

Brighton & Hove
City Council

Overview & Scrutiny

Title:	Adult Social Care & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date:	8 September 2011
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: K Norman (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Buckley, Gilbey, Jones, Peltzer Dunn, Turton, Wealls and Lister (Non-Voting Co-Optee)
Contact:	Kath Vlcek Scrutiny Support Officer 290450 kath.vlcek@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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AGENDA

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21. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO CABINET OR THE RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER MEETING	
To consider items to be submitted to the next available Cabinet or Cabinet Member Meeting.	
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To consider items to be submitted to the next Council meeting for information.	

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Kath Vlcek, (290450, email kath.vlcek@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 31 August 2011

To consider the following Procedural Business:

A. Declaration of Substitutes

Where a Member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting for whatever reason, a substitute Member (who is not a Cabinet Member) may attend and speak and vote in their place for that meeting. Substitutes are not allowed on Scrutiny Select Committees or Scrutiny Panels.

The substitute Member shall be a Member of the Council drawn from the same political group as the Member who is unable to attend the meeting, and must not already be a Member of the Committee. The substitute Member must declare themselves as a substitute, and be minuted as such, at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as they arrive.

B. Declarations of Interest

- (1) To seek declarations of any personal or personal & prejudicial interests under Part 2 of the Code of Conduct for Members in relation to matters on the Agenda. Members who do declare such interests are required to clearly describe the nature of the interest.
- (2) A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a Select Committee has a prejudicial interest in any business at a meeting of that Committee where –
 - (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Executive or another of the Council's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
 - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken the Member was
 - (i) a Member of the Executive or that committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee and
 - (ii) was present when the decision was made or action taken.
- (3) If the interest is a prejudicial interest, the Code requires the Member concerned:
 - (a) to leave the room or chamber where the meeting takes place while the item in respect of which the declaration is made is under consideration. [There are three exceptions to this rule which are set out at paragraph (4) below].
 - (b) not to exercise executive functions in relation to that business and

(c) not to seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

(4) The circumstances in which a Member who has declared a prejudicial interest is permitted to remain while the item in respect of which the interest has been declared is under consideration are:

- (a) for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the item, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise, BUT the Member must leave immediately after he/she has made the representations, answered the questions, or given the evidence;
- (b) if the Member has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee; or
- (c) if the Member is the Leader or a Cabinet Member and has been required to attend before an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub-Committee to answer questions.

C. Declaration of Party Whip

To seek declarations of the existence and nature of any party whip in relation to any matter on the Agenda as set out at paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Ways of Working.

D. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is confidential and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.00PM 28 JUNE 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors K Norman (Chair); Buckley, Gilbey, Peltzer Dunn and Cobb

Co-opted Members: Mick Lister, LINK

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A Declaration of Substitutes

1.1 Councillor Denise Cobb was attending in place of Councillor Andrew Wealls.

Apologies were received from Councillors Mike Jones and Craig Turton.

1B Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were none

1C Declarations of Party Whip

1.3 There were none.

1D Exclusion of Press and Public

1.4 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

1.5 **RESOLVED** – that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 These were agreed.

3. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Chair welcomed all of the new members and the attending officers to the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 The Chair congratulated the Overview and Scrutiny Team for their success in the national Centre for Public Scrutiny awards, where they had won the Innovation award for their scrutiny panel work, and had been runners-up in the 'Team of the Year' award.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS, LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS AND NOTICES OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLORS

- 4.1 None were received.

5. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE LEAD COMMISSIONERS

- 5.1 The committee received presentations from the Lead Commissioners for Adult Social Care and for Housing, Denise D'Souza and Jugal Sharma, and Head of Service for Housing and Social Inclusion, Nick Hibberd.
- 5.2 Denise D'Souza, Lead Commissioner, Adult Social Care and Health, spoke about the local authority's statutory responsibilities and the prevention services that were undertaken in Adult Social Care. She also told the committee about safeguarding, homecare, and the commissioning priorities.

Ms D'Souza said that future development work included a need for more work on developing social capital and increasing the market in personal assistants to offer customers a real choice.

- 5.3 Ms D'Souza responded to questions from committee members.

Members asked how Brighton and Hove's safeguarding statistics compared with other cities. Ms D'Souza said that the increase in safeguarding reports was in line with what was anticipated, as the need for safeguarding became more known and more publicised. Ms D'Souza offered to include comparator statistics in the annual report.

Members asked who tended to make safeguarding reports; Ms D'Souza said that reports could be made by anyone with a concern but that they tended to be made by health professionals, both within and outside the local authority.

- 5.4 Jugal Sharma, Lead Commissioner for Housing, gave a presentation on the pressures on housing in the city, in particular those on social housing and in the private rented sector. There was an annual deficit of approximately 500 properties, particularly within larger family accommodation.

The committee heard that, in Brighton & Hove, one in five households had someone with a vulnerability; these figures were the highest in the Southeast. Mr Sharma also told the committee that there was a higher level of non-decent housing in the private rented sector than in social housing.

It was often the case that substandard accommodation was being used to house the most vulnerable people; it was one of the priorities for Housing to tackle the inequalities within the private rented sector.

5.5 Mr Sharma responded to questions from committee members:

Members asked how the council was planning to tackle the financial gap for housing. Mr Sharma said that affordability was a key issue, particularly for people who were returning to work and would therefore have reduced benefit income. The council had recently introduced a working household allocations policy in order to keep people in work and to give them priority for social housing.

Members asked about the joint working between the PCT and the council in terms of a shared approach and shared costs. Mr Sharma explained that there was a 'Repairs on Prescription' initiative which had already proved successful in enabling families to stay in their own homes once necessary repairs had been carried out. In terms of sharing costs, the council was talking to the PCT about this at present.

Members asked about the likely impact of the Housing Benefit caps that were being introduced. Mr Sharma said that people were already starting to move out of Brighton and Hove towards Southwick and Newhaven. Housing Benefit levels were the same in the area between Southwick and Newhaven although if you went further afield, Housing Benefit levels were set at a much lower rate.

5.6 Nick Hibberd, Head of Service for Housing and Social Inclusion, introduced the members to his service, explaining that it was the delivery unit for housing services.

Mr Hibberd said that the council was the largest landlord in Brighton & Hove, with over 12,000 properties; this was large in comparison to other social landlords.

Mr Hibberd spoke about the level of need within social housing; almost two thirds of households have multiple deprivation, including drug and alcohol problems; high levels of intergenerational worklessness; mental health problems; physical disabilities and so on. This means that there is a great deal of work to do within these households.

Mr Hibberd also spoke about the work being done to achieve Decent Homes standard within council properties. As of the end of June 2011, 75% of properties would have reached the standard. This represented a huge achievement and was the result of a large financial investment into the properties. The council would reach Decent Homes standard in all of its properties by the end of 2013.

