

Warwickshire Supporting People

Five Year Strategy 2008-2013

April 2008

Executive Summary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1. Introduction

This is Warwickshire's second Supporting People Strategy.

The purpose of the strategy is to give direction to the programme over the next five years and to influence the development of other relevant strategies across Warwickshire.

The strategy has been developed on behalf of all members of the Supporting People Partnership. It takes full account of:

- All the consultations and feedback from users carried out since the production of the first strategy.
- An updated and improved needs analysis
- The current strategic context
- The achievements made since the first strategy
- The feedback received from the responses to the public consultation exercise conducted in relation to the draft version of the strategy

Section 2: Background to the Supporting People Partnership in Warwickshire

The Supporting People Programme is a central government grant programme, which aims to help develop housing related support services to enable vulnerable people to live independently in the community and enhance their quality of life.

The Programme in Warwickshire receives around £10 million grant funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

It operates as a Partnership consisting of the County Council, the five District and Borough Councils, Warwickshire Probation Service, and the Warwickshire Primary Care Trust.

Section 3: Context for the Supporting People Partnership

The Supporting People Partnership in Warwickshire operates within a wider geographical and strategic context.

The Supporting People Programme plays a key role in promoting links between health, housing, probation and social care and thus contributes to "narrowing the

gap” between the most disadvantaged people and communities and the rest of the County

There are a number of national and local drivers that drive and influence the Supporting People Strategy and programme. Of particular importance is “Independence and Opportunity”, the new Government strategy for Supporting People which was published in June 2007. It sets the strategic direction for local Supporting People Partnerships. It is based on four key themes under which it sets out what is expected from local programmes:

- Keeping People who need services at the heart of the programme
- Enhancing Partnership with the Third Sector
- Delivering in the new Local Government landscape
- Increasing Efficiency and Reducing Bureaucracy

Locally, the Local Area Agreement is a key driver. This includes reference to the agreed targets for a Supporting People key performance indicator included in the Agreement.

This indicator will have the target of increasing the number of vulnerable people achieving independent living. Data supplied by service providers reveals that 63% of vulnerable service users currently achieve this goal. We will now aim to increase this percentage to nearly 78% by March 2011.

The incorporation of the Supporting People programme grant into the Area Based Grant as from 1st April 2009 is also included. The Strategy reflects Supporting People’s focus on ‘narrowing the gap’ from a number of perspectives, not just geographically.

Section 4: Our Vision and Strategic Principles for the Partnership

Vision

Our vision for the Supporting People Programme in Warwickshire is as follows:

“The Supporting People Partnership will improve the quality of life for vulnerable people in Warwickshire through needs led housing related support, designed to enable them to live independently and be part of their local community”

This vision was endorsed by respondents to the strategy consultation exercise, the majority of whom said that the strategy clearly linked to the vision.

There are a range of outcomes we would want for individuals if our vision is to be achieved. These are in line with the national outcomes for Supporting People.

In Warwickshire we would want more people:

- With the life skills they need to live independently
- Given support to gain and maintain settled accommodation
- Given help to claim the right benefits and to identify training and job opportunities
- Playing a valued role in their community
- Being given choices to stay in or return to their home
- Staying healthy
- Staying safe

In the consultation these outcomes were all endorsed by respondents as important or very important.

Strategic Principles for the Partnership

In order to deliver the vision for the Supporting People Partnership in Warwickshire, we must have a successful programme delivered through strong partnerships. We have identified five strategic principles for the Partnership for the next five years:

- Individualised and Outcome Focused Services
- Service User Involvement and Empowerment
- Diversity and Access
- Effective Commissioning and Performance Management
- Strategic Integration and Partnership Working

These principles will be used to drive forward the programme in Warwickshire.

Section 5: Commissioning Services through the Supporting People Programme

Strategic Commissioning Drivers

The vision for the Supporting People Programme in Warwickshire is to offer needs - led housing related support focused around positive outcomes for the individual service user.

