Group. This is a vibrant group, which works collaboratively and is well attended.

Inclusive Forum

Membership consists of tenant and user representatives from all provided services. Providers support good consultation through this group and sessions are well attended.

10. Proposal

It is recommended that:

- The responsibilities of the SP Commissioning Group and Core Strategy Group are amalgamated to form a 'Supporting People Programme Strategic Group' with senior representation from NAS, CYPS, Public Health, and key strategic partners.

Proposals emerging from the Strategic Group are taken through NAS DLT and CYPS DLT (and to the relevant partner Executive Meetings where appropriate) for consultation and amendment.

- Proposals to proceed for information to:
 - Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, and Families
 - Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion
 - Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
 - Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods.
- Proposals and items for agreement and decision then proceed to Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.
- An annual account to be tabled at full Cabinet to agree the plan for the year ahead, including the funding allocation from the Formula Grant.

The Inclusive Forum and Provider Forum are to operate unchanged.

11. Finance

The Formula Grant allocation for 2013/14 will be £6.977M, a reduction from 2012/13 of £200K. The Strategic Director of NAS holds the SP Programme budget.

12. Risks and Uncertainties

The following risks have been identified should governance arrangements remain unchanged:

1. Council-wide understanding of the role played by the SP Programme in prevention/early intervention will not be maximised and opportunities for working together/efficiencies may not be fully realised.
2. The contribution of strategic partners in health and probation will not be maximised.

13. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Programme priorities align with prevention principles contained in:

- The Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- The RMBC Corporate Plan
- NAS Service Plan
- The CYPS Service Plan
- The Rotherham Housing Strategy

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