

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Cabinet		
Date of Committee	28 April 2005		
Report Title	Supporting People		
Summary	<p>This is an update report on the Audit Commission Inspection of the Supporting People Programme in Warwickshire. It includes the Action Plan, which has been agreed by the SP Commissioning Body on 1st April 2005.</p> <p>This report also includes progress on the SP Five-year strategy and the 'sign-up' to it.</p>		
For further information please contact:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Rosie James Service Manager – Supporting People Tel: 01926 476849 rosiejames@warwickshire.gov.uk</td> <td>Full copies of the SP Five-year Strategy can be obtained from the SP team Tel: 01926 736513 spteam@warwickshire.gov.uk</td> </tr> </table>	Rosie James Service Manager – Supporting People Tel: 01926 476849 rosiejames@warwickshire.gov.uk	Full copies of the SP Five-year Strategy can be obtained from the SP team Tel: 01926 736513 spteam@warwickshire.gov.uk
Rosie James Service Manager – Supporting People Tel: 01926 476849 rosiejames@warwickshire.gov.uk	Full copies of the SP Five-year Strategy can be obtained from the SP team Tel: 01926 736513 spteam@warwickshire.gov.uk		
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]	No		
Background papers	<p>Audit Commission Inspection report of the Supporting People Programme in Warwickshire.</p> <p>Report to Cabinet on 13th January 2005 on the Audit Commission Inspection</p>		

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Other Committees | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local Member(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Elected Members | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr Izzi Seccombe
Cllr Jerry Roodhouse
Cllr Martin Brassington
Cllr Chris Holman |

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Cabinet Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cllr Ian Bottrill
Cllr Raj Randev
Cllr Mick Jones |
| Chief Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Victoria Gould, Solicitor, Legal Services |
| Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Martin Jones, Head of Resources Management |
| Other Chief Officers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ian Caulfield, Chief Executive |
| District Councils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | All Council's |
| Health Authority | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | All PCT'S |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Probation |

FINAL DECISION No

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Council | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 17 May 2005 |
| To Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Further Consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Cabinet – 28 April 2005

Supporting People

Report of the Director of Social Care & Health

Recommendation

- That this report and Action Plan is presented to Cabinet and full Council for approval and agreement.
- That the Supporting People Five-year Strategy is presented to Cabinet and full Council for approval and agreement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report gives an update on the Audit Commission Inspection of Supporting People Programme in Warwickshire and measures taken so far to address and agree the action plan.
- 1.2 This report also includes progress on the SP Five-year strategy and the required 'sign-up' to it.

2.1 Audit Commission Action Plan

- 2.1.1 All Administering Authorities will have their Supporting People Programme inspected by April 2006 by the Audit Commission.
- 2.1.2 The Audit Commission inspected the Warwickshire Supporting People Programme in September 2004. There were six Inspectors who interviewed a wide range of people from Warwickshire County Council as well as partner organisations, housing providers, and service users.
- 2.1.3 The Audit Commission produced two drafts, which the Partnership responded to. There was also a roundtable meeting held between the Inspectors and SP Partners. Discussion included commenting on factual errors, the negative tone of the report and the lack of context for the implementation of Supporting People in two-tier authorities.
- 2.1.4 The final report was published on 13th January 2005. The Audit Commission consistently failed to meet their timescales for the report although the County Council has met all of the deadlines set by the Audit Commission. The report was also originally due to be published week beginning 29th November 2004, this then was delayed twice before the final publication date.

2.2 Outcome of the Inspection

2.2.1 The assessment of how good the Programme was, resulted in a judgement of 'poor' with prospects for improvement judged to be 'uncertain'.

2.2.2 The main areas for attention to arise from the inspection are:

- Governance arrangements for Supporting People (includes Partnership working)
- Service Users
- Service Reviews
- Strategy Development

2.2.3 Governance of Supporting People

Supporting People has three groups, which have responsibility for the Programme. These are

- Elected Members Group
- Commissioning Body
- Core Strategy Development Group

The main issues that arose in relation to these groups were that

- The membership and responsibilities of each groups needs to be reviewed
- A Core Strategy Groups needs to be established
- Partnership working is not developed and from some stakeholders there is little or no involvement

2.2.4 Since the report has been published the following have been addressed:-

- A Core Strategy Group has been established – this has been developed from the Warwickshire Accommodation Forum and is now called the Warwickshire Accommodation Strategy Group and membership widened. Its remit is wider than SP and encompasses all key partners plus housing providers and aims to develop effective strategic working across all areas relating to accommodation in the county. It will link all housing, accommodation and housing support strategies and plans.
- A Partnership day was held on 7th January for all key partners in the Programme to address the issues arising from the Inspection. As a result the roles, responsibilities and relationships for each of these groups have been agreed.
- Terms of Reference are now being consulted on. These should be agreed by the middle of April.
- The Commissioning Body are having an awayday in late May in order to start planning the future aims and objectives of the Programme.

