

Information/Discussion Paper

Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny–

6th September 2010

Gloucestershire Supporting People Strategy 2011-2016

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

1. Why has this come to scrutiny?

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views are sought to feed into the formal consultation on the Gloucestershire Supporting People Draft Strategy 2011-2016.
- 1.2 A summary presentation will be given at the meeting from the Supporting People Interim Manager; Gloucestershire County Council, followed by a facilitated discussion in order to capture and submit Committee's comments into the formal consultation process.
- 1.3 An executive summary of the strategy review is attached as appendix 1. The full draft strategy review papers can be accessed on Gloucestershire County Council's website via the following link:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=11653>

Hard copies of the full papers are available in members' rooms.

2. Summary of the Issue

2.1 National context

- 2.1.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) funds Supporting People to provide housing-related support for vulnerable people with the aim of establishing and maintaining independence. CLG have defined Supporting People as "delivering high quality and strategically planned housing-related services, which are cost effective and reliable, and complement existing care services. The planning and development of services will be needs led. Supporting People is a working partnership of local government, Service Users and support agencies"
- 2.1.2 The national Supporting People programme of £1.66bn in 2009-10 helps over a million vulnerable people each year to live independently including older people, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, homeless families, single homeless people, young people, ex-offenders, people recovering from substance misuse and people fleeing domestic abuse. Supporting People has led to significant savings in the cost of other services: nationally the £1.6 billion invested in Supporting People has saved other services £3.41 billion through reduced costs in

homelessness, tenancy failure, crime, health and residential packages and for every £1 spent on Supporting People services, £1.78 in benefit is gained.

2.2 Local Context

- 2.2.1** At a local level the supporting people programme is managed via a county level voluntary partnership board with member and officer representation as a non executive decision group but as an advisory group to the County Council in its role as the programme's Administering Authority. The board consists of elected members from each of the local authorities and non-executive board members from Gloucestershire PCT, 2gether Trust and the Probation Service and officer representatives from each partner. In 2009 the ring fence was lifted from the supporting people grant and has subsequently been paid as part of the area based grant, with the associated restrictive grant regulations removed.
- 2.2.2** The Supporting People Programme was launched 7 years ago and since that time we have seen over £22m, year on year, spent in the economy of Gloucestershire, and on services to vulnerable, local people. We now know much more about the services we inherited, and are beginning to focus on outcomes. Performance is monitored, services are quality assured and there has been significant work to improve the quality where services fall below the baseline. Looking back, this is a great improvement over the position in 2000, and a trend that we need to sustain and continue.
- 2.2.3** Gloucestershire Supporting People is however facing a period of significant budget cuts. We know the likely amounts and have a timeframe within which such cuts must take place. This allows for a planned and informed response. Needs Assessment, internal reviews and consultation have informed commissioners that there are areas where potential savings could be achieved, as well as where resources can be re-aligned to achieve the best possible outcomes for the investment. The Supporting People Partnership Board has committed to taking a strategic response, which will maximise the Supporting People outcomes that are achieved and not simply making across the board cuts.
- 2.2.4** The Partnership Board has agreed that it is vital to refresh the 2005 - 2010 strategy to ensure the Supporting People programme retains its fitness for purpose in the changing local government landscape and darkening financial climate.

3. Summary of evidence/information

- 3.1** The Executive Summary, attached as appendix 1, summarises the key headlines of the draft strategy notably; the context of the Supporting People Programme in Gloucestershire; the key drivers for change; our proposed approach to meeting the challenges; and the timetable and process for consultation and finalising the strategy. Attached to the executive summary is also an extract of needs modelling for Cheltenham and the maps of deprivation for Gloucestershire.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1** Following a summary presentation, a facilitated discussion will be held to gather committee's views on the draft strategy, in particular with regards to:
- The impact of the strategy's proposals
 - Shape of current services

- Needs of vulnerable people
- Other solutions to the issues
- Proposed priorities

4.2 These comments will be fed into the consultation process to inform the finalisation of the strategy as per the process described on pp 9-10 of appendix 1.

4.3 Report committee's comments to Cabinet meeting of 21st September 2010 for reflection during their facilitated discussion of the draft strategy

Background Papers	The Gloucestershire Supporting People Programme, Draft Strategy 2011-2016
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Accountability	Councillor Klara Sudbury, Cabinet Member Housing and Safety
Scrutiny Function	Social and Community