

Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
All Wards

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**  
Cabinet

**18<sup>th</sup> November 2002**

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**Supporting People Shadow Strategy and Annual Plan 2003/4**

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**Report of the Director of Social Care and Health and the Director of Housing**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the 2003/4 Supporting People Shadow Strategy as agreed by the Supporting People Commissioning Body made up of the Local Authority, Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Service and both Leicester City Primary Care Trusts.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The report outlines the requirements of the Supporting People Strategy, the local approach to drawing it together and key issues that have arisen. It also identifies issues related to developing the 5-year strategy

**3. Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- 3.1 The Supporting People Shadow Strategy for 2003/4 is approved

**4. Headline Financial and legal Implications**

- 4.1 Leicester City Council will become responsible for managing the new Supporting People grant in April 2003. The exact amount of grant is not yet known but is based on current revenue funding streams (detailed in 2.1 of attached report) that will support a range of existing housing related support schemes. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) will inform each Local Authority of an indicative grant allocation early in 2003.
- 4.2 Future grant allocation will be based on an allocation formula, which is being developed by the ODPM.
- 4.3 A Strategic Commissioning Body, made up of Chief Officers from Social Services, Housing, Primary Care Trusts and Probation will have overall responsibility, including financial responsibility, for the Supporting People Programme. Leicester City Council

(the administering authority) will receive and administer the grant under section 93 of the Local Government Act 2000 for the provision of welfare services determined by the Secretary of State. The administering authority will be accountable to the Commissioning Body for the grant.

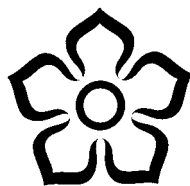
- 4.4 It is anticipated that the current level of service will be supported by government funding. No future developments identified in the strategy will be undertaken without the financial implication being brought back to the council

## 5. Report Author

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### **DECISION STATUS**

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Reason</b>	<b>Part of Budget and Policy Framework</b>
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	<b>Council</b>



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**Supporting People Shadow Strategy and Annual Plan 2003/4**

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## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1. Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the 2003/4 Supporting People Shadow Strategy as agreed by the Supporting People Commissioning Body made up of the Local Authority, Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Service and both Leicester City Primary Care Trusts.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Supporting People Programme places new responsibilities on local authorities to manage and plan local housing related support services. A number of existing grants (including Supported Housing Management Grant, the support element of Housing Benefit and Probation Accommodation Grant) will be transferred in to one single grant – the Supporting People Grant. The Local Authority, along with the Health and Probation services will be a working partnership jointly responsible for managing the grant. In Leicester the SP grant is likely to be between £10 -15m.
- 2.2 One condition of receiving the grant is the submission of a Shadow Strategy and Annual Plan, for the initial year, which should include:
- the Local Vision of how Supporting People will work and how this is to be achieved;
  - a position statement of existing services and information of anticipated changes;
  - detail of links to other local and national strategies;
  - detail of strategic options for change and/or development of services;
  - an Annual Plan with details of expenditure including proposals on what Leicester would develop *if* an additional 10% of the grant was provided.
- 2.3 Once Supporting People is introduced in April 2003 there will be a requirement to undertake a 5-year strategy and annual plan whereas the ‘Shadow’ Strategy is very much a position statement. This allows time to undertake comprehensive needs mapping exercises, reviews of existing services and establish firmer links with other

local strategies. These will inform the direction of housing related support services in Leicester according to the locally agreed vision.

- 2.4 All strategies are submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the government Department now responsible for the delivery of the programme, for approval.

### **3. The Development of the Strategy**

- 3.1 For the last 18 months the Core Strategy Development Group (who have overseen the implementation of the programme) and the Supporting People Team have been working on attending and establishing appropriate forums to gather information for the strategy.
- 3.2 Within the time and resources available every effort has been made to include all key stakeholders in the process including service providers, planners and commissioners, all partner agencies, carers and services users.
- 3.3 This has been achieved through attending existing forums or establishing new ones as required. The range included:
- establishing an 'Inclusive Forum', which invited the whole range of stakeholders to join a consultative forum to help identify existing needs and priorities. 3 meetings were held during 2001/2
  - holding bi-monthly service provider meetings
  - establishing a working group to examine issues around needs information gathering
  - working with providers to undertake specific user consultation for services to hard to reach groups i.e. domestic violence, young people, and BME communities
  - consulting with other colleagues responsible for strategies linked to Supporting People
- 3.4 The strategy has been widely circulated for comment and received final approval from both the Core Strategy Development Group and the partners of the Commissioning Body who are ultimately responsible for the expenditure of the grant.