2.2.5 Service Users

The issues that arose in relation to service user involvement in the Programme are

- That there needs to be further involvement and inclusion of service users in the Programme by improving access to information
- To include SP in Better Care; Higher Standards
- Integrate the Council's policies on diversity
- To undertake further work on identifying needs of service users
- To provide regular training on SP for statutory organisation staff

2.2.6 Since the report has been published the following have been addressed:-

- SP to be included in induction training for Social Services staff. A more in-depth training workshop is now delivered monthly – originally this was for housing providers but SSD Workforce Development will now manage this and offer it to Social Services, District Councils, Health, Probation and housing providers
- Improvements are being made to our website and our leaflets are being amended
- Work is being undertaken in relation to the Equalities Impact Assessment of SP
- A User Engagement Strategy is currently being developed and will involve key partners, service users and SSD Customer First team
- SP to be included in the next Better Care; Higher Standards document
- A Warwickshire housing provider forum has been established and meets quarterly.

2.2.7 Service Reviews

The issues relating to service reviews are;-

- To accelerate and monitor reviews
- To adopt a more challenging approach to Value for Money for services
- To work with key partners i.e. Probation and Social Services when undertaking reviews.

2.2.8 Since the report has been published the following have been addressed:-

- The service review timetable has been amended, agreed and implemented. There is monthly monitoring and quarterly reporting to Commissioning Body, Elected Members Group and Warwickshire Accommodation Strategy Group
- The SP team has been awarded an additional £45,000 from ODPM to assist in reviews

- A Value for Money assessment methodology is currently being written. In summer 2005 further work is planned to establish 'fair' hourly rates for support and what constitutes low, medium and high levels of support. This will be done in conjunction with providers
- Probation and Social Services staffs have been involved with reviews of services for certain client groups.

2.2.9 Strategy

The issues in relation to strategy are:-

- Ensure understanding at corporate and partnership board level about how SP can help to achieve priorities and targets in other strategies
- Ensure that these strategies are linked to SP
- To agree a list of priorities for funding if monies are available

2.2.10 Since the report has been published the following have been addressed:-

- A Five-year Strategy has been developed and written which details a 'priorities' list. There was a partnership day on 22nd March that agreed the strategy 'in principle'. The strategy was subsequently submitted to ODPM by the deadline of 31st March 2005
- The CB at it's awayday will develop and agree a methodology in order to decide which priorities will be funded if monies allow
- The Warwickshire Accommodation Strategy Group is mapping related strategies and will ensure that the strategic links are made.

3. The Audit Commission's requirements following the Inspection

- 3.1 Following the publication of the report on 13th January an Action Plan needs to be developed and agreed by key partners. The first draft of this Plan is attached.
- 3.2 This first draft went to the SP Commissioning Body on 4th March for discussion and the second draft agreed on 1st April 2005.
- 3.3 The Audit Commission and ODPM will be meeting with the Commissioning Body on 19th May to discuss the Plan, it's implementation and to identify resources required. The Action Plan will be monitored periodically.
- 3.4 Supporting People will be inspected again March 2006. Any authority that is judged 'poor' is re-inspected within 12-18 months.

4. SP Five-year strategy

- 4.1 All SP Partnerships has had to submit a five-year Strategy for SP, which sets out the strategic direction and priorities for the Programme in their Administrative Area.
- 4.2 The Warwickshire SP team have been working on this strategy for 18 months and have involved and consulted with a wide range of stakeholders, partners, service users and carers. There were two major consultation days in 2004 followed by a meeting for Elected Members and key partners in January 2005.
- 4.3 The strategy has to be agreed by all the SP Partners (WCC, District/Borough Councils, PCT's and the Probation Service). ODPM recognise that in two-tier authorities this can be a lengthy process and so agreed that as long as it has been informally approved before the submission date of 31st March 2005, the formal approval process could follow.
- 4.4 Representatives of the SP Partnership agreed 'in principle' the Warwickshire SP Strategy at a meeting held on 22nd March. It was agreed that representatives would take the strategy for formal approval through their own organisations.
- 4.5 The main priorities arising from the Strategy are:
 - Maintain service levels with lower levels of funding
 - Increase service levels for the same funding
 - Remodel services to get better outcomes.

However, as our financial plans show that we do intend to free up some resources for new services, our short list of services for commissioning over the next five years is set out below:

- Increased and rationalised floating support provision for a range of client groups, across all areas regardless of tenure and inclusive of families as well as singles
- Additional supported move-on for a range of client groups
- Additional units of supported accommodation and/or access to floating support for offenders and people at risk of offending
- Comprehensive provision for substance misusers
- A 24 hour cover scheme with county wide access, in an appropriate location
- Services to people with learning disabilities, living in clusters of suitable accommodation, with a support worker living nearby
- Further capacity for people with mental health problems

- County wide tenancy support for deaf people
- Additional accommodation and support services for women escaping domestic violence
- To work with partners in developing Extra Care housing
- To develop Home Improvement Agency Services to ensure there is co-ordination and promotion of their services.

4.6 There is a requirement to produce an Annual Plan and a Five-year Action Plan. Both of which are attached. While there is some overlap between the Audit Commission Action Plan and the Strategy Action Plan they are two stand-alone plans required for different purposes.

5. Conclusion

5.1 This report gives an overview of the main issues and recommendations arising from the Inspection and details actions already undertaken to address these. All key partners will need to take a report on the Inspection and Action Plan to their respective organisations for approval and agreement.

5.2.1 This report also gives an overview of the main priorities arising from the SP Five-year strategy and details the agreement process.

5.3 It is recommended that both the Audit Commission action Plan and the Five-year Strategy are approved and agreed by the County Council

Marion Davis
Director of Social Care & Health

Shire Hall
Warwick

7th April 2005