
SUPPORTING PEOPLE – SHADOW STRATEGY 2003/4

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report the draft Essex Supporting People Shadow Strategy 2003/4 which has just been received and to seek Member's comments on the draft.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Essex Supporting People Team has circulated the draft Supporting People Shadow Strategy, which is at Appendix 1, for formal consultation with all stakeholders. Members of the Commissioning Body will be asked to sign off the draft Shadow Strategy, subject to any amendments agreed at the meeting, for submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Comments need to be with the County Council by 23rd September.
- 2.2 The Shadow Strategy has to be prepared to a detailed template provided by Central Government outlining a vision for Supporting People, the governance of the programme, the planning approach and an analysis of the existing supply of services.
- 2.3 The Commissioning Body will be required under the Secretary of State's anticipated Grant Direction to produce a full five-year strategy by September 2003.
- 2.4 Each of the twelve district/borough Councils in Essex have examined the range of services operating in their areas and Rochford's local Supporting People Position Statement agreed by Members at the 5 June 2002 Community Services Committee, accompanies the Essex Supporting People Shadow Strategy. An extract from the Draft Essex Supporting People Strategy, which accompanies the Shadow Strategy is at Appendix 2.

3 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

- 3.1 The overall objectives for the Supporting People programme in Essex are:
- To ensure continuity in support services
 - To respond to the needs of the County
 - To improve the quality of services
 - To co-ordinate assessments and referrals to services
 - To develop new 'spend to save' strategies

3.2 By far the largest proportion of supported housing in Essex is for older people with support needs, making up 81% of the services available in the County. However, only 1% is targeted at frail elderly people. The Strategy confirms that its principle aim will be to expand practical day-to-day support through extending services such as Floating Support or Community Support. This reflects the Government's preventative agenda and diverting people in need from more costly and sometimes inappropriate institutional services.

3.3 The Strategy recognises that whilst Essex has a wide range of existing supported housing services, there are many gaps. In general, support services will need to be extended to a range of service users who have not previously had access to housing related support services due to their tenure and funding regime.

4 IMPLICATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS IN ROCHFORD

4.1 With a high level of owner-occupation in the district, the recognition in the draft Essex Supporting People Shadow Strategy that support services will "need to be extended to private sector tenants, leaseholders and owner occupiers who need such support to maintain their independence", is welcome. The Shadow Strategy also recognises that occupiers with other forms of tenure have support needs also.

4.2 Whilst the Shadow Strategy recognises that practical help should be made available as residents get older, for example with housework, maintenance and gardening, there is unfortunately "as yet no new money, to provide support to anyone currently unsupported". Therefore, sheltered housing services will be increasingly required to provide for the needs of an ageing population and officers have already had a meeting with the Primary Care Trust and Social Services to develop an extra care proposal in sheltered housing in Rochford, which is mentioned in the concurrent report on frail elderly housing on this Agenda.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That, subject to any amendments from Members, the draft Essex Supporting People Shadow Strategy be agreed.
- (2) That any comments are reported to the Commissioning Body. (HHHCC)

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Background Papers:

None.

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