

Cheltenham Borough Council
Cabinet – 21st September 2010
Gloucestershire Supporting People Strategy 2011-2016

Accountable member	Councillor Klara Sudbury, Cabinet Member Housing and Safety
Accountable officer	Kathryn Chamberlain , Head of Service Stronger Communities
Accountable scrutiny committee	Social And Community
Ward(s) affected	All
Key Decision	Yes
Executive summary	<p>Gloucestershire Supporting People is facing a period of significant budget cuts. We know the likely amounts and have a timeframe within which such cuts must take place which allows for a planned and informed response. The Supporting People Partnership Board has committed to taking a strategic response to these challenges, which will maximise the Supporting People outcomes that are achieved and not simply making across the board cuts. 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 financial climate.</p> <p>Cabinet's views are sought to feed into the formal consultation on the Gloucestershire Supporting People Draft Strategy 2011-2016.</p> <p>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 Cabinet's comments into the formal consultation process.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=11653</p> <p>Hard copies of the full papers are available in members' rooms.</p>
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive a verbal report of the issues raised under discussion at Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny meeting of 6th September 2010 2. Submit comments to the formal consultation process 3. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Community Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member Housing and Safety to endorse the Gloucestershire Supporting People Strategy 2011-2016, as per the

process on pp 9-10 of Appendix 1; on condition that:

- no further significant amendments are made to the final strategy as a result of the consultation process and
- that the issues raised by Cheltenham Borough Council during the consultation period are adequately addressed in the final version, and if they are not then this matter will be reported back to Cabinet

<p>Financial implications</p>	<p>The amount of the allocation to supporting people from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) for 2011/12 will be announced in October 2010, pending the outcome of the Government spending review. Non-approval of this strategy may affect the delivery of the Supporting People programme which may result in a higher demand on the homelessness budget in the future.</p> <p>Contact officer: Sarah Didcote, sarah.didcote@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264125</p>
<p>Legal implications</p>	<p>None directly arising from this report but legal advice and assistance will be provided in the development of the strategy as and when required</p> <p>Contact officer: Nicolas Wheatley, Solicitor, One Legal, Nicolas.wheatley@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272695</p>
<p>Key risks</p>	<p>The failure to agree a county wide approach via a strategy would result in an inability to manage the budget pressures and result in reduction of services and/or failure to provide appropriate housing related support services which would then impact disproportionately on the most vulnerable members of our community</p>
<p>Corporate and community plan Implications</p>	<p>The draft strategy organisations contribute to the following outcomes of the Community Plan 2008-2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting community safety • Promoting sustainable living • Promoting a strong and sustainable economy • Building healthy communities and supporting older people • Building stronger communities and supporting housing choice • Focus on children and young people <p>The strategy also contributes to the following outcomes and activities in the Corporate Strategy 2010 to 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening our communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Communities feel safe and are safe – People are able to lead healthy lifestyles – Our residents enjoy a strong sense of community and are involved in resolving local issues

1. Background

1.1 National context

- 1.1.1 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”
- 1.1.2 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.

1.2 Local Context

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 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.
- 1.2.3 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.
- 1.2.4 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.

2. Summary of evidence/information

- 2.1 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.

3. Next Steps

3.1 Following a summary presentation, a facilitated discussion will be held to gather Cabinet'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

3.2 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. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 To ensure the impact on Cheltenham is understood and reflected in relation to the county context of the Supporting People Programme Strategy 2011-2016

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 The commissioning of housing related support services is undertaken under the strategic direction and advice of the Partnership Board and subject to the operational and constitutional regulations of the County Council as the Administering Authority of the programme.

6. Consultation and feedback

6.1 A verbal report of Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussion of 9th September will be presented to Cabinet

7. Performance management –monitoring and review

7.1 The performance monitoring of the programme is reported to and monitored by the Supporting People Partnership Board.

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Appendices	1. Five Year Supporting People Strategy: 2011-2016 Executive Summary
Background information	

Cabinet Report risk template

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	I	L	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
	The failure to agree a county wide approach via a strategy would result in an inability to manage the budget pressures and result in reduction of services and/or failure to provide appropriate housing related support services which would then impact disproportionately on the most vulnerable members of our community and may increase demand on homelessness budget.	SLT	24.08.10	4	4	16	reduce	Influence strategy via consultation process to secure robust programme of delivery that meets local and county wide needs	Jan 11	Kathryn Chamberlain	