

ESSEX SUPPORTING PEOPLE - 5 YEAR STRATEGY 2005 - 2010

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To enable Members to consider and comment on the draft Essex Supporting People 5 year Strategy 2005 - 2010.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The five year strategy presents an analysis of current and predicted housing related support needs and service provision and suggests priorities for the future.
- 2.2 The key objectives of the consultation period which runs from December 2004 to 4 February 2005, are to enable consultees to:
- (i) Comment on the priorities as set out in the consultation draft.
 - (ii) Suggest key gaps in services that are not considered.
 - (iii) Highlight development opportunities that address the identified priorities.
- 2.3 The draft strategy has been circulated to Committee Members under separate cover.

3 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The draft strategy sets out a number of recommendations on the way forward arising from the analysis of the supply gaps and the problems with the current services. Consultees are asked to agree on the strategic direction for the 5 year strategy on the following key issues:-

(i) **Priority Target Groups for New Services**

More often than not, vulnerable people will have multiple or complex problems. The draft strategy identifies a number of groups that face similar problems and who need priority in the development of new services.

These include the homeless; people with chaotic lifestyles, young people including teenage parents (in relevant Districts - including Rochford) and frail elderly people.

Officer Comments

There is a need for new services in respect of all these priority target groups.

(ii) **Move-on Accommodation**

There is a lack of move-on development for those clients living in supported housing projects and Authorities are asked to increase availability for vulnerable people through nominations to social housing including housing association (RSL) stock and through better use of the private rented market.

Officer Comments

Members will be aware that our partner RSL, Swan Housing Group, is currently building two move-on units in which Warwick Drive, Rochford due for completion imminently, but research shows that there will be a continuing local need for more accommodation.

(iii) **More Floating Support**

Floating support has been proven to be a cost effective service to assist in preventing loss of tenancy and homelessness.

It is proposed that floating support be increased and that it be available more widely, for example, to people in private sector tenancies. Also, community based support for older people in the community needs to be improved. Finally, any increase in floating support for people who need to move on from specialist supported housing will, in future, be dependant on there being sufficient accommodation available in the relevant District.

Officer Comments

Floating support and tenancy sustainment is presently being provided by a partner RSL Mosaic Homes under a service contract. There is additional demand for the service to be expanded.

(iv) **(a) Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups**
(b) People with HIV/Aids

Use the consultation period to establish whether services are needed.

Officer comments

At present no specialist services have been identified as being needed for these client groups within the District.

(v) **Supporting People Development Fund**

Deliver additional savings from existing services to other development in geographical and service areas with urgent need.

Officer Comments

This is a sensible recommendation to ensure that the development of new supported housing can be funded from a 'ring fenced' pot.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Strategic Risk

It is important that the Supporting People Strategy is consistent with the Council's own Housing Strategy and the Thames Gateway South Essex Housing Strategy.

5 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is proposed that the Committee RESOLVES

That, subject to Members comments, the draft 5 year Essex Supporting People Strategy be endorsed.

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Background Papers:-

None

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