The new longterm repairs contract with Mears meant that the council is projected to save over £47 million in capital value alone. It had also been possible to add additional items to the Mears contract including a number of apprenticeships, a commitment to more energy efficient properties etc.

Finally Mr Hibberd gave some information about the success of the new service centre, which co-locates a number of back-office Housing functions. The centre was working very well; it also had space for a number of other services including space to carry out

kitchen assembly onsite; space to store spare parts for repairs etc, which all helped to save time and deliver a more efficient customer-focussed service.

5.7 Mr Hibberd answered members' questions:

Members asked about Government proposals to enable residents to carry out some repairs themselves and whether this was in line with health and safety regulations. Mr Hibberd said that there were certain roles that the council had to carry out itself including gas safety checks. The Government pilots are aimed at supporting residents to do things that they wish to do themselves, and are not intended to replace a council service.

Some residents had already received training in carrying out mystery shopping of Housing services, and had been trained to carry out estates inspections. This was part of the council's approach to involving tenants in a much more inclusive way, and had helped shape service delivery.

Members asked how Housing involved under-represented groups when working towards community empowerment. Mr Hibberd said that there was a database approximately 2000 residents who had already indicated that they wished to be involved or to be kept updated on what was happening.

Mr Hibberd felt that future plans for community empowerment would need to consider childcare issues and how to make events fun. He gave the example of a Financial Inclusion event that had been held in a soft-play centre, for young families to talk about financial matters in a fun setting. The work there had shown that over 70% of those attending did not have their own home insurance despite the council publicising its own low cost scheme. Information of this kind is invaluable and can help the council shape its services more effectively.

6. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS- END OF YEAR REPORTS FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE & FOR HOUSING

6.1 Nick Hibberd, Head of Service for Housing and Social Inclusion, presented a report on Housing's performance for the last quarter and answered questions.

Mr Hibberd said that there were a number of areas of very high performance, for example in rent collection levels and in energy efficiency measures. Other authorities were looking to Brighton & Hove City Council to follow our good practice.

6.2 Members commended Mr Hibberd and the Housing teams for their excellent performance figures.

6.3 Philip Letchfield, Head of Performance and Contracting for Adult Social Care, presented a report on Adult Social Care's performance.

Mr Letchfield explained that there had been some major changes in national performance reporting, and there was a move towards more local reporting instead. However limited guidance has been issued to date on how this would work particularly in relation to Local Accounts.

In 2010, the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) role in performance monitoring for councils was ceased. This means that there will be no annual report from CQC on Brighton & Hove City Council's performance. The CQC also ceased the rating system for individual care services. The CQC will be introducing a voluntary 'excellence' scheme from 2012.

At the same time, the NHS Information Centre has decided to undertake a 'zero based review' of all the statutory data returns with the intention of identifying a more limited single national data set. Existing data returns are continuing to be submitted in the interim. This means that there will be no benchmarking figures available in relation to Councils performance and the quality of commissioned care.

The combination of the above two changes has left Adult Social Care in a state of limbo. There will be a new reporting framework, with much more of an emphasis on outcomes. An interim Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) has been agreed for 2011-12 and this was appended to the report. This year, Brighton & Hove City Council has carried out a user survey; it will be repeated next year, at which time it will also be issued to carers.

Mr Letchfield explained that the data included in appendix three of the report was intended to give some provisional examples of the data being collected but it had not been fully verified yet.

6.4 Members welcomed the report and thanked Mr Letchfield.

6.5 **RESOLVED:** Recommendation 2.1 was agreed.

There was an amendment to recommendation 2.2. It was amended to show that ASCHOSC would receive the ASC performance report on a six-monthly basis. The report should also include information on any performance reporting proposals that were due to be considered by Cabinet. This amendment was agreed.

7. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY MEALS

7.1 Debbie Greening, Contracts Manager for Adult Social Care, presented the report on Community Meals.

There had been a noticeable drop in the number of meals that were being purchased since 2007/08; this was a cause for concern although it was noted that it seemed to have levelled out.

Ms Greening said that the current contract had been extended for a further six months, but during this time, they would be consulting on the new contract with a view to re-tendering it.

7.2 Ms Greening responded to members' questions.

Members asked whether customers were asked why they were leaving the service, if this was applicable. Ms Greening said that she was not aware that this was currently carried out but that she would suggest this to the service providers.

Members asked about the timing of the consultation and of the retendering process. Ms Greening said that consultation would start in autumn 2011, although the planning was already underway. At present a range of major contracts were being recommissioned and consulted on, including homecare services.

Consultation took a significant amount of resource on each contract, and it was important not to overload either the team or the customers with requests for consultation responses and feedback.

- 7.3 Ms D'Souza asked whether ASCHOSC would like to be involved as part of the consultation. It was necessary to look at all aspects of the contract including whether the contract should be split between providers, whether customers preferred to make more personal arrangements for their meals etc. It was likely that any decisions that were made about the service would be controversial; Community Meals represented a significant cost for Adult Social Care.

The Chair of the committee welcomed the opportunity to become involved in the consultation and asked how ASCHOSC could best help the Contracts Team in their work. It was agreed that two or three ASCHOSC members would meet with officers from Adult Social Care to discuss the issue and decide whether it could be a suitable topic for a Review Panel.

- 7.4 **RESOLVED** – that ASCHOSC members would meet with officers from Adult Social Care to discuss the issue and decide whether it could be a suitable topic for a Review Panel.

8. SAFEGUARDING ACTION PLAN

- 8.1 Brian Doughty, Head of Services, Adult Assessment, presented the report on Safeguarding Adults at Risk.
- 8.2 There were no questions from committee members.

9. ASCHOSC ANNUAL WORK PLAN

- 9.1 Members discussed the proposed ASCHOSC work programme for the forthcoming year.
- 9.2 Comments included the view that Housing might not be a natural fit for the Committee along with Adult Social Care and Health; Ms D'Souza said that there were some very strong links between Housing and Social Care.

Members asked whether the Health and Wellbeing proposals would help to align Adult Social Care, Housing and Health. The Chair commented that it was important that any new arrangements did not cause any more work for members.

9.3 **RESOLVED** – Members noted and agreed the work plan as listed in the appendix to the report.

10. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO CABINET OR THE RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

10.1 There were none.

11. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

11.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 6.30pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 18

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Accommodation and Support Plan for People with Learning Disabilities		
Date of Meeting:	8th September 2011		
Report of:	Director of Adult Social Care/Lead Commissioner People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Diana Bernhardt	Tel: 29-2363
	Email:	Diana.bernhardt@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for learning disabilities 2011 highlighted the need for a local accommodation and support plan in order to meet expected increases in need of between 54-135 people over the next 5 years with a greater increase (2%) expected for those with the most complex needs who will need a high level of 24 hour specialist care.
- 1.2 The aim of this report is to provide an opportunity for Adult Social Care & Housing Scrutiny Committee to comment on the draft local accommodation and support plan that will be presented to Adult Social Care & Health Cabinet members meeting on 17th October 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Adult Social Care & Housing Scrutiny Committee consider this report and draft 3 year plan attached as Appendix 1.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 A Vision for Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens sets the framework for the future provision of adult social care. At a local level, there is a social care transformation programme to develop the workforce, increase personalisation and maximise independence through prevention and reablement.

