

SUPPORTING PEOPLE ADVISORY PANEL**14 JANUARY 2009**

Chairman: * Councillor Eric Silver

Councillors: Mrs Margaret Davine
* David Gawn* Jean Lammiman
Barry Macleod-Cullinane

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES**92. **Attendance by Reserve Members:****RESOLVED:** To note the attendance of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:Ordinary MemberReserve Member

Councillor Margaret Davine

Councillor Krishna James

93. **Declarations of Interest:****RESOLVED:** To note that the following interests were declared:Agenda ItemMemberNature of Interest

7. Supporting People Programme Update	Councillor Krishna James	Councillor Krishna James declared a personal interest in that she would be receiving social care for the future. Councillor James remained in the room and took part in the discussion on this item.
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94. **Minutes:****RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2008, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.95. **Public Questions, Petitions, Deputations:****RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions, petitions or deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 16, 14 and 15 respectively (Part 4E of the Constitution).96. **The Supporting People Programme Update:**

An officer provided the Panel with an update on the key developments within the Supporting People (SP) programme since the last meeting of the Panel on 24 September 2008.

In response to a number of queries raised by Members, the Panel were advised that:

- The meeting of West London Domestic Violence Project Board on Wednesday 14 January 2009 would finalise details of the framework agreement to procure Domestic Violence (DV) services across West London;
- Results of the Individual Budgets Evaluation Network (IBSEN) report on the provision of individual budgets in social care revealed that, some service users may view it as an additional burden as they may not receive adequate support how to manage the budget allocated to them;
- An extract from the Housing Needs Survey conducted in 2006 provided a breakdown of the ethnicity and household type of 82,500 households in Harrow. Results of the survey showed that, white households were more likely to be occupied by older people than black and minority ethnic households;
- Characteristics of service users who received family care would be explored and provided by the SP team to Members of the Panel.

The officer reported on key developments within the SP programme which included that:

- The Government decision to allocate a de-ringfenced named grant for the SP programme in 2009/10. Funding for the programme in 2010/11 would also be paid as part of an Area Based Grant. The officer reported that any unallocated funding in 2008/09 would be carried forward to the next financial year but would remain subject to 2008/09 grant conditions. He added that a transition package to support service providers and officers in the delivery of the SP programme would be finalised by the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Department in the forthcoming months;
- The 2008-11 SP strategy agreed by Cabinet on 23 October 2008 would remain unchanged by the Government decision on the delivery of the SP programme;
- The Audit Commission report for CLG would identify areas where certain action may be required. Key considerations included recognising the value and cost effectiveness of continued funding for preventative services to protect vulnerable groups, support the social care agenda and reduce the costs borne by related services;
- Cabinet had approved the Supporting People strategy discussed at the previous Panel meeting in September 2008;
- Cabinet had agreed that the Divisional Director of Commissioning and Partnerships Children's and Adults could have the delegated authority to approve call offs from the West London Framework to provide generic floating support if some service users had received inadequate support from service providers. The officer added that the strategy had provided for generic floating support services to be offered alongside other services, so that the needs of particular service users who fell outside the existing eligibility criteria such as, the physically disabled and the mentally ill were met;
- Future SP contracts would be drafted in consideration of European Union procurement rules to meet the commissioning needs of Harrow Council for 2008-11. Whilst outlining the draft methodology and timetable for delivery that would be used in the future, the officer reported that:
 - (i) recommendations on the provisions needed to provide services would be made;
 - (ii) options available in procuring a particular service would be considered; and
 - (iii) a risk assessment of contracts would be completed as part of a contract monitoring review process.
- A contract monitoring timetable and a new Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) had been established for the SP team to monitor the performance and quality of services and contracts. The officer reported that the new standard considered child protection issues and required a certain quality criteria to be considered and met by all service providers in future contracts;
- The SP team had been working towards meeting National Indicator (NI) performance targets against which the service was assessed. The officer confirmed that new targets had been set by the Commissioning Body for 2008/09 to promote yearly improvement in service delivery;
- The Commissioning Body meeting had agreed to provide funding support for a number of organisations at its meeting on 5 November 2008. These included:
 - (i) the reconfiguration of services provided by Harrow Churches, including some occupants of Richards Close moving to private or sheltered accommodation provided by Harrow Council and receiving appropriate support;
 - (ii) the short term funding of the SP lodgings project run by the YMCA until the end of March 2009. The officer advised that the SP team would meet with other service providers, such as, Housing and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) to negotiate long term

arrangements for the scheme. A Member of the Panel commented that the scheme could be rolled out to other boroughs that formed part of the West London Supporting People Partnership;

- Consultation with a Task force and existing mainstream service providers for the formalisation of a Somali support service would be investigated. This would develop the work of the pilot scheme that was due to be decommissioned at the end of the 2008/09 financial year.

The officer confirmed that the following information would be provided to Members of the Panel at the next meeting:

- An update on the outcome of the meeting of West London Domestic Violence Project Board on Wednesday 14 January 2009;
- Results of the Individual Budgets Evaluation Network (IBSEN) report;
- A report on Contract Monitoring and the new Quality Assessment Framework (QAF);
- An outcome report on the delivery of the supported lodgings scheme against a contract monitoring timetable and the amended West London performance management framework.

The Chairman thanked the officer for his work on the Supporting People programme.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments be noted.

97. **Date of Next Meeting:**

RESOLVED: That the date of the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Wednesday 22 April 2009, subject to consultation with the Chairman and the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 10.30 am, closed at 12.15 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR ERIC SILVER
Chairman