
SUPPORTING PEOPLE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Bill Dixon,
Community and Public Protection Portfolio &
Councillor Eleanor Lister, Adult Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) – Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Council a draft of the Five-Year Supporting People Strategy at **Appendix 1**.

Information and Analysis

2. The Supporting People programme offers vulnerable people the opportunity to improve the quality of their life by providing a stable environment, which enables greater independence. The programme began in April 2003 when the Council and its partners began the management of a budget to deliver high quality and needs focused services to vulnerable people within Darlington. We inherited a range of services providing support to people previously funded by a number of other services.
3. All Councils with responsibility for Supporting People, known as the 'Administering Authority' are required to produce a five-year strategy, in accordance with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) guidelines by March 2005. The proposed Supporting People Five-Year Strategy aims to :-
 - (a) Clearly set out what services currently exist for vulnerable people in Darlington.
 - (b) Identify the need for new or additional services.
 - (c) Identify any gaps in provision.
 - (d) Demonstrate how Supporting People is an effective delivery mechanism for key areas of other strategies.
 - (e) Set out our programme for reviewing support services.
 - (f) Consider the financial implications of the programme in Darlington.
 - (g) Set out Darlington's priorities for the next year and the next five years.

4. The Strategy has been developed through a local framework of groups, partner representatives, providers and service users. This framework has effectively enabled us to identify need, assess frailty and supply, analyse gaps and make decisions about what needs to change. The Commissioning Body, representing Council Departments of Community Services and Social Services as well as Probation and the Primary Care Trust, has overseen the development of the Strategy and in particular determined priorities and objectives.
5. The key identified priorities are:-
 - (a) Supported accommodation for young, homeless people, both single and couples without children.
 - (b) Supported accommodation for care leavers.
 - (c) Support services for those recovering from substance dependency.
 - (d) Meeting the needs of older people.
 - (e) Increased support service opportunities for ethnic minorities and other marginalised groups.
 - (f) Increased tenancy support for vulnerable people in tenancies.
 - (g) Self-contained accommodation for people with a Learning Disability.
 - (h) Supported housing for older people suffering from dementia.
 - (i) Floating support services for women fleeing domestic violence.

Outcome of Consultation

6. The draft Strategy has been considered and well received by the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee, the Health Improvement and Social Inclusion Group, the Professional Executive Committee of the PCT on Cabinet.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. The Supporting People Strategy describes how the current provision for housing related support services can be further developed and improved. Appropriate housing and support plays a key role in reducing the likelihood of an individual offending and therefore has a positive effect on preventing crime and disorder.

Council Policy Framework

9. The issue contained within this report does represent a change to Council policy.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that Council agree the Five-Year Supporting People Strategy.

Reasons

11. The aim of the Strategy to provide opportunities for vulnerable people to receive the housing related support they need to live independently in the community.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Pauline Mitchell : Ext 2505
JW