- 3.2 Within learning disabilities, the Valuing People Now White Paper continues to provide the overarching policy context. Its key aims are to enable people to participate in society as fully as possible with a voice regarding decisions about their care.
- 3.3 To achieve this vision within the current financial climate, we need greater flexibility in service models so that people do not have to move to receive support or to achieve greater independence. We also need to provide greater flexibility for support for people during the day so that people can gain independent living skills and access voluntary and paid work.
- 3.4 Nevertheless, having the right environment for people to be supported in remains important. The aim of this plan is to set out what is needed both in terms of access to mainstream accommodation, supported housing and specialist accommodation for those with the most complex needs. The draft 3 year plan is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Shared lives is where a service user lives with a carer in their home or where a carer lives and cares for someone in a service users' home.
A keyring scheme is where a group of service users live in close proximity supported by a carer and each other.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The accommodation and support plan draws on information in the JSNA for people with Learning Disabilities that was previously consulted on. In addition the accommodation and support plan for people with learning disabilities is being developed through engagement of the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board and sub groups.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. However, any costs arising from the proposed actions in this plan would need to be funded from existing resources and included in future budget strategies.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name Michelle Herrington

Date: 26 Aug 2011

Legal Implications:

There are no specific legal or Human Rights Act implications arising from this Report which is for information and comment prior to a Report being presented to CMM in October 2011. Any decision relating to or recommendations on the implementation of proposals for an Accommodation and Support Plan will have to take into account statutory duties arising from Community Care legislation and individual's Human Rights, in particular but not solely Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights; Right to Privacy and Family Life.

5.2

Lawyer Consulted:

Name Sandra O'Brien

Date: 26/08/2011

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An equalities impact assessment has commenced and will be completed during the finalisation of the plan.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The aim of the plan is to address gaps in local services in order to reduce the need for long distance placements.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no specific crime and disorder implications. Nevertheless, the provision of short term crisis support and improved accessibility of supported housing services will improve support to people with learning disabilities with additional needs such as mental health, substance misuse and offending behaviour.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 This plan provides an opportunity to increase the range of local services to better meet local need through the commissioning of accommodation and support services.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 The aim of this plan is to meet the accommodation and support needs of people with learning disabilities. However, many people will have additional health needs which will be better supported within the right environment.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 This proposal will increase the range of services available locally for people with learning disabilities and so enable them to participate as equal citizens in the city of Brighton & Hove.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendix 1

Draft 3 year Learning Disability Accommodation and Support Plan

Documents in Members' Rooms None

Background Documents

Learning Disability Joint strategic Needs Assessment 2011

Appendix 1

3 Year Learning Disability Accommodation and Support Plan

Why we need an accommodation and support plan

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for learning disabilities 2011 highlighted the need for a local accommodation and support plan to address:

- Meeting increases in need of between 54-135 people over the next 5 years with a greater increase (2%) expected for those with the most complex needs who will need a high level of 24 hour specialist care.
- In Brighton and Hove, 70% of the local social care budget is spend on accommodation services, with the majority (63%) spent on residential care. However, national research shows lower spend and better outcomes in authorities with more supported accommodation, compared to residential care.
- There is a mismatch between what is needed locally and what is available with a significant proportion of historical placements from other authorities. As a result the authority has over 90 different providers and uses less than 50% of local provision.
- There are insufficient supported living options to meet local need, at an appropriate cost. This has led to some over supply of supported living which creates financial risks for the authority regarding ordinary residence claims.
- There is a need to create more specialist accommodation for people with complex needs and challenging behaviour locally, who currently are often placed outside of Sussex at higher cost and with varying quality of care.
- There is a need to review pathways and barriers to people with learning disabilities accessing housing, in particular people who could move on from residential care and for those with the most complex needs.

- There is a need to increase resources to support people into mainstream work and their potential to work by delivering training on basic skills needed for employment, including how to use public transport and independence in the community.

The JSNA also highlighted that there are particular gaps in local services for the following groups. These gaps are the result of the mismatch between what we have and what we need locally some of which could be addressed by changing local services;

- People with mild learning disabilities with additional needs such as substance misuse, offending behaviour and mental health problems (15-20 units)
- Specialised services for people with challenging behaviour and complex needs (6-10 units)
- Low cost supported living for people moving on from residential care and who need lower levels of support (10-15 units)
- Services for older people with learning disabilities with dementia (approximately 15 units)

The national and local housing picture

People with learning disabilities live in a range of accommodation types. Many live with their family, some rent and a small proportion own their own home. Others live in some form of supported accommodation. This may be residential care, supported housing. This may be residential care, supported housing, Shared lives or sheltered and extra care housing.

The housing tenure of people with learning disabilities is very different with an average of 1% within the SE Region owning their own home compared to 70% within the general population.

Changes in the Housing Benefit system over the next few years will make it more difficult to develop low level supported living as payments will be limited for those who are not in receipt of middle or high rate Disability Living Allowance.

Whilst many people experience good outcomes, there are some fundamental inequalities compared to the general population;

- Most people with learning disabilities who live in residential care or supported accommodation do not have choice over where and with whom they live and this is most likely to be the case for people with more complex needs. Also, people living in private households are more likely to live in deprived areas.¹
- The individually high cost of their housing needs mean that capital grants from the Housing Communities Agency (HCA) are harder to access, as are affordable options in rental and ownership. Without specific interventions from outside the health and social care system to address these barriers, residential care or living with their family are often the only viable options.²
- Housing is identified as one of the big priorities in Valuing People Now and they estimate the shortfall in accommodation to be 50 places for every 100 places in Brighton & Hove.
- In Brighton & Hove housing of all types is in short supply. Brighton & Hove is the 5th most densely populated areas in the region and there are higher than average housing costs and higher than average levels of homelessness. Brighton and Hove has the sixth largest private rented sector in the country, with 28,000 homes (23%) and only 19,000 homes (15%) in the social rented sector. Average house prices are high, meaning affordable housing is limited and there are problems with housing quality and overcrowding.³

Strategic Context

The Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy 2009-2012 contains the following key objectives:

¹ People with Learning Disabilities in England, Eric Emerson & Chris Hatton, 2008

² Raising our Sights, DoH, 2012

³ Housing Strategy 2009-2014

- Increase choice and control through expansion of individualised budgets and increased personalisation in services.
- Increase the range of housing options available to expand supported living and to reduce numbers in residential care and out of area placements.
- Maximise independence and support people to move on
- Extend choice for day activities including supporting people into work
- Improve value for money

Progress achieved since the commissioning strategy;

- Increase in supported living (increase from 91-108 units)
- Increase in individualised budgets (increase from 67-137)
- Support to access housing and accessible information
- Reduced numbers in residential care from 257-239
- Out of area has reduced from 115 to 109

A local vision for accommodation services

This plan is being developed in consultation with the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board whose members drafted the following vision for services;

'We believe that people with learning disabilities and their carers are people first with the right to be treated with dignity and respect and with the potential to actively participate and contribute to society. To realise this vision we will seek to improve the outcomes from universal services and focus on maximising independence and well being in the community. For those with the most complex needs we will commission specialist services more effectively and will redesign services to be more preventative and effective.'

