

SUPPORTING PEOPLE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides a brief update on progress with the Supporting People initiative.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Sub-Committee on 29 November 2000, Members were advised that the Council had been allocated a grant of £18,700 for 2001/2002 for implementation of the Supporting People programme. The possibility of making a joint appointment with Castle Point Borough Council was mentioned.
- 2.2 The guidance is that districts and Counties need to work together on this major new task and so Officers have continued discussions with Essex County Council and Castle Point Borough Council, in order to maximise the use of the limited grant that has been offered.
- 2.3 The timescale is very tight, as outline claims have to be submitted to DETR by 1 February. Discussions at Officer level have concluded that because of uncertainty at this stage about the detailed arrangements the bid, which will be made in conjunction with Essex County Council, will have to be based on a preference for a joint appointment with Castle Point, but with a default option of the County Council employing a team of six local officers to be seconded to work in pairs of districts. Formal approval of the preferred option for a joint appointment is desirable before the outline claim for funding is submitted.
- 2.4 An outline of the role of a local Supporting People officer is appended.
- 2.5 This is an important new Government initiative that will impact on local support services for vulnerable people and it is proposed that arrangements be made for a presentation to all Members.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Some new grant monies will be made available to the Council to help with implementation. Officer time will need to be spent on the project.
- 3.2 The Supporting People programme will amalgamate a number of existing funding streams.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Responsibility for the employment of staff and sharing of resources will need to be agreed amongst partner agencies.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Proposed that this Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

- (1) That Officers be authorised to progress the joint appointment of a Supporting People Officer with Castle Point Borough Council, to be funded from the Supporting People implementation grant.
- (2) That if agreement cannot be reached on a joint appointment, arrangements be made with Essex County Council for the employment of a Supporting People Officer to work in this District, the costs to be met from the Supporting People implementation Grant. (HHHCC)

Graham Woolhouse

Head of Housing, Health & Community Care

For further information please contact Graham Woolhouse on:-

Tel:- 01702 546366 ext
E-Mail:- graham.woolhouse@rochford.gov.uk