

Supporting People

Issue 1 May 2001

Welcome to the first "Supporting People" newsletter!

It has been put together on behalf of the members of the Core Strategy Development Group - see their names on the back page.
Please share it with any colleagues involved in supported housing.

We welcome your opinions on its content and/or any suggestions you may have for future editions.

Thank you.

What is 'Supporting People'?

Supporting People (SP) is a new central government programme which is to be introduced in April 2003.

The programme is designed to complement existing care services by providing and improving housing related support services.

The aim is to address the present fragmented funding situation and provide a more systematic approach to the assessment of need and the provision of

flexible services to meet that need. This will be facilitated by bringing together a number of existing funding streams into one SP budget and will not, therefore, involve the provision of any new money.

The budget will be administered at county level in Buckinghamshire, through a partnership involving the County Council, District Councils, Probation and Health Services.



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Typical examples of the kind of service that will be covered by Supporting People are :-

Resident Warden services for the elderly

Community Alarm services

Floating Support services

Supported Housing Schemes for a range of client groups including people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health problems, vulnerable single homeless and ex-offenders.

What is happening in Buckinghamshire?

Work has already started locally to prepare for the implementation of Supporting People.

The Core Strategy Group has been established (see membership list).

The main focus of the group's work to date has been to:-

- Respond to consultation papers from the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions
- Develop a project plan
- Identify the tasks required locally and create job descriptions and person specifications for the Supporting People team
- Identify other relevant strategies and working

groups across the County

- Commence the development of an Inclusive Forum process for consultation
- Present this information to DETR to claim implementation funding to set up the Supporting People team.

The Supporting People Team will comprise a Supporting People Team Manager, and project, business and administrative support.

The overall role of the Supporting People team will be to develop the Supporting People strategy and action plan, in accordance with Government guidance.

The intention is to achieve the best possible support services for a wide range of client groups.

The Core Strategy Group

Janice Campbell is the lead on 'Supporting People' for the County.

If you have any questions or would like to comment on this newsletter, please contact

Chris Flahey
01494 475283

We welcome your views.

Transitional housing benefit

Since April 2000, Transitional Housing Benefit scheme has been in operation, and supported housing providers have been requested to re-present their housing benefit figures, distinguishing support from basic rent.

The level of provider response has varied from District to District.

As the support element of THB will make up a large proportion of the Supporting People funding pot, maximising THB now will increase the amount of finance local authorities have to spend on supported housing from April 2003 onwards.

What comes next?



There has already been a great deal of consultation with many of the key organisations involved in financing and providing SP services. However, there is still a long way to go before we can state that we have established a truly comprehensive and inclusive consultation forum that also draws in the many smaller organisations and, where at all possible, representative service users.

This newsletter marks the start of our next efforts in this direction. At some

point in the near future (possibly June if the SP Project Manager has commenced work by then) we plan to arrange an Inclusive Forum meeting to further advise interested parties about the progress of SP in New Bucks and invite comments/continuing contributions to the ongoing implementation work.

Activity on mapping the supply of SP services has begun, but demand mapping is yet to be commenced. Both of these

exercises will require the establishment of the SP Team before they can be taken forward in earnest.

The appointment of the Supporting People Project Manager and his/her team is the next key task to be accomplished by the Core Strategy Development Group.

Team details will be circulated as soon as they are available, along with information about how they can be contacted.

What can you do?

If you are a supported housing provider, please ensure you have returned the THB rent/support split information to your local District Housing Benefit Officer.

The Government has stated that it wants new support schemes to be developed with THB. This represents a major opportunity to enhance and develop a whole range of

supported housing of all types, and we would therefore urge you to consider gaps in service provision and scope for making best use of Transitional Housing Benefit.

For more information visit these websites:
www.supporting-people.detr.gov.uk
<http://barn.ccta.gov.uk/detr/detr1.nsf>

These are the members of the
Core Strategy Development Group
for Supporting People

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