To achieve this vision it is essential to recognise that people with learning disabilities have a wide range of housing needs and therefore need access to wide range of accommodation options. People with the most complex needs also need to be able to access specialist designed 'bespoke' housing to provide the right environment to be supported.

Previous consultation with family carers and people with learning disabilities

This plan incorporates existing feedback from Person Centred Plans and the results of previous consultation with family carers and people with learning disabilities on housing which identified:

- The desire for people with learning disabilities to choose who they live with
- That most people (over 50% of those who responded) were happy with their current accommodation and did not want to move on.
- That those who wanted to move on needed a speedier process and a greater range of options
- That people wanted housing that was affordable as they wanted to have the opportunity to work
- That people wanted access to self contained and shared accommodation
- Shared accommodation needs to have some self contained space
- People want to live in community settings

Key Objectives to deliver the vision for accommodation services;

- Better commissioning of specialist services
- Reshaping the local market to better meet local need
- Maximising independence through move on, prevention, and building on support in the community

Objective 1- Better Commissioning of specialised placements

To improve the range of specialist services locally and to monitor the cost and quality of services for those with the most complex needs more closely:

Objective 1		
Better Commissioning of specialises placements		
Actions	Timescale	Success Criteria
Create a select list of providers through tendering for a framework agreement for people with complex needs and challenging behaviour	Already commenced and to complete by September 2011	New services available for complex needs and challenging behaviour Network established to share best practice Reduced number of placement breakdowns
Review high cost placements to ensure value for money and to identity those who could be better supported locally	March 2011-12	Improve value for money via in depth review of cost and outcomes involving family carers People placed out of area identified who could access more local services via the framework
Create a pathway to design housing for people with complex needs and challenging behaviour	December 2011	Create pathway to access housing that is designed around the needs of the individual

Objective 2- Reshape local accommodation to better meet local need

To maximise the use of local resources and to support providers to change services to better meet local need:

Objective 2		
Reshape local accommodation to better meet local need		
Actions	Timescale	Success Criteria
Develop market development statement to set out in more detail what is needed locally	November 2011	Reduced numbers of placements outside of Sussex
Work with local providers to remodel their services to meet gaps identified in the local market	2012/14	Reduced numbers of local voids
Develop select provider lists through tendering framework agreements for gaps in services that remain	2012/14	Reduced gaps in local services Improved value for money
Commission accommodation services to support people during the day to develop life skills to maximise independence and	2012/13	People are better prepared to enter paid and voluntary work People live as independently as

to be better prepared to enter employment or voluntary work		possible
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Objective 3 – Maximise independence through move on, prevention and support in the community

To increase the numbers of people moving on from residential care and to maximise independence through prevention and community support;

Objective 3		
Maximise independence		
Actions	Timescale	Success Criteria
Through commissioning and remodelling existing services (such as supported living floating support, shared lives, key ring, kinship) to expand the range of options that provide low level support in the community	2012-13	Increase move on options available locally Maximise independence and improve value for money Use assistive technology to maximise independence
Improve accessibility of mainstream supported living services for people with mild learning disabilities with substance misuse, autism and mental health problems	2012-14	Improved outcomes for people with mild learning disabilities with additional support needs

Progress the remodelling of the Community Support Service to provide crisis support	March 2012	Prevent need for support or increase need for support later on
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ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 19

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: **Housing and Support :
Preventative services to achieve Social
Inclusion**

Date of Meeting: **8th September 2011**

Report of: **Jugal Sharma
Lead Commissioner - Housing**

Contact Officer: Name: Narinder Sundar Tel:
Commissioning Manager
E-mail: Narinder.Sundar@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides background information on the 'Supporting People Programme'. This programme was introduced in 2003 by central government to fund 'housing-related support' services that provide preventative support to vulnerable people. Services cover a range of client groups providing support to people with mental health and substance misuse support needs, rough sleepers, single homeless people, young people, older people and people with learning disabilities. Services are preventative and help people to live more independently by providing life skills support, resettlement support, tenancy sustainment support, money advice, crisis support and support within the community. The aim of these services is to maximise social inclusion and create pathways to independence.
- 1.2 At a local level in Brighton and Hove, the programme has been very successful in meeting support needs of vulnerable people. It has successfully and consistently delivered positive outcomes for service users since its launch in 2003. The established partnership with local providers, partners and stakeholders have enabled us to effectively deliver services of high quality, performance, excellent value for money and good outcomes. Providers have demonstrated a high level of innovation in delivering high standards and maintained a strong level of commitment to deliver the programme, despite year-on-year reductions to funding.

- 1.3 In January 2011, the Housing Cabinet Member Meeting from the previous Conservative Administration approved the current Commissioning Strategy and Commissioning Plan for 4 years, 2011-2015. This commits all funding available for housing-related support within current contracts for services over 4 years, delivering 3% efficiency saving each year.

Commissioning decisions have been based on:

- Maximising all opportunities to deliver the same outcomes for service users by re-configuring and integrating services/contracts to maximise the social return on investment (e.g. merging contracts to deliver more flexible/responsive services to better meet service user support needs and delivering a pathway of services to promote independence such as maximising access to work / learning / training opportunities)
- Extensive consultation with providers, commissioners and stakeholders on local priorities / needs for housing-related support services in the city
- An assessment of each service/contract against the Supporting People Strategy review criteria to include: strategic relevance; quality; performance; value for money; outcomes; contribution to local priorities

- 1.4 The current Green Administration has adopted the Commissioning Strategy and Plan approved by the previous Conservative Administration and has confirmed their commitment to support both the strategy and plan.

- 1.5 Communities and Local Government budget announcements in October 2010, as part of the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, indicated a clear commitment to protect preventative services for vulnerable people delivered through the Supporting People Welfare Grant by minimising reductions to this grant. It was announced at this time that the Supporting People Welfare Grant will become part of the Formula Grant with effect from 2011/12. In addition to this there are grant conditions no longer exist that were previously stipulated by central government. All allocations to funding are based on local decisions to meet local priorities. The previous Conservative Administration protected housing-related support services by minimising reductions to funding by 12% over 4 years.

