

Meeting: Cabinet  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005  
Subject: Supporting People Strategy  
Responsible Officer: Director of Strategy (Urban Living)  
Contact Officer: Christopher Holley  
Portfolio Holder: Social Care & Health  
Key Decision: yes  
Status: Public

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

Cabinet are asked to endorse the Harrow Supporting People Strategy and the West London Supporting People Strategy, including the Financial plan inline with the recommendation made by the Supporting People Advisory Panel.

### **Reason for report**

The Supporting People Strategy will guide the work of the Supporting People Team in the coming five years. The strategy will guide how the Supporting People Team commissions and delivers the programme. The Strategy is attached as Appendix A. The Supporting People Advisory Panel Recommendation is attached as Appendix B.

The Strategy is intended to support the corporate objectives of Harrow Council. Supporting People has always been a vehicle to provide housing related support, which helps sustain the objectives of the wider health and social care agenda. As such we have used the following documents to ensure that the wider corporate objectives are delivered through Supporting People. These are:

- The Corporate Plan
- The Harrow Community Strategy
- Harrow Vitality Profiles

## Benefits

By agreeing the strategy we will be ensuring that:

- Housing related support services meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in Harrow
- we obtain the best possible services at the best possible price
- joint working between directorates is fostered to ensure best use of resources
- better performance is delivered by other directorates to ensure better CPA assessments
- we work closely with our health and social care partners

## Cost of Proposals

Supporting People funds revenue costs for housing related support. It does not fund capital projects.

The strategy contains a financial plan, which is based on next years budget. In the year 2005/06 we expect to spend £3,498,300 on contracted support services. There will be approximately £250,000 to £300,000 to use to commission new services.

The main source of funding is Supporting People Grant from the ODPM.

The services are delivered through a procurement process based on a value for money methodology. This has been endorsed by the corporate procurement team.

There is a commitment arising from the West London Strategy for further joint working which may in turn lead to some joint cross authority commissioning of new services for specific vulnerable client groups and or some client groups that have been difficult to work with for example offenders and travellers.

## Risks

The strategy carries a risk that we may not receive sufficient grant in years to come to ensure that the strategy can be delivered. .

There a number of financial risks these include:

- Future reductions in ODPM grant

- The ability of providers to meet their contractual obligation
- Capacity of the team to deliver the work

### **Implications if recommendations rejected**

Should Members or the Commissioning Body be unable to agree either of the two strategies then we would be unable to meet the deadline set by the ODPM for the submission of the strategy.

## **Section 2: Report**

### Brief History

Supporting People went live in April 2003. The council has worked steadily and successfully to meet all the major goals of the programme and this has been reflected in the feedback from the Audit Commission's recent inspection.

The Supporting People Shadow Strategy was endorsed by Members and was welcomed across the health and social care sector in Harrow and West London.

The new Supporting People Strategy has been developed from the existing shadow Strategy.

The final report attached at Appendix A includes feedback from a number of stakeholders including probation and the PCT.

### Options considered

All Administering Authorities are required to submit a Supporting People Strategy and as such we have to comply with the ODPM requirements.

The Supporting People Shadow was rated as good and as such we have built on this achievement and developed the Supporting People Strategy from this initial success.

The West London Supporting People Lead Officer Group has worked well on a number of joint activities including:

- Accreditation
- Service review
- Support to providers

It was felt that a West London Strategy would enable the authorities to make a real impact for a number of groups who had been considered hard to reach. This

strategy seeks to enable us to work in partnership to identify needs and commission services in partnership to ensure value for money and that hard to reach groups are supported through across the region.

### Consultation

Consultation was carried out through a range of activities including:

- an Inclusive Forum of stakeholders
- a survey of need from providers
- a survey of need from other stakeholders

The draft strategy has been published on the Harrow website.

The West London Strategy has been developed collectively with our partner authorities in the West London Alliance. We held a consultation event for all providers and stakeholders to consider the strategy and how it would deliver for the wider West London region.

### Financial Implications

The Supporting People Programme has been managed through a Supporting People finance group. The budget for the financial year 2005/06 has been produced and consulted on with senior finance staff and is deliverable within the resources available.

### Legal Implications

None

### Equalities Impact

Supporting People is committed to meeting the needs of Harrow's diverse community. The strategy is designed to ensure that services are commissioned to meet the needs of a diverse community and as such this is reflected in the needs mapping that was carried out in the creation of the strategy.

## **Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents**

Appendix A – Supporting People Strategy (circulated in the Cabinet Second Supplemental Cabinet Supporting Documents Pack)

Appendix B – Recommendation from the Supporting People Advisory Panel

### Background Papers

- ODPM Roles and responsibilities document
- Harrow Supporting People Shadow Strategy (2002)
- Audit Commission Self Assessment document
- Audit Commission Key Lines of Enquiry

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8424 1895