



Report to the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

Title:	Supporting People
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Report signed off by Cabinet Member:	Patricia Birchley
Electoral divisions affected:	All

Supporting People

Supporting People Services (SP) provide housing related support to some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents in Buckinghamshire, who if unsupported are more likely to need more intensive public sector service support in the future and therefore be the target of scarce resources to address any of their escalating needs or new concerns that arise. Supporting People is a key component of preventative services in Buckinghamshire.

Housing related support differs from personal care services delivered by social care services and from healthcare services delivered by the NHS.

Housing related support services can usually be described as being either:

- Floating support services which employ mobile staff who deliver housing support to wherever individuals are living, or
- Accommodation based services which deliver housing support services on a fixed site or group of sites with the support tied to specific accommodation (e.g. refuges, foyers or supported housing).

Typical tasks undertaken include:



- Help with benefits, payment of rents and other bills
- Ensuring safety and security within the dwelling
- Support with essential life skills such as shopping, cooking and basic hygiene
- Support to access a range of appropriate other services e.g. social activities, education, training and employment
- Support to deal with neighbour difficulties.

Supporting People services in Buckinghamshire are currently delivered by **30 providers through 39 contracts.**

Key services currently being delivered through the Supporting People Programme in Buckinghamshire fall into 5 distinct areas -

- **Sheltered Accommodation.**
Current resource - 10 Providers supporting 2,186 people
Total value - £956,637
- **Floating support** to a range of vulnerable people in their own homes, including gypsy, traveller and show people.
Current resource – 1 provider supporting 400 people
Total Value - £782,011
- **Adult & Family Welfare related support**, sitting alongside AFW statutory services for people with learning disabilities, mental health issues or physical and sensory disabilities.
Current resource – 7 providers supporting 124 people
Total value - £630,000
- **Homeless Support Services to people in short term accommodation.**
 - **Domestic Violence** : 2 providers supporting 21 people
Total value - £151,759
 - **Offenders** : 1 provider supporting 9 clients
Total value - £25,665
 - **Homeless** : 6 providers supporting 220 clients
Total value - £925,823
 - **Teenage Parents** : 1 service supporting 6 clients
Total value - £37,686
 - **Young People at Risk** : 4 providers supporting 53 clients
Total value - £233,288
- **Dispersed Community alarms**
Current resource – 1 service supporting 766 clients
Total value - £59,908

Funding attached to Supporting People services had previously been ring fenced by central government. This ceased following the Spending Review in 2010 when funding was rolled into the local authority Formula Grant with spending decisions made by individual councils.

Although Supporting People services are regarded to be non-statutory, i.e. the majority of services users would not be deemed eligible for social care services if assessed, the government continues to place high importance on housing related support services and there is an expectation that the increased freedoms and flexibilities given to councils as part of the recent Spending Review would not necessarily result in less money being spent on these services.

The “vision” for Housing Support (SP) services is to move away from services being considered purely as housing related support that stands alongside or even separate to health and wellbeing activity, and to encompass them within the broader health and wellbeing and preventative agendas.

The Need for Change

Background

Existing Buckinghamshire County Council Adults & Family Wellbeing funding to provide preventative services is under considerable pressure.

The population of Buckinghamshire is growing, its residents are living longer and thereby the number of vulnerable adults, older people and people with disabilities, sensory impairments, learning disabilities, mental health concerns and limiting long term conditions is also increasing.

In Buckinghamshire there are nearly 75,000 people who are 65 years old and over, representing 15% of the population. Over 20,000 of these are over 80.

By 2026, a quarter of residents in Chiltern and South Bucks will be over 65. In the rest of the County, this figure will be nearer one fifth. Overall, there will be an additional 31,000 people aged over 65 across the County. By 2025, we will have nearly 10,000 more residents aged over 80 who will need more intensive support services for their specific needs.

A key requirement of the Care Act 2014 is that the care and support system works to actively promote wellbeing and independence through preventative services, and does not wait to respond when people reach a crisis point. Social Care in the future will have a key responsibility for the broader wellbeing of the whole population. This will result in further resource demand for preventative services.

Pressure on public expenditure is rising at the same time as difficult cuts in public spending are being made.

During 2010-11 an efficiency drive delivered £1.2 million of savings in Housing Support (Supporting People) Services. Medium Term Planning Financial savings have now been set by the Council against Housing Support (SP) services as £250k for 2014/15 and a further

£750k in 2015/16. The Housing Support Budget will have reduced from £5.3 million in 2010 to £3.0 million in 2015/6 which constitutes a 45% reduction.

To achieve these savings it will be necessary to decommission/ re-commission or reduce services.

The process of re-commissioning services where relevant provides opportunities for maximising ongoing efficiencies alongside the modernisation of services in line with Council and AFW strategy and policy.

Summary of Services & Progress

Service	Option for Change	Progress
Sheltered accommodation	Re-commission incorporating into the Prevention Matters Programme	Subject to public consultation in January 2015 and final sign off.
Floating Support	Re-commission incorporating into Prevention Matters Programme	Subject to public consultation in January 2015 and final sign off.
Homelessness	Will be exploring opportunities with providers.	
Young people at risk	Will be exploring opportunities with provider.	
Home improvement agency	Recommissioned	Complete
Community alarms	Recommissioned with efficiencies	Subject to consultation in January 2015 and final sign off.

Next Steps

Consultation period	January 2015 – March 2015
Key Decision/ Select Committee Approval of final business case	Dates to be confirmed
Procurement and tendering process starts	April 2015
Transition process	June 2015 on-wards TBC
New service delivery models in place	June 2015 On-wards TBC