- 1.6 This report will provide information on the following areas:

- A Local Context: Overview of key priorities and strategic actions in current Commissioning Strategy for Brighton & Hove over the next 4 years, 2011-2015
- Cost Benefit Analysis of housing-related support services
- Overview of quality and performance of housing-related support services
- Findings from national reviews of the Supporting People Programme

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members note contents of report.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 **A Local Context: Overview of key priorities and strategic actions in current Commissioning Strategy for Brighton & Hove over the next 4 years, 2011-1015**

The key priorities of this new strategy have been developed in partnership with providers and commissioners.

The following are the 5 key priorities of the strategy and some examples of work that is being done against each priority:

- 1. Improving Access to Services:** commission services that support people to move on into private rented sector and services that support people with mental health needs to move on from acute to residential care
- 2. Flexible services with positive outcomes:** commission services to support people with learning disabilities in the community and services that provide personalised and specialist support for people with substance misuse issues
- 3. Working towards greater independence:** commission a tiered service to support people with complex mental health needs; commission services to support young people to sustain tenancies in private rented sector
- 4. Sustaining Independence:** commission dispersed alarm services for older people and commission outreach services that offer a mix of levels of support to include low-level, preventative support, specialist support and sign-posting to other services
- 5. Value for Money:** commission services that offer good Value For Money (such as sheltered housing) and re-configure services to improve Value For Money

The full Commissioning Strategy provides more details on above and is attached as an appendix to this report.

3.2 **Cost Benefit Analysis of housing-related support services**

The national Communities and Local Government cost benefit analysis model applied locally to Brighton and Hove, indicates that housing-related support services make the city a £36.6million saving for a spend of £11.3million, which equates to every £1 spent on housing-related support, saving the city £3.24. This takes into account reductions in costs for housing departments, DWP, NHS, Social Care and other social costs such as crime and homelessness. This model is based on examining the financial impact if housing-related support services were replaced by the most appropriate, positive alternatives services.

3.3 Overview of Quality and Performance of housing-related support services

All housing-related support services are measured against national Quality, Performance and Outcomes frameworks. Services have indicated significant improvements in achieving higher standards, for example:

- since 2005 positive move-on in short term services has increased from 44% to 72%
- Quality against the QAF has increased year on year with 56% achieving 'best practice' on all service objectives
 - Diversity data collection has improved access to services and informed equalities impact assessments
 - Outcomes delivered have significantly improved, for example increasing numbers of clients with substance misuse support needs have accessed treatment services and increased numbers of clients with self-harm issues have been resolved within support services

3.4 Findings from National Reviews of Supporting People Programme

Communities and Local Government Select Committee and the Audit Commission both conducted reviews of the Supporting People Programme at a national level in 2009. The key recommendations and findings from these reviews indicated that the Supporting People Programme has successfully:

- Improved quality of services, meeting local needs, delivering better outcomes of service users and more effectively involved service users
- Achieved Value For Money through benchmarking and delivering efficiencies and within an improved commissioning and contracting monitoring framework
- Delivered more personalised, flexible and responsive services
- Established a robust governance structure involving commissioners, providers and service users and that this structure is a good blue print for partnership working

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 During 2010, extensive consultation has taken place with third sector providers and partners as part of the strategy review process. Service users have been involved and consulted to give their feedback through existing networks and forums supported by provider organisations and with advocacy agencies also involved in supporting this process.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Funding for the Supporting People Programme included in the 2011/12 revenue budget is £10.9m. The requirements of the Supporting People Commissioning Plan will be taken into account in the budget strategies for future years which are currently being developed.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michelle Herrington Date: 24th August 2011

5.2 Legal Implications

We are obliged to have in place both a Housing strategy and a Homelessness Strategy, with obligations to consult in relation to both. This has been achieved. No further decision is required and so the legal advice from the previous reports applies and have been complied with.

The Human Rights Act makes it unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a European Convention right. It is not considered that any individual's Human Rights Act rights would be adversely affected by the recommendation in this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court Date: 17th August 2011

5.3 Equalities Implications

Commissioning proposals have considered outcomes of equalities impact assessment to ensure risks have been minimised and effectively mitigated.

5.4 Sustainability Implications

The commissioning intentions of housing-related support services as part of the Commissioning Strategy is in accordance with sustainability objectives and housing objectives that aim to reduce the reliance on residential services.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications

The commissioning intentions of housing-related support services as part of the Commissioning Strategy and Plan are in accordance with the local objectives to prevent crime and disorder. The fundamental aim of housing-related support services is to promote independent living, social inclusion and integration, all of which aim to prevent crime and disorder.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications

The key objectives and strategic actions within the Commissioning Strategy contribute to a number of Council priorities, outcomes and national Indicators as part of the Local Area Agreement.

Housing-related support services deliver diverse and innovative services to a range of client groups, from people with mental health and substance misuse problems, to older people and single homeless people with support needs. The services are preventative and achieve long-term, positive benefits for service users to maximise independent living. Our external partners have worked well to deliver the programme and any risks to our providers, services, service users and local employment opportunities, need to be carefully managed and mitigated in partnership with our providers.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications

The Commissioning Strategy contributes towards delivering Corporate priorities and contributes towards achieving a number of outcomes in the local Sustainable Communities Strategy and national indicators as part of the Local Area Agreement.

Background Documents

1. Commissioning Strategy, 2011-15

Supporting People Commissioning Strategy **2011-2015**

Commissioning Support Services for
Vulnerable People in Brighton & Hove



Brighton & Hove
City Council

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- 2. What is Supporting People?**
- 3. Our Vision**
- 4. Successes of the last strategy**
- 5. Cost Benefit Analysis**
- 6. Our Strategic Priorities 2011-2015**
 - a. Improving Access to Services**
 - b. Flexible services with positive outcomes**
 - c. Working towards greater independence**
 - d. Sustaining Independence**
 - e. Value for Money**
- 7. Implementation & Review**

This strategy is a refresh of the Supporting People Programme in Brighton & Hove and is informed by the national Supporting People Strategy and local and regional strategies from partners.



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Foreword

We are pleased to present this new strategy of a very successful programme that makes a real difference to local people in Brighton and Hove. We are fully committed to the principles of Supporting People and believe that vulnerable people in the city deserve greater independence, and that the city as a whole is improved by helping people move on from support services to live in the community.

In Brighton & Hove we have shown that for every £1 spent on Supporting People services the city saves £3.24.

There have been a number of successes over the duration of the last strategy including the development of the Integrated Support Pathway which has helped people with a history of homelessness to gain their own tenancy and improved access to education and work opportunities.

We have worked with our partners in Health and Adult Social Care to commission services that complement each other and reduce dependence on services. This includes the remodelled Recovery Support Houses which support people who have left Millview and helps them with their life skills and well being. This service has been integral in helping people move on to lower support and independence.

