

SUPPORTING PEOPLE ADVISORY PANEL

22 APRIL 2009

Chairman: * Councillor Eric Silver

Councillors: * Mrs Margaret Davine
* David Gawn

* Barry Macleod-Cullinane
* Jeremy Zeid (2)

* Denotes Member present
(2) Denotes category of Reserve Member

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES**98. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-

Ordinary MemberReserve Member

Councillor Jean Lammiman

Councillor Jeremy Zeid

99. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business to be transacted at this meeting.

100. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2009, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

101. **Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions, petitions or deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of the Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rules 16, 14 and 15 respectively (Part 4E of the Constitution).

102. **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 14 January 2009 and an update on the ongoing work conducted by the SP team. These updates included:

- It was agreed at the meeting of the West London Domestic Violence Project Board on the 14 January 2009 that all relevant boroughs would adopt their own local procurement strategies for commissioning services. The officer confirmed that the Council would explore the possibility of working with Hillingdon to deliver efficiencies included in the procurement process, subject to an outline of the quantity of provisions being agreed.
- The SP programme was fundamental to the success of Individual Budgets. A full report on the Individual Budgets Evaluation Network (IBSEN) was available on the Internet through http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/pdf/IBSEN_SummaryReport.pdf. The report identified concerns about the integration of the SP programme which could result in some service users being charged twice for social care and housing related support services. The officer added that a system would be implemented in conjunction with the Self Directed Support team to secure 20% of SP funding through Individual Budgets by April 2010.
- The outcome report on the delivery of the West London Supported Lodgings scheme recommended that the existing scheme should be extended at its current volume for a further year. Officers confirmed that the scheme would be extended throughout West London and consider expanding the scheme to Children's Services. A Member of the Panel suggested that efficiency savings and improvements in service delivery could be achieved if the SP programme was included as part of the young people element in Harrow Council's procurement programme.

- The Commissioning Body had agreed to fund the restructure of Harrow Churches in an effort to improve services. In addition, the warden support service provided at weekends would be reconfigured to provide greater support to residents when needed. Officers confirmed that the Richards Close development was due for completion in 2010 and that an in principle agreement to support the provision of wardens for the remaining properties on site had been agreed. Panel members were invited to visit the site once all works had been completed.
- Officers had considered the results of the Somali needs pilot scheme. An officer reported that the SP team would approach existing service providers to discuss appropriate courses of action to meet the needs of the community, improve access to housing related support services and enhance community engagement.
- An agreement had been reached with Lookahead to extend the West London Floating Support contract to include families and/or individuals who were at risk from eviction or homelessness. An officer confirmed that a cost benefit analysis of the contract had been included in the strategy presented to Cabinet in 2008. Officers would investigate providing specific figures on the savings achieved from this contract.
- Improvements to the existing contracts with Central and North West London NHS Trust for the delivery of mental health services had been identified. A meeting of the Commissioning Board in May 2009 would discuss the impact on the ability to deliver contracts as part of the options available, such as, a section 75 review.
- Funding for a Housing Advice (HAWK) worker for the following year would continue as the role had been recognised as being an essential provision.
- Funding for SP would be de-ringfenced and paid through an area based grant from April 2010. In light of this, officers confirmed that the programme was in a transition stage and that needs and funding available at present would be assessed. It was added that outstanding issues identified at this stage as a result of the transition package agreed before Central Government and the Audit Commission would be resolved by officers.
- The collective decision to terminate the contract between Amner Lodge SP team, Housing services and Novas had been agreed. Officers advised that plans regarding the future use of the building would be finalised and further information was available from the Housing Department.
- Funding for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 handy person service had been secured. The Panel were advised that existing services would be developed and made available to the Staying Put Scheme, Age Concern and Harrow Churches.

Officers also reported on the draft procurement strategy for SP services in Harrow for 2009/10 agreed by the Commissioning Body. Whilst outlining the draft methodology and timetable for delivery which would consider European Union procurement rules to meet the commissioning needs of Harrow Council for 2008-11, the officer explained that:

- Data from the transformation project and stakeholder views would help the SP team identify a models of housing related support provisions that would meet the needs of service users in Harrow. Officers confirmed that the final document would be signed by the Adults and Housing Management Team and Commissioning Body.
- In accordance with the timetable of dates, the SP team would consider which procurement process was appropriate for approving a service provider contract.
- The SP team would implement a transition plan and risk assessment for new services and service provider if a new contract has been agreed.
- The draft timetable would be delivered over the 2009/10 financial year. The timetable of works would be reviewed if links between the services available to the different categories of service users were identified by officers.
- The SP programme had not allocated funding in support of services provided to the Gypsy and Traveller community. A Member confirmed that the Deputy

Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety was involved in a work programme to address these issues.

- The Commissioning Body had agreed to recommend a one off performance bonus of 1.8% for SP contract providers who had met and exceeded outcome targets outlined in the Contract Monitoring Action plans.
- Efficiency savings had contributed to the projected £1.2 million SP budget that would be carried forward into the 2009/10 budget. Officers confirmed that the SP team had planned to procure a number of short term projects to support the delivery of social care services. This included the expansion of the supported lodgings pilot run in partnership with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Officers advised that a balanced approach had been taken in light of the change in grant conditions for the 2010/11 financial year. A Member of the Panel confirmed that a prudent approach taken in previous years had contributed to successful outcomes within the SP programme.
- The 78% National Indicator (NI) 141 performance target set by the Commissioning Body for 2008/09 had been exceeded by the SP team where 87.89% of service users had moved on in a planned way for the third quarter.

The officer confirmed that the following information would be provided at the next meeting:

- A report on the results of the Contract Monitoring and the new Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) that had been applied to existing contracts.
- An update on the discussion with the Housing department of the benefits of addressing homelessness as part of the SP programme.
- The fourth quarter results of the SP programme against NI targets.
- A table of outcomes delivered through the SP programme.

103. **Date of Next Meeting:**

RESOLVED: To be agreed.

104. **Vote of Thanks:**

The Chairman noted that this was the final meeting of the current municipal year and thanked his colleagues and officers for their work over that period. He expressed his good wishes to Members who would be serving on the Committee in the coming year. The Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing expressed his appreciation for the work conducted in partnership with the Chairman over the year.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 6.05 pm, closed at 7.48 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR ERIC SILVER
Chairman