### **4. The Strategy's Key Messages**

- 4.1 The strategy confirms Leicester's commitment to using the new arrangements to shape and develop high quality, good value housing related support services that will meet the needs of the full range of vulnerable people locally.
- 4.2 It highlights that although Leicester has a very well developed set of services to meet the range of housing related support needs there are gaps in provision for certain client groups and a need to focus particularly on preventative services. Details, by client group, can be located in Section B of the document.
- 4.3 Although there is not a commitment by the government to release funds over and above existing expenditure on services, each plan must highlight priorities for

development should funds become available. Section C of the document provides detailed financial information on schemes that are currently under development. Section D identifies those that would be considered as a priority should 10% extra funds become available.

- 4.4 It clearly demonstrates how the programme will help to achieve the aims and objectives of a number of other local strategies and plans for the whole range of vulnerable client groups.

## **5. Issues to note**

- 5.1 Although there has been extensive consultation (as directed by an agreed local consultation plan) and an invitation for a wide range of stakeholders to be involved, it is recognised that this has not been as inclusive as desired, particularly the involvement of service users. This was noted at an early stage in the interim consultation plan and a commitment given to developing a revised consultation plan for 2003 onwards. A focus on services users, hard to reach groups and BME communities will be needed.
- 5.2 There have been particular difficulties in gathering information on housing related support needs. Again there is a commitment to develop a structured approach to gathering needs data for the programme during 2003 which will be further assisted by government guidelines also due early next year.

## **6. Publication of the Strategy Document**

- 6.1 Due to the size of the document and the associated costs of producing hard copies a limited number of full versions will be made available. It will be accessible for view however on both the Intranet and Internet or can be obtained electronically on request from the Supporting People Team.
- 6.2 A summary version is also being produced, which will be published and circulated to the wider stakeholder group and made available in public areas such as Customer Services.

**7. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Leicester City Council will become responsible for managing the new Supporting People grant in April 2003. The amount of grant is not yet known but is based on current revenue funding streams (detailed in 2.1 of this report) that will support a range of existing housing related support schemes. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) will inform each Local Authority of an indicative grant allocation early in 2003.
- 7.2 Future grant allocation will be based on an allocation formula, which is being developed by the ODPM.

**Legal Implications**

- 7.3 A Strategic Commissioning Body, made up of Chief Officers from Social Services, Housing, Primary Care Trusts and Probation will have overall responsibility, including financial responsibility, for the Supporting People Programme. Leicester City Council (the administering authority) will receive and administer the grant under section 93 of the Local Government Act 2000 for the provision of welfare services determined by the Secretary of State. The administering authority will be accountable to the Commissioning Body for the grant.

**Other Implications**

- 7.4 The range of implications detailed below are referred to throughout the strategy document. A summary of the implications is as follows:

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/ NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	Yes	The document contributes to the overall strategy for social inclusion. Housing related support services enable vulnerable people to maintain a home and participate in their communities fully. Better planning arrangements will identify hidden needs of all vulnerable groups including BME and hard to reach groups. All providers must ensure anti-discriminatory and culturally sensitive service delivery.
Policy	Yes	The document drives forward the preventative and social inclusion agenda and will enable the authority to achieve delivery of other strategic objectives.
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	The document enables a more structured approach to addressing support needs, which will help vulnerable people sustain themselves in communities and become fully contributing

		members of society. This will contribute to making Leicester's communities more sustainable.
Crime and Disorder	Yes	The document facilitates development of services that address the support needs of people who offend or are likely to offend. Assistance with maintaining a home in the community is one of the factors of reducing offending behaviour.
Human Rights Act	Yes	The Supporting People provisions and arrangements will be required to conform to Article 8 (right of privacy and family life) and Article 14 (freedom from discrimination)
Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	The document drives forward the preventative and social inclusion agenda for <i>all</i> vulnerable client groups including elderly people and people on low income in need of support.

**8. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**

**9. Consultations**

Leicester Supporting People Inclusive Forum – 26/03, 02/08 2002  
Core Strategic Development & Commissioning Group – 06/06, 11/07, 08/08,12/09, 16/09, 29/09 2002  
Commissioning Body – 16/09, 29/09 2002  
Planning & Commissioning Staff – 26/03,02/08, 15/08

**10. Reason Report Marked Not for Publication**

Not Applicable

**11. Report Author**

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