This new strategy is a sign of our ongoing support for this programme and the need to reduce the reliance on traditional care services and moving further towards modern personalised services that maximise independence.

With this strategy we will set out our strategic priorities for the next four years, we will review the success and outcomes to show its impact.

Maria Caulfield
Lead Cabinet Member for Housing
Chair of Supporting People Commissioning Body

What is Supporting People?

Supporting People is a government initiative to enable people to achieve and maintain independence through housing related support. This means commissioning support services to help people with areas that would otherwise reduce their ability to live independently.

Support in short term services is based on a re-ablement model of adult social care or the NHS recovery model; both of these look at time limited services working towards specific outcomes to improve independence and 'move on' from the service.

Support in longer term services is based around supporting people to maintain life skills and remain as independent as possible.

Services offer personalised support with a wide range of tasks including:

- Resettlement into more suitable accommodation
- Tenancy issues
- Mental and physical well being
- Safety and security
- Accessing education, training and employment
- Helping understanding finances and budgeting
- Life skills
- Identity and Cultural issues
- Move on

To achieve this in the city we have commissioned services that best meet local need for housing and support. These include:

- Sheltered Housing
- Supported Living
- Floating Support
- Street Outreach
- Hostels
- Work and Learning
- Peer Support

Our Vision

We will improve the well being of people in Brighton & Hove by commissioning services that meet their needs in the community.

We will commission flexible services that support vulnerable people to achieve positive outcomes, and deliver value for money for the city.

We commission services that support vulnerable people to live more independently.

We are driven by the principles of World Class Commissioning. This means putting people at the centre of shaping services by involving users, carers and partners in all projects.

World Class Commissioning works in four stages:

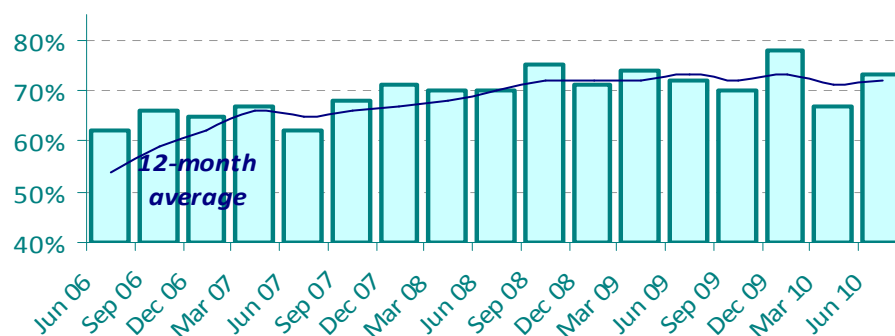
- Commissioning based on needs data – know why we commission
- Consultation – partners/users/carers/stakeholders – knowing what people want us to commission
- Partnership working and joint commissioning – know how we are going to do it
- Reviewing commissioned projects with milestones – know if what we commission is working



Successes of the last strategy

We have reviewed the impact of the last strategy as part of developing the new direction and we can show the positive change over the last five years.

- Since 2005 positive move on in short term services has increased from 45% to 72%:



- Quality against the QAF has increased year on year with 56% achieving ‘best practice’ on all objectives
- Diversity data collected to inform impact assessments and commissioning
- Outcomes Framework - Example - 1 in 10 service users have significant self harm issues – 80% resolve this with an SP service

This has meant that we have commissioned better outcomes at a reduced spend as the SP budget has reduced in real terms every year of the last strategy.

Despite this we have continued locally to commission innovative services that maintain and improve independence. These include:

- Translation and interpreting service
- Remodelling of Recovery Support Houses
- Outreach service for street drinkers
- Deposit guarantee scheme
- Tenancy Access Project
- LD Access service
- High Risk offenders floating support
- Three work and learning services for single homeless people



- Crisis response service
- A drop in service for the Integrated Support Pathway
- Peer support service

Also we have remodelled services to improve outcomes for service users in achieving greater independence.

Example of Supporting People Commissioning #1

As part of the last strategy review we looked to remodel services that were not achieving positive outcomes for services users. One service did not have a good move on rate so we worked with the Sussex Partnership Trust to re-focus the funding to change the four high needs properties into two high needs recovery houses and two medium needs move on properties. This has meant that more people have been able to move on from the service and live independently in the community.

The planned changes will deliver modernised, personalised services enabling a greater number of service users to live as independently as possible, whilst still ensuring that those with the most severe and complex needs receive the in-patient service from the NHS that they need

Feedback from Sussex Partnership Trust

Example of Supporting People Commissioning #2

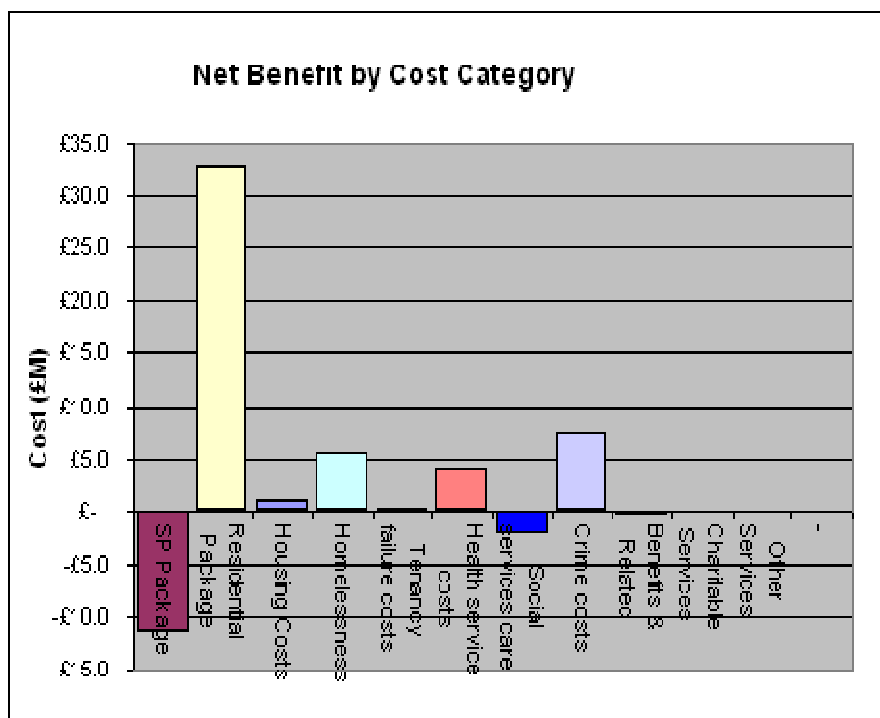
A provider of sheltered housing informed us that they no longer intended to directly deliver the support service at their projects in Brighton & Hove. We carried out a consultation process to investigate alternative methods of supplying support to the residents; including individual service funds, personal budgets, and floating support. As a result of the consultation the residents decided to tender for new provider to deliver the support. The process of assessing the tender applications was decided by residents with the service specification agreed by nominated residents and stakeholders. A new provider has now been agreed and the service is due to start in 2011.



