

**SUPPORTING PEOPLE ADVISORY PANEL****24 SEPTEMBER 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**85. **Attendance by Reserve Members:****RESOLVED:** To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.86. **Declarations of Interest:****RESOLVED:** To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members present in relation to the business to be transacted at this meeting.87. **Arrangement of Agenda:****RESOLVED:** That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following item be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances / Grounds for Urgency</u>
4. Minutes	The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2008 were omitted from the agenda. Members were requested to consider the item, as a matter of urgency.

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present.

88. **Minutes:****RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2008, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

(See Minute 87)

89. **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).90. **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 held in June 2008.

The matters arising from the panel meeting in June were responded to by the officer outside of the meeting and are covered in the report. The main points were:

- the SP programme made a significant contribution to the outcomes in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). In particular, older persons were encouraged to live independently;
- some of the work conducted by the SP programme, such as, funding for a floating support service to reduce the number of young people misusing substances was not accounted for in existing Key Performance indicators (KPI's);

- the West London Domestic Violence review is at the implementation stage. It was planned to have a common approach to procurement of DV services across WL through a framework agreement which would improve efficiencies, quality and costs;
- according to the Housing Needs survey of 2008, the number of older persons currently living in owner occupied properties was 78.7%. This figure included older persons who lived with other family members;
- a large number of owner occupiers living in Harrow did not receive housing support services who could benefit from them;
- the services provided by Willow Housing and Notting Hill Housing Trust (Notting Hill) were fully utilised. Clients received an individual support package. They may need to utilise a number of services that would provide long term support for their particular needs;
- Civis Consultants were finalising a report on the individual budget for the SP programme and self directed support for clients. The report would assist the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) in deciding future policies for inclusion in the SP strategy;
- the SP vision statement had been revised to consider comments at the last Panel meeting in June;
- the cost benefit analysis showed that the overall net financial benefits (not including older persons support) to the individual and the community, compared to the current cost of the SP budget was approximately a 2:1 ration on average. The alternative to SP provisions would cost more and fail to take into account incidental costs borne by the police, health and social care services as well as, non-financial benefits;
- findings of the cost benefit analysis would be included in the revised SP strategy to be presented at Cabinet on 23 October 2008.

The Chair commented that the results of the report, justified why the majority of SP provisions should continue after ring-fencing was removed in April 2009. This would allow for greater flexibility in the Supporting People programme, as its services could become more integrated in the Adult and Social Care agenda.

There followed a number of updates from the report.

Members of the Panel were advised of the two key recommendations from the SP Strategy refresh 2008-11 that would be considered by Cabinet on 23 October 2008. These were that:

1. Cabinet to be asked to agree in principle to retain the SP funded services for three years 2008-11 while recognising the opportunities that the LAA presented for reconfiguring services, widening the definition of preventative services and increasing the possibility of jointly commissioned services.
2. Cabinet be asked to agree in principle that an element of the SP budget fund individual budgets by April 2010 following the Governments report into the pilot. The suggestion at this stage was that a minimum of 20% of SP funding was made available through individual budgets by April 2010 on the basis that this currently funded floating support services.

In response to Members comments and questions on the report, the officer confirmed that:

- SP needed to be a part of the wider Self Directed Support Individual Budget (IB) choice agenda and therefore, an element of SP IBs are required to be made available. SP would be piloting an IB assessment that would currently link individuals into floating support services where provisions or options were not available to clients at a particular time;

- the Strategic Action Plan contained in Appendix 2 of the report, outlined the strategic aims and the plans for proposed improvements in provision and processes of the Supporting People programme;
- the West London Procurement Framework would be used to procure provisions for some client groups for 2008-11 where it would meet local needs;
- the SP budget provided a breakdown of current expenditure on the programme;
- the SP programme planned to use unallocated funding to procure short term pilot services over the years;
- areas of concern raised in the Equality Impact Assessment had been addressed in the report prepared for the Cabinet meeting in October. Contractors of the SP programme were required to meet the established standards in the framework. If they failed to meet the required standards, their services would be decommissioned;
- National Indicators showed that there had been a steady improvement in the performance of services that SP provided through contracts;
- the single point of referral proposal had been revised to consider different eligibility routes for SP clients in order to address current under-provisions within housing services. The aim was for the scheme to be implemented by December 2008, with a view to establishing single points of referral at a local level to form part of a operational gateway service for people with long term needs;
- service providers to the SP programme would be monitored. A contract monitoring timetable would be used in 2008-09 to monitor commissioned services by service providers. In addition to the timetable, a revised Quality Assessment Framework and the amended West London Performance Management Framework would be used to monitor service providers between October 2008 and March 2009;
- the provision for a Generic Floating Support Service in Harrow had been approved by the Commissioning Body. This should commence in December 2008 as part of the West London Procurement Framework;
- a review of services provided for Notting Hill elderly-mentally ill clients who were not eligible for statutory services had been conducted. The officer confirmed that the outcome of the evaluation and a case study in the report demonstrated the value of services provided by Notting Hill to service users. The contract is being renewed for a further year;
- consultation on the realignment of the contract and brokerage functions within the SP programme was underway. Proposals include, a new role of SP Team Leader;
- plans for developing an accreditation system for the future across WL would ensure regulation of service providers in terms of governance and finance;
- the ISERVE project that provided support to members of the Somalian community who did not require long term support, had commenced. A number of initiatives, such as, life skills workshops and prevention and options surgeries would be implemented;
- lookahead programmes on skills development and customer training had been developed to train those clients staying in temporary housing units and using floating support services;

The officer further confirmed for the next meeting, he would provide information to Members of the Panel relating to:

- details of the ethnicity of older persons within the borough; and
- statistics for owner occupied older persons who received family support

The Chairman thanked the officer for the work on the Supporting People strategy report. He confirmed that all relevant information would be available on the internet.

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

91. **Date of Next Meeting:**

**RESOLVED:** That the date of the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Wednesday 14 January 2009 at 10.30 am.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 10.35 am, closed at 12.25 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR ERIC SILVER  
Chairman