In particular we want to:

- Deliver outcomes focused services
- Ensure that we make the best use of resources
- Make commissioning decisions that are based on needs
- Deliver the Local Area Agreement vision of 'Narrowing the Gap' between the most disadvantaged people and communities and the rest of the County

- Have effective commissioning and procurement processes in place
- Ensure that Supporting People commissioning is strategically aligned with other commissioning activity across the county
- Manage the market for Supporting People services in accordance with the County Council's Market Management Strategy to ensure the best outcomes for service users.

The Resource Context

Significant efficiency savings are required in order to balance the programme within the available finances over the next three years, whilst at the same time investing in new services.

We must also continue to ensure that services offer value for money and re-model services in order to achieve better outcomes. However there will never be enough funding to meet all identified needs.

Re-alignment of the Programme

We will therefore have to de-commission, re-model and re-commission services from across the programme in order to release resources to invest in areas of greater need.

Responses to the draft strategy consultation showed an understanding that savings will need to be made to balance the budget and also that some services will end or have their funding reduced so that new services, identified as a priority, can be developed.

The first aspect of our programme re-alignment is to target resources where there is the greatest need by using our updated and improved needs mapping to help prioritise the needs of the different service user groups.

Future Priorities

The Core Strategy Group has already undertaken a prioritisation process, using the data from the refreshed needs mapping for each service user group and scoring each group against a set of criteria to establish the top eight ranked groups.

The following three priority groupings were identified. These groupings are where new resources will be invested in the future as savings are made across the programme. The three priority groupings carry equal weighting.

Priority Grouping A: Homeless People and People Fleeing Domestic Abuse

Priority Grouping B: Offenders, People with Mental Health Problems and People with Substance Misuse Problems

Priority Group C: Young People at Risk, Young People Leaving Care and Teenage Parents

The draft strategy consultation questionnaire asked people to select two of the eight groups they felt should be treated as high priority. Their responses in order of priority are as shown in the table below.

1	People Fleeing Domestic Abuse
2	Homeless People
3	People with Mental Health Problems
4	Young People at Risk
5	Young People Leaving Care
6	People with Substance Misuse Problems
7	Offenders
8	Teenage Parents

These priorities are the prioritised views of respondents to the consultation. When future investment decisions are made these prioritised views will be considered alongside the prioritisation exercise already undertaken by the Core Strategy Group as well as the outcomes of the strategic reviews and other relevant data concerning the level of needs in the county.

We also want to target resources at service models that deliver the best outcomes. 83% of our services are accommodation based and only 17% are floating support services. We recognise the need for some accommodation based support but want to focus more resources on floating support so we can provide more flexible services to cater for individual needs. Respondents to the consultation recognised the need for this shift in provision.

Commissioning in Partnership

We also want to ensure that Supporting People commissioning is strategically aligned with others by working with other commissioners across the county.

Delivering the Change

We want to see significant change, whilst also ensuring that service quality is not compromised, within eighteen months of implementing this strategy.

Strategic Review programme

A programme of strategic reviews covering each of the respective client groups will now be inaugurated across the entire programme. This will enable us to make informed commissioning decisions that fulfil the goals of this strategy. The review programme will be completed by 2011.

Each Strategic Review will be expected to establish the level of need related to current provision levels. Reviews will also identify opportunities for re-aligning the

programme to enable the budget to be balanced and to ensure that services are provided that truly reflect relative identified needs across the county. In doing this Reviews will also be expected to identify opportunities for aligning Supporting People funding with that of other relevant public bodies and programmes to further optimise the use of resources.

Reviews will also need to identify how individual budgets can be incorporated into future service provision and also identify any requirements for cross boundary commissioning as appropriate.

Monitoring and review

To ensure that the strategic objectives are achieved an annual Action Plan will be produced that sets out the objectives and tasks for the year. The Action Plan will be reviewed quarterly to monitor progress and to update the Plan to take account of changing circumstances.

Conclusion

This Five Year Strategy represents significant change across the whole programme to bring the allocation of resources in line with needs and to deliver the best possible outcomes.

We are committed to delivering the Strategy and it will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains up to date.