Cost Benefit Analysis

The CLG model shows that Supporting People Programme makes the city a £36.6million saving for a spend of £11.3million which equates to the fact that for **every £1 we spend on SP the city saves £3.24**. This takes into account reductions in costs for housing departments, Department of Work and Pensions, NHS, and other social costs such as crime and homelessness.

The methodology is based on examining the financial impact if SP funded services were replaced by the most appropriate positive alternatives.



The cost benefit analysis is used to evidence the positive impact of SP services on other sectors such as care. This has informed the joint commissioning decisions within the strategic priorities of this strategy.

In Brighton & Hove all client groups show some positive benefit whereas nationally some client groups do not show this.

Appendix 1

Since the beginning of the last strategy in 2007 we have almost doubled the cost benefit from £1.80 to £3.24 which is delivering improved value for money and clearly evidencing improved outcomes for services users. This also shows the impact our commissioned services have on other sectors.

Client group	Cost (£m)	Cost/Benefit ratio	Net Financial Benefit (£m)
Alcohol problems	0.1	12	1.2
Women at risk of DV	0.3	2	0.6
Drug problems	0.5	5.2	2.6
Single homeless	3.3	4.6	15.3
Learning disabilities	1.7	2.1	3.6
Mental health	2.3	2.8	6.5
Offenders	0.7	0.14	0.1
Older people	1.2	4.2	5.0
Physical or sensory	0.03	3.3	0.1
Teenage parents	0.1	0.0	0.0
Young People	1.2	1.3	1.6
Total	11.3	3.24	36.6



Our Strategic Priorities 2011-2015

- 1. Improving Access to Services**
- 2. Flexible services with positive outcomes**
- 3. Working towards greater independence**
- 4. Sustaining Independence**
- 5. Value for Money**

This section will set out the ethos behind each priority and the action we will take to meet these commissioning objectives.

It will also show how we will assess the success of the strategy so that we can inform future commissioning plans.



Priority 1:	Improving access to services
<p>Strategic Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support for people with learning disabilities to access mainstream services and make housing choices • Commission a tenancy access project to support tenants and landlords to reduce stigma around vulnerable people and promote move-on access into the private rented sector • Review current move on arrangements to improve take up of the deposit guarantee scheme, moves into the Private Rented Sector and facilitate appropriate move on options for clients with complex needs • Commission a mental health transitions team to support people to move on from acute and residential care • Develop greater personalisation and choice through a review of how clients can access different approaches to substance misuse in hostels • Work with Sussex Partnership Trust to ensure that clients in the Single Homeless Integrated Support Pathway are able to access psychological interventions available in the community • Via the DV forum and Housing Options, ensure that all professionals working in Domestic Violence are aware of housing issues, and address gaps in knowledge • As part of the YHWG action plan, review how Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans needs are being met within support provision for young people • Work with the Domestic Violence co-ordinator and supported accommodation providers in developing local guidelines for dealing with domestic violence within supported housing that link with Safeguarding Children and Adults procedures 	



Success Criteria:

- More people with learning disabilities with their own tenancies living independently in the community
- That all Supporting People services are accessible to people with learning disability who would benefit from their support including sheltered housing, homelessness services, and substance misuse
- Increased move on into Supporting People services from Millview and residential care homes
- Increased personalisation and choice in short term homelessness services
- More people in homelessness services access the psychological therapies they need
- Increased positive housing outcomes for Domestic Violence services
- Ensure that all services meet the need of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans communities



Priority 2:	Flexible services with positive outcomes
<p>Strategic Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission services that are able to respond to crisis situations to support people with learning disabilities in the community • Support the implementation of an alcohol pathway across services so that ‘revolving door’ clients can receive personalised and specialist support with alcohol issues • Enable people with multiple needs such as mental health, substance misuse, learning disabilities, forensic history, physical needs, etc. to get the support and housing that they need 	
<p>Success Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced number of people with learning disabilities making unplanned moves • Reduced number of people with multiple needs placed unnecessarily in care services • Reduced voids in housing association properties • Reduced evictions from hostels due to alcohol use • Better outcomes for people with multiple needs regardless of the original point of access 	



Priority 3:	Working towards greater independence
<p>Strategic Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission more low-level supported accommodation for people with learning disabilities • Commission a tiered service to support people with complex mental health needs • Commission a floating support service for clients with learning disabilities who are living in hostels (who do not qualify for statutory learning disability services) • Establish a multi-agency panel to deliver move on solutions for older people and clients with complex needs • Develop greater personalisation and choice through a review of how clients can access different work and learning opportunities and access support to maintain independence when working, including housing • As part of the Housing and Domestic Violence Working Group work to improve access to ‘move on’ for people who are experiencing domestic violence • Explore commissioning of accommodation and support for high need clients / 16 and 17 year olds • Review current provision to ensure young people are supported to move to the private rented sector, and that provision of floating support for young people is adequate to ensure private rented tenancies are sustained • Monitor changes to the Young People Eviction Protocol exploring other methods of effectively managing breaches of licenses/house rules • As part of the YHWG, (Youth Homeless Working Group) ensure all providers work in partnership with the NEET action plan to ensure all young parents 	



achieve a minimum of level 1 qualification

- Work with partners to manage the changes in provision expected in year one of the strategies to ensure need the need of the city is met within the restricted resources

Success Criteria:

- Increased housing choice for people with learning disabilities and more people having tenancies
- Improved move for people with mental health issues
- Reduced delayed discharge from Millview
- Reduced use of residential care due to housing issues
- Reduced eviction from young people services
- Improved number of level 1 qualifications



Priority 4:	Sustaining independence
<p>Strategic Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain dispersed alarm service with efficiency savings • Further integrate and develop services for Older People (sheltered housing and outreach services) to improve access to information about housing and support options. Services will work more closely within the SP sector and beyond to improve flexibility, value for money, accessibility, and sign-posting to other services, and offer a more streamlined and efficient experience for people using them • Remodel long term learning disability services to include a re-ablement element that promotes independence 	
<p>Success Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved quality of life for older people • Better outcomes for older people with more service users supported to stay independent in the community • Improved individual outcomes for people with learning disabilities 	

Priority 5:	Delivering value for money
<p>Strategic Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain (with small efficiency savings) 90% of sheltered/extra care sheltered housing, which offers good value for money and strategic relevance • Reconfigure one small accommodation-based service for older people with mental health needs with low utilisation/strategic relevance • Supporting People to implement the recommendations of the Intelligent Commissioning Pilots for domestic violence and alcohol to address gaps in provision • Prioritise support within sheltered by reviewing and clarifying eligibility criteria. • Explore options for bringing SP services in line with the Adult Social Care charging policy • Working with longer and flexible contracts with agreed outcomes working with social care and health 	
<p>Success Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better use of council resources • Improved reporting mechanisms to show the outcomes of commissioning • Stable and thriving third sector partners 	

