

# Supporting People news bulletin

*Housing support for vulnerable people*



## New format for news

Welcome to the first issue of the Supporting People news bulletin. With the mainstreaming of Supporting People we want to find a simpler way to keep you up to date with news and developments. We hope you will find this bulletin useful. Please let us know what you think.

## Budget update

The budget for the Supporting People programme for 2011/2012 was agreed at the full Council meeting on 8 February. We can confirm that the cash value of the existing Supporting People programme will be maintained at £11.561m into 2011/12.

The strategic review of specialist housing support services however identified a need to make savings of £750,000 from the current spend of £5.5m on phase three services.

In addition, through phase three we need to generate a commissioning sum for a long term floating support service as this is a strategic priority. It is therefore prudent for us to think of saving around £1m.

We are continuing to work with providers to achieve these savings. There is more information on phase three on the following pages.

## Phase two: an update on progress

In 2009 we consulted on our plans for housing support services for older people. You told us that older people need:

- a community alarm service that responds quickly to the individual's needs;
- advice and information service to support independence and individual choice;
- flexible, sensitive support to meet and adapt to people's changing needs;
- no duplication or inconsistencies in service delivery;
- a staff presence at accommodation based services;
- a handyperson service;
- support to realise housing choices;
- a personalised service that is able to respond to all housing support needs;
- support with managing finances, form filling and dealing with correspondence;
- support to tackle isolation and promote socialisation; and
- services in rural and remote areas.



Since the consultation we have made progress with achieving these outcomes:

- In 2009/2010 we delivered handyperson grants of up to £200 to 1,886 older people. Adult Social Care are now considering options for funding a handyperson service from April 2011.
- On 1 April 2010 we introduced a new specification for 74 Supporting People funded sheltered housing services and capped the amount paid to sheltered housing providers. New requirements include an on site staff presence and making activities in communal facilities available to the local community.
- On 1 November 2010, almost 1,000 Supporting People funded community alarms (Lifelines) transferred to Adult Social Care so that alarms, (other than those in sheltered housing) are now provided through Adult Social Care.
- From 1 February 2011, the floating support service for older people living in Hastings and Rother Amicus Horizon retirement housing, currently provided as CASA support, will be delivered as sheltered housing with an onsite presence.
- Eastbourne Homes are consulting with their retirement housing tenants on a similar plan and are working with us to remodel their floating support service to provide a sheltered housing service with an onsite presence from April 2011.

In East Sussex, the Home Improvement Agencies have historically been funded from a variety of sources (including Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Borough and District Councils and Supporting People). This joint funding arrangement ends in March 2011.

Supporting People have begun the tender process for a countywide floating housing support service for older people living in

their own homes. This service will be short-term, flexible and personalised.

The district and borough councils with Adult Social Care have reviewed current arrangements for adaptations and have tendered for an Adaptations Support Service. There will be information about future arrangements relating to the disabled facilities adaptations services in your area on the housing pages of the District and Borough Council websites shortly.

We have worked with the Supporting People Service User Network (SUN), Equality Reference Group and our partners to develop the specification for the new floating support service and representatives from the SUN will be involved in the tender process.

We will continue to involve the Supporting People Service User Network and Equality Reference Group in developing services and will keep you up to date with our progress.

### **Phase three: specialist housing support services**

In 2010 we carried out a strategic review of current Supporting People funded specialist housing support services and consulted widely on the services required in future.

Specialist housing support services are needed for some:

- young people including teenage parents;
- homeless people;
- women fleeing domestic violence;
- people with mental health problems;
- people with learning disabilities;
- people with physical disabilities; and
- older people.

They are services for people who need an accommodation based service with more intense help, or a service with a different kind of help, than Home Works can offer.

We published our findings last autumn and will circulate our response to the consultation after the Strategic Forum meeting in March. The Strategic Forum is the Supporting People governing body with members and senior officers from East Sussex County Council, the district and borough councils, health and probation.

#### *Progress with phase three:*

- The Strategic Forum has agreed to remove Supporting People funding from services that receive significant funding from other sources from 1 April 2011 however they will continue to be delivered.
- The Strategic Forum is also considering ways to improve access to specialist services and move on from these services.
- We will introduce new specifications for all specialist services starting with young people's services from 1 April 2011. We are working with the Supporting People Service User Network and other service users to develop these specifications.
- We will tender some services to achieve better outcomes for vulnerable people and better value for money.
- We plan to commission a long term floating support service for people with mental health problems, learning disabilities, physical disabilities and sensory impairments when the funding available for this service has been confirmed.

## **Phase one: Home Works East**

Home Works is the generic floating support service for vulnerable people aged 16-64 set up in July 2009. The service is split into two areas:

- Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden
- Hastings and Rother.

Southdown Housing Association delivers the service in the west of the county with Brighton Housing Trust.

The original tender for the east was won by Stonham Housing Association but after six months the arrangement was terminated by mutual agreement. Southdown Housing Association took over the caretaking of the contract until the new tender process was completed.

The tender process was carried out in 2010 and as before, members of the Supporting People Service User Network were involved in the evaluation. Organisations tendering for the service were required to make presentations to a panel of service users and the service users' scores were part of the overall score for each provider.

Southdown Housing Association won the tender and will run the contract until 2012 with the option of extending the contract for up to two further years.

The contact details for Home Works are:

### **HomeWorks East**

Hastings and Rother

HomeWorks Gateway Manager, Room 63  
The Innovations Centre, Highfield Drive,  
Churchfields Industrial Estate, St Leonards  
on Sea, TN38 9UH

Phone 01424 858341

Text 07540 721244

Email: [referrals@homeworkseast.org.uk](mailto:referrals@homeworkseast.org.uk)

## HomeWorks West

Eastbourne/Lewes/Wealden

2 Bell Lane, Lewes BN7 1JU

Phone 01273 898700

Text 07773 377754

Email: [referrals@homeworkswest.org.uk](mailto:referrals@homeworkswest.org.uk)

## Contacting us:

General queries:

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SPOCC and SPOCC.Net queries

[Lewis.williams@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Lewis.williams@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## List of Supporting People meeting dates for 2011

### Provider Forum

28 February 10.00-12.00 am  
Council Chamber, Uckfield Civic Centre

### Core Strategy Group

3 March 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Meeting Room 1, Eastbourne Town Hall

### Strategic Forum

24 March 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Ashdown Room, Uckfield Civic Centre

### Provider Forum

6 June 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Council Chamber, Uckfield Civic Centre

### Core Strategy Group

9 June 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Meeting Room 1, Eastbourne Town Hall

### Strategic Forum

23 June 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Council Chamber, Uckfield Civic Centre

### Provider Forum

5 September 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Council Chamber, Uckfield Civic Centre

### Core Strategy Group

8 September 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Meeting Room 1, Eastbourne Town Hall

### Strategic Forum

29 September 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Council Chamber, Uckfield Civic Centre

### Provider Forum

14 November 10.00 -12.00 am  
Council Chamber, Uckfield Civic Centre

### Core Strategy Group

17 November, 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Meeting Room 1, Eastbourne Town Hall

### Strategic Forum

8 December 10.00 – 12.00 am  
Council Chamber, Uckfield Civic Centre