

The Future of Housing Related Support

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Benefits of Supporting People

- Benefits and value of housing related support widely appreciated
 - Tackles poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion
 - Focus on prevention – evidence to suggest that services help people avoid more costly intervention by the state at a later stage
 - can help reduce emergency hospital admissions, reduce crime and anti social behaviour
- Removal of ring fence provides an opportunity to commission flexible housing support services, support the wider work of the Local authority and contribute to the wider preventative agenda

Background and aims and achievements

- The main aim of Supporting People was to help end social exclusion by enabling vulnerable people to maintain or achieve independence through the provision of housing related support
- Biggest single source of government revenue funding for the third sector
- Provided structure and focus on housing support services through locally planned and delivered services
- Developed partnership working across health, probation, housing and social care
- Balance of local provision compared to need
- Systems for monitoring & accountability
- Diversity & equality in planning & delivery

- Positive outcomes for vulnerable and excluded groups including the most socially excluded
 - over 18,000 people helped to access training and education
 - over 14,000 helped to manage substance misuse problems
 - 27,000 helped to establish contact with their families and friends (2007/08)
- Quality and value for money
 - Quality assessment framework has been a key success
 - Quality of services across the country have improved
 - Demonstrable benefits of investing in housing support for vulnerable people
 - Costs avoided - £3.41bn annually (Cap Gemini research 2009)
- Focus on user involvement
 - Service users at the heart of the support planning process and in many cases involved in strategic planning



Transition to localism

- Local area agreements at the heart of the new local performance framework
- Responsible for the management of the area based grant
- Seek to improve the quality of life of local communities through negotiated agreements between LAs their partners and Government
- Supporting people model of partnership very similar
- Proposals to make changes to national Indicators but principles of local control has cross party support

- Select committee report looked at two key areas
 - The extent to which the government delivered on the strategy
 - The implications of the removal of the ring fence
- SC report provided a positive endorsement of the departments decision to remove the ring fence
 - But LAs need to be prepared to justify any decisions to redirect funds to deliver other local services
 - Quality of local partnership working should be used as a blue print for future partnership working in other areas of local service delivery
- CLG response
 - A Transition package to support the sector as a whole
 - Includes Cap Gemini Benefits realisation model
 - Guidance on integrating housing related support across health social care and housing
 - Transition board convened and made up of a range of statutory and provider representatives

- Work with Dept of health on joint strategic Needs assessment (JSNA) development and housing related support needs of vulnerable people
- Work with the Audit commission who are looking at the development of a budget reduction risk tool model
- Work with St Andrews to look at improvements to outcomes data
- Work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and London Councils to look at commissioning and procurement issues
- Sitra running a series of round table events to bring together commissioners, providers and decision makers to see what further support might be needed

- Links to wider government agendas
 - PSA 16 - Success of governments approach on social exclusion clearly linked to success of Supporting People locally
 - Housing support key to ensuring that individuals are able to maintain accommodation
 - Social care Green paper recognises key role of SP in supporting the care system through prevention
- More flexible joined up services – personalised wrap around services and increased choice
- Focus on outcomes for service users
- Backdrop of economic recession
 - increasingly constrained financial environment
 - Will need to work harder to demonstrate VFM and make the case for housing support services
 - Evidence base is already there

Opportunities going forward

- Build on the good work that SP has already delivered to ensure that housing support becomes part of mainstream delivery
- Make the case locally for investment in housing support
- Services directed at local priorities
- Added value through joint commissioning
- Opportunities for innovation and partnership working
- Sustaining and developing SP networks
- Capturing and sharing good practice to demonstrate the benefits especially to those not aware of the achievements of the programme