

**REPORT TO:** Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 25 November 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community

**SUBJECT:** Final report from the Topic Team on the scrutiny review of supported housing

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the final report and recommendations from the Topic Team following the scrutiny review of supported housing.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

**(1) the Urban Renewal PPB considers the scrutiny report and comments on the content and recommendations, as summarised in section 4 of this covering report.**

**(2) the scrutiny report, subject to any amendments arising from the above, is presented to the Executive Board for decision as soon as is reasonably practicable.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In March 2005 the Health PPB agreed to include supported housing as a scrutiny review topic during 2005/06. The original brief for the scrutiny topic was:

- To review current provision for supported housing in the Borough.
- To review the priorities for supported housing identified within the Housing and Supporting People strategies and to establish that they have been based on the best available information and relative need.
- To review the constraints affecting the development of supported housing services including capital and revenue resources and the availability of land.
- To consider the deliverability of current priorities in the light of the review of constraints.

3.2 The review commenced October 2005 but was suspended in March 2006 pending an announcement by the Department of Communities and Local Government on the long-term funding arrangements for Supporting People (SP), which is the main source of revenue

funding for supported housing schemes in the borough.

3.3 As a result of the changes to the portfolios of Policy and Performance Boards in 2006, responsibility for Strategic Housing and therefore the Supporting People programme, was transferred from Health to Urban Renewal. Subsequently, approval was given by the Urban Renewal PPB to accept supported housing as a topic for scrutiny within its remit.

3.4 The Scrutiny Topic Team was reconvened in April 2008 to consider priorities for Supported Housing in Halton following the announcement of confirmed Supporting People funding allocations up to March 2011.

3.5 A final series of meetings and visits was held with the Topic Team in September/October 2009 to approve the content of the final report and recommendations which is attached in the Appendices.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 For each of the three areas outlined in section 3.5 above recommendations have been made within the report as summarised below:

##### **4.1.1 Commissioning and procurement**

Recommendations:

- 1) That the Supporting People commissioning plan aims to redistribute funding to facilitate greater spending on the socially excluded groups where there is unmet need, as evidenced by the North West Needs Assessment model, local strategies plus the CLG distribution formula.
- 2) That services are procured as summarised in the table below and as outlined in the commissioning and procurement action plan.

<b>Service type</b>	<b>Tender</b>	<b>New contracts</b>
Learning disability & mental health	Jan 2010	July 2010
Socially excluded including homeless & generic floating support	Sep 2010	April 2011
Older people services	Sept 2011	April 2012

#### 4.1.2 Performance and Governance

##### Recommendations:

- 1) That scrutiny of the SP programme as a whole is transferred from the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board to the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board with the potential for exception reporting to the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board as necessary.
- 2) That governance of the SP programme as a whole is transferred from the Urban Renewal Strategic Partnership to the Healthy Halton Strategic Partnership with the potential for exception reporting to the Safer Halton Strategic Partnership as necessary.
- 3) That overall strategic direction of the SP programme continues to be provided by the Supporting People Commissioning Body
- 4) That, to ensure continued representation from all relevant parties, membership and terms of reference of the Supporting People Commissioning Body be reviewed to ensure effective engagement with appropriate Local Implementation Teams, LSP sub-groups plus providers and service users.
- 5) That, in light of the review of the Supporting People Commissioning Body membership and terms of reference, consideration be given, as part of an overall governance review, to end the Supporting People Core Strategy Development Group.
- 6) That the SP 5 year strategy be reviewed and updated in 2010 to ensure that the programme aligns with the aims and targets contained within Halton's Community Strategy and LAA.
- 7) That consideration is given to include NI 141 within Halton's next LAA in order to capture the success of SP in delivering positive outcomes to people within the socially excluded groups.

#### 4.1.3 Communication and Engagement

##### Recommendations:

- 1) That the actions carried out to date around communication and engagement are noted and that the revised action plan be used to ensure that excellence is achieved in this area.
- 2) That an accessible communications strategy document is produced for circulation amongst stakeholders and service users.

## **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

Effective management of the Supporting People programme contributes to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan by providing services that help to achieve targets in each of the areas of focus listed below. In addition the SP programme helps to achieve targets set out in the Local Area Agreement against the National Indicators listed.

### **6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

- Area of Focus 14 – To improve outcomes for looked after children by increasing educational attainment, health, stability and support during transition to adulthood
- Area of Focus 18 – to reduce the conception rate among women under 18 by providing awareness, education and relevant support
- NI 112 – Under 18 conception rate
- NI 117 – 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment

### **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

- Area of Focus 4 – Helping people to manage the effects of ill-health, disability and disadvantage
- Area of Focus 6 – Providing services and facilities to maintain the independence and well-being of vulnerable people within our community
- Area of Focus 7 – Providing services and facilities to maintain existing good health and well-being
- NI 124 – people with a long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition
- NI 139 – people over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently
- NI 142 – number of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living
- NI 150 – Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment

#### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

- Area of Focus 30 – Improving the social and physical well-being of those groups most at risk within the community
- NI 39 – Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates
- NI 40 – Drug users in effective treatment

#### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

NI 7 – Environment for a thriving third sector - most SP funded support services are provided by voluntary sector organisations.

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The scrutiny topic report covers the major areas of Halton's Supporting People programme. Failure to adopt the recommendations could have an adverse effect on the future management of the programme and the achievement of corporate targets.

#### 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 All Supporting People funded services provide support to the most vulnerable people in our community. All recommendations within the scrutiny report have been made with full consideration of the impact on end users of the services.

#### 9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None.