Implementation & Review - Conclusion

During the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, the Chancellor George Osborne specifically commended the Supporting People Programme for helping with housing for the most vulnerable people in our communities. To continue with this work we will be commissioning the projects and services outlined in the action plan but we are also setting out a number of commissioning commitments to ensure that we continue to meet standards such as world class commissioning and the innovative practice expected by our providers:

- We will commission services that complement the services commissioned by our partners in care and housing
- We will implement this strategy over the four year period ensuring remodelling is well managed over an appropriate length of time and that new services are commissioned with clear timescales
- We will make all commissioning decisions public and transparent with a clear rationale
- We will review our commissioning annually to check that we are meeting local needs
- We will publicly report on our commissioning annually
- We will check quality in partnership with Adult Social Care and NHS
- We will commission services with long term aims based on the strategy
- We will support providers to be innovative within their contract to get the best outcomes
- We will involve providers, partners and service users in developing the programme over the next four years

*The SP world leads the way in demonstrating the connection between needs, expenditure, services and outcomes for users. The commissioning arrangements for SP services have been an effective partnership based on needs analyses, strategies and investment plans, generally with a high level of provider, and in some areas, user input. **This is a model to build on and replicate, not one to dismantle.***

Sitra Bulletin Issue 222 March 09

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 20

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Community Meals		
Date of Meeting:	8.9.2011		
Report of:	Director of Adult Social Services/Lead Commissioner People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Philip Letchfield	Tel: 29-5078
	Email:	philip.leitchfield@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Adult Social Care & Housing Overview Scrutiny Committee received a report at its meeting of 28.6.2011 which confirmed that the current Community Meals service contract will come to an end in 2012. The report provided details of the current service and highlighted some key issues.
- 1.2 The Committee agreed to include Community Meals on its work programme and requested a further report that highlighted possible future options for this service and any available benchmarking information in relation to charging for this service. This further report was requested to help inform the scrutiny process.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee discuss and use the contents of this report to inform the scrutiny process.
- 2.2 That the Committee identify any additional information that would assist in their scrutiny of this matter.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS

- 3.1 The Committee received a detailed report at its meeting of 28.6.11 which provided the background detail and context in relation to this service. A further report was requested as identified above in 1.2.
- 3.2 The key options in relation to this service if it were not to be re-tendered for in its current form are identified in Appendix One.

- 3.3 If the service were to be re-tendered in some form some key options are included in Appendix two.
- 3.4 The options above are not mutually exclusive or stand alone options, various combinations of them are possible.
- 3.5 One key issue which underlies all of these options is the place of a community meals service as currently provided in the increasingly personalised approach to service delivery and where alternative service options have been developing. As the previous report to the Committee confirmed the numbers of meals provided through this contract has been in steady decline. The reduction in numbers also means the individual costs of the meals are increasing and this increased cost is met largely by the Council. It should be noted that the decline in numbers has not been as sharp as previously in the most recent year.
- 3.6 Any change to the service model for community meals would require careful thought and planning regarding any transitional arrangements from the current service to any new model. This is also an issue where the views of the Committee could assist in future arrangements.
- 3.7 In relation to benchmarked costs re charging for meals we have recently reviewed information from other Councils in the region.

Council	Brighton & Hove	A	B	C	D	E	F
Charge	£3.00	£3.35	£3.40/£3.90	£3.50	£3.40	£4.78	£3.40

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A full programme of consultation would be undertaken in relation to any future procurement of this service. This will be undertaken once the Scrutiny Committee has completed its work.
- 4.2 The previous report included the comments from existing service users and lay assessors regarding the quality and performance of the current service.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The cost of the community meals contract in 2010/11 was £482,951 for 81,864 meals of which £239,460 was covered by client contributions. The Council subsidy for the meals service was £243,491 equivalent to £3 per meal. The options discussed in the report are expected to reduce the Council subsidy and deliver improved value for money and will be reflected in budget options for 2012/13..

6. Legal Implications:

There are no specific legal or Human Rights Act implications arising from this report as it is for noting and to inform further discussion and scrutiny of the issues involved in provision of this service and possible re-tendering options. Any future proposals for change to the service will have to take into account the legal implications arising from Community Care Law and Human Rights Act 1998 considerations.

7. Equalities Implications:

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken in relation to any future procurement or change of service model in relation to this service.

8. Sustainability Implications:

8.1 A full sustainability self-assessment will be undertaken as part of any future procurement or change in service model. One key issue identified within this report is the fact that meals are currently not sourced locally.

9. Crime & Disorder Implications:

9.1 There are no specific implications.

10. Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

10.1 The ending of the current contract in 2012 provides an opportunity to review this service. In particular its place in the development of personalised services and the charging for such a service.

10.2 The numbers of people using the service is steadily declining and this presents a financial risk as the costs per meal increase.

10.3 There are over 400 people using the current service and any change in the service delivery requires careful consideration and planning.

11. Public Health Implications:

11.1 The community meals service provides a meal within set standards in relation to nutritional value and meal weight.

11.2 The community meals service currently provides a 'safe and well' check as part of the service.

12. Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 12.1 Access to a nutritious and balanced daily meal is an essential element of all peoples daily lives and the Council must consider how it supports more vulnerable members of the community to receive this. This is linked to the broader agenda of promoting health and well being across the city.
- 12.2 The current service is provided by a local voluntary sector provider, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and uses local volunteers..

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Options if the service were not to be re-tendered
2. Options if the service were to be re-tendered

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None
- 2.

Background Documents

1. None
- 2.

Appendix One

Key options for the community
meals service- for discussion

Should the Council :

- Only provide a community meals service for those people who meet the eligibility criteria for social care services?
- Charge people the full cost of the service or increase the charges such that they are more in line with other Councils?
- Improve the information and signposting available to people about the range of existing services that can provide meals to people at home (irrespective of whether they meet the Councils eligibility criteria)?
- Continue the focus on re-ablement which would include supporting people where possible to regain their skills in relation to cooking their own meals?
- Continue to promote the use of direct payments for people eligible for social care services which would include the provision of meals at home? Should this include offering all people currently using the service and eligible for social care services the option of direct payments?
- Further support the development of the market for meals at home which would enable people to have more choice and control in relation to the service?

Appendix Two

Key options if the community
meals service were to be re-
tendered- for discussion

Should the Council:

- Explore the potential to tender and provide the service in partnership with other Councils in the region?
- Include in the specification that meals should be sourced locally?
- Include in the specification that the promotion of social capital, for example through volunteering, would be a consideration when awarding the tender?
- include a “safe and well” check as part of the contract?
- Offer a framework contract with a variety of providers who could offer more choice?