

SUPPORTING PEOPLE ADVISORY PANEL

4 JUNE 2008

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**74. **Appointment of Chairman:**

RESOLVED: To note the appointment at the meeting of Cabinet on 15 May 2008 of Councillor Eric Silver as Chairman of the Supporting People Advisory Panel for the Municipal Year 2008/09.

75. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

76. **Appointment of Vice Chairman:**

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor David Gawn as Vice-Chairman of the Supporting People Advisory Panel for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

77. **Declarations of Interest:**

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

78. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That all items be considered with the press and public present.

79. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be given the authority to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2008, as a correct record of that meeting, once printed in the Council Bound Volume.

80. **Public Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 16 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

81. **Petitions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received at this meeting under the provisions of the Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

82. **Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

83. **The Supporting People Programme Update:**

The Panel received a report from an officer for Adults and Housing, updating Members on key developments within the Supporting People programme since the last meeting of the panel in March 2008, along with discussion items.

The officer provided a briefing on the Supporting People programme for the benefit of new panel Members. New Members of the Panel were invited to visit Supporting People schemes in order to gain an understanding of the programme. The importance

of the alignment of the Supporting People programme to the Local Area Agreement (LAA) outcomes was also discussed.

Developments on matters raised at the previous meeting, as set out in the report were outlined. These included the input that Age Concern could potentially provide some assistance with the loft clearance scheme provided to older people. A Member commented that more options were needed to enable people to reach a workable solution to resolving this issue.

Decisions made at the Commissioning Body (CB) meeting held on 6 May 2008 and its contribution to the allocation of funding and resources to the Supporting People programme were reported on. Key points arising from this discussion included:

- That inflationary contract lift ups would not generally be offered.
- That a leaving care system had been reconfigured to accommodate single homeless persons.
- That the CB would commission three additional supported housing units at the Harrow YMCA Roxeth Gate to meet the demand for accommodation from single homeless service users.
- The principle agreement to the development of a floating support service for the West London (WL) Domestic Violence programme in addition to other recommendations of the West London Domestic Violence review.

A Member expressed concerns over the governance, cost, service and target implications borne by Harrow as a consequence of the recommendations of the West London Domestic Violence review recommendations.

Members were advised that whilst signing up to the principles and recommendations of the review, the decision regarding committing to funding would still be made locally through the governance of the Commissioning Body.

The officer detailed the progress of developing a refreshed Supporting People strategy in terms of the emerging themes from its development, which included:

- That the Supporting People strategy should be updated taking into account the opportunities presented by the LAA, the widening of preventative services and the creation of a business plan for Supporting People (SP) funding.
- The particular focus on the equity share sheltered housing being made available as an option to older people moving into sheltered accommodation.
- The development of measures to focus on socially excluded groups such as the Somalian community.
- The long term needs of mental health and learning disability service users.
- The development of:
 - (i) an in – house or external brokerage service for housing related support.
 - (ii) A provider led move on panel to assist in the inclusion of the private sector in the housing assessment process as alternative housing options.
 - (iii) the agreement of short and long term contracts for floating support in terms of budget funding and independent living for socially excluded groups respectively.

Members were briefed on the future plans for the SP programme and the delivery of its agenda identified at the Commissioning Body away day on 19 December 2007. The officer provided an update on the action plan for the forthcoming alignment of SP with the LAA from April 2009. Members were advised on the use of unallocated Supporting People programme funding for innovation in order to deliver on LAA tendering

outcomes and build upon existing Supporting People services. Particular focus was placed on the use of an agreement framework to procure services and the signing of an access agreement from July 2008 so that services could be decommissioned at short notice.

The programme of Contract monitoring in relation to cluster groups and areas of concern were discussed. Members of the Panel were informed of the lack of progress made by some service providers in accordance with their action plans. In particular, members were advised of the need for Supporting People work in conjunction with the Adults and Housing Transformation project.

A strategy for the use of unallocated SP funding was discussed. Concern over the possibility of the money being clawed back after April 2009 when the SP grant would no longer be ring-fenced was expressed. Members agreed that some funding should support preventative and existing schemes in the SP programme.

As a consequence of the discussion, the officer also agreed to take the following actions in response to the comments from Members of the Panel:

- A table indicating the LAA outcomes that the Supporting People programme contributes to.
- An indication of the estimated efficiencies that the recommendations from the West London Domestic Violence will deliver.
- Confirm the number of older peoples living in owner occupation.
- Confirm when the report on the outcome of the individual budget pilots will be available.
- Revise the draft Vision of the SP strategy 2008-11 taking on board the comments made by members.
- Undertake a cost benefit analysis for each of the service user groups supported by Supporting People, as part of the work on the revised strategy.
- Circulate a draft Supporting People strategy with a consultation time scale to Members by the end of June the strategy is due to be approved by Cabinet in September 2008.
- Consider the possibility of a Supporting People meeting prior to the September Cabinet.

The Chairman thanked the officer for a clear presentation and informative answers to Members' questions.

RESOLVED: That the report and the comments should be noted.

84. **Date of Next Meeting:**

RESOLVED: That Democratic Services liaise with Members for a date in September 2008.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 10.05 am, closed at 12.15 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR ERIC SILVER
Chairman