

SUPPORTING PEOPLE ADVISORY PANEL

4 APRIL 2005

Chair: * Councillor Margaret Davine

Councillors: * Ann Groves
* Lavingia

† Myra Michael
† Silver

* Denotes Member present

† Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **RECOMMENDATION 1 - Endorsement of the Harrow Supporting People Strategy and the West London Supporting People Strategy, including the Financial plan:**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Strategy (Urban Living), which detailed the Harrow Supporting People Strategy and the West London Supporting People Strategy.

An officer advised that Harrow Council, as an administering local Authority for Supporting People, was required to devise a Supporting People Strategy for the next five years. It had developed its strategy from the existing Shadow Strategy, which had been rated 'good' by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

It was explained that consultation with service users to identify their needs had taken place and that this had helped to direct the strategy. Groups of clients had been clustered into three groups: 1) Older people, 2) Homelessness and prevention services, 3) Adults with Longer term needs. Within these titles, client groups had a common strategic thread.

Members were referred to Harrow's Annual plan, which had set out priorities to be focused on during 2005/06. It was outlined that the areas of work agreed by the Commissioning Body were services for offenders, those with substance misuse and mental health issues, and those living in the owner-occupier sector who required Housing related support.

In response to a Member's question about how the Supporting People Strategy would link with the Older People's Housing Review, an officer informed the Panel that negotiation with sheltered housing providers was taking place.

A Member commented that the agreed focus on the need for services to those living in the owner-occupier sector was welcomed and that the support would save on unnecessary health expenditure.

The needs of youth offenders were discussed. An officer informed the Panel that discussions with the Youth Offending Team had taken place to aid the provision of services for youth offenders.

The Panel welcomed the strategy and stated that its flexibility would be a massive advantage. The Panel agreed that the document was useful and informative and recognised the good work of the Supporting People team.

The Panel endorsed both the Harrow Supporting People Strategy and the West London Supporting People Strategy, including the Financial plan.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To Cabinet)

That the Harrow Supporting People Strategy and the West London Supporting People Strategy, including the Financial plan, be agreed.

[Reason for Recommendation: The Strategy will guide the work of the Supporting People Team in the coming five years and support the Council's corporate objectives.]