

Local Strategic Engagement Project

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Sitra's Mission Statement

Sitra champions excellence in housing, support and care

Sitra is a membership organisation providing leadership, influencing policy through expertise, promoting best practice and providing consultancy, training, information and advice to:

- Promote positive outcomes for clients, providers and funders
- Drive the policy agenda
- Encourage a healthy, diverse and sustainable sector
- Support quality and professionalisation

Intended Outcomes

- Commissioned by CLG for 2009-10
- Effective engagement of providers and users in local decision making structures
- Evidencing the value of housing related support
- Supporting intelligent governance and commissioning of housing related support

Engagement

- Providers and Users need to understand:
 - How can they engage
 - How local structures operate
 - Where and at what level to influence
- Survey of providers including questionnaire
- Attending all Regional and some local provider fora
- Identifying good practice and interviewing providers

Demonstrating value of housing related support

- Contributions to national indicators and local priorities
- Cost benefit – “Invest to save” agenda
 - Cap Gemini local tool (CLG)
 - Social return on investment (OTS)
 - Care Services Efficiency Delivery case studies (DoH)
 - Budget Reduction Risk Tool (Audit Commission)
- Contribution to National Agendas

Demonstrating value of housing related support

- Fact sheets evidencing value of HRS with specific appendices for each major client group
- Supporting contribution to national agenda initiatives: for example PSA16
- Encouraging use of Cap Gemini locally
- Joint seminar with Local Government information unit
- Articles introducing and explaining project and demonstrating value of housing related support
- Briefing for commissioners

Governance and Commissioning Structures for Housing Related Support

- Impact of the removal of the ring fence and implications of SP funding being paid into the area based grant
- Changes in governance structure; where HRS sits in Local Strategic Partnerships, retention of dedicated Supporting People teams; retention of SP governance structures; link from Supporting People to Thematic Boards.
- Commissioning of HRS, future role of Commissioning Body, Core Strategy groups, involvement of providers and service users; length of contracts; tendering versus negotiation.

Governance and Commissioning Structures for Housing Related Support

- Joint work with CLG interviewing LAs on changes in the governance and commissioning of housing related support
- Identifying issues and potential solutions
- Identifying current and proposed models of commissioning and governance structures
- Attendance at Regional SP Fora
- Attendance at LA metropolitan, unitary and two tier level governance and commissioning bodies
- Promoting use of compact compliance commissioning
- Encouraging inclusion of housing related support needs in the JSNA

Challenges

- Local authorities have different arrangements
 - Being on LSP/thematic boards does not equal influence
 - Funding and commissioning practices
- Resources
 - Public sector efficiency saving/cuts
 - Keeping on top of changes
 - Scoping the Contribution across a number of agendas
- Evidencing the value of HRS
- If the *Supporting People* term becomes obsolete then housing related support is more vulnerable

Select Committee Inquiry Report and Govt. Response

- No to Statutory Basis
- No to ring fence or protected budget
- “Invest to save” is a success £3.41bn
- Transition Board established
- Research – Generic versus Specialist
- Concerns re Distribution Formula

Select Committee Inquiry Report and Govt. Response

- QAF and Outcomes framework excellent and valuable evidence but not mandatory
- Value of SP teams but not a requirement
- Continuity to/role of 3rd sector recognised
- Maintain governance/delivery structures?
- LAs to look at procurement and tendering
- Contribution to a number of NIs
- CLG promote HRS and preventative role

Resources

- Web site
- Sitra and external resources
- Reports
- Briefings
- Fact sheets on value of HRS
- SROI impact tool for HRS
- Map of engagement on LSPs
- Guide on engagement and influence, governance and commissioning of HRS
- Good practice examples

What Happens now?

- Project runs until March 2010
- Ensuring contact with providers and LA officers in each region
- Collating the provider survey and feeding results back to localities and regions
- Producing a Navigation Guide to support providers and SP officers in local engagement and inform those who are responsible for making strategic decision about HRS
- Action plan for providers

Guidance and further information

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