ENVIRONEMENT CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

11 JANUARY 2011
10 JANUARY 2011

SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICE
Director of Environment, Culture and Communities

1   INTRODUCTION

1.1.   The Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel received a report from its Supporting People Working Group at its June 2010 meeting. This report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on progress since that meeting. The Working Group expressed a wish that this update be shared with the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel in the interests of joined up working.

2   SUGGESTED ACTION

2.1   The panel is asked to note the content of the report

3   SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1.   The report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Working Group in June 2010 supported the work of the Supporting People team. The Working Group made two recommendations:-

a.   that a small working group continues to monitor the service and report its findings back to the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on an annual basis.

b,   member induction and briefings include information relating to the Supporting People programme to enhance Member's knowledge and involvement.

3.2.   Members were provided with a briefing session on Supporting People on the 26th July 2010.

3.3.   Since reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Panel there have been two significant issues confronted by the Supporting people programme. Firstly, the administration grant for the Supporting People programme was withdrawn mid year. Secondly, the tender and negotiation process for Supporting People services was concluded.

3.4.   The withdrawal of the administration grant led to a restructuring of the Supporting People administration service. The service was reduced from two posts to one. The administration of the programme is now restricted to a service review of providers only taking place once in the two year period. In addition the new Supporting People IT system has generated efficiency as Supporting People providers now input performance information direct to the system. An area which will suffer in the future is service user engagement as that was always time intensive. Generally more work has been placed onto service providers.

3.5.   The costs of the administration in 2010/11 was met by deleting an existing vacant post and in the next financial year the cost of the remaining post has been funded from within the Supporting People programme.

3.6.   The negotiations and retendering of Supporting People services has been completed. Due to the uncertainty of future funding contracts have been let on a one year basis with an option to extend for a further year. In addition, two month break clauses have been included so that services can be terminated if funding is withdrawn. The contracts are now fixed price.

3.7.   The contracts running up until 2010 were three years contracts with 2.5% annual inflation built in. By working closely with providers the Council has been able to secure all the Supporting People services provided previously by generating efficiencies. It has not been necessary to decommission any services. Carry forwards from previous years plus funding from partner organisations has secured the programme. However, the programme post 2012/13 is vulnerable due to the carry forwards ceasing to exist and no guarantee of funding levels.

3.8.   The working party report to Overview and Scrutiny Panel in June 2010 noted the value of the Supporting People programme to be £1.799 million in 2010/11. However, the cost of Supporting People services in 2010/11 is predicted to be £2.027million. The cost of Supporting People services in 2011/12 is predicted to be £ 1.739 million a 14% reduction in cost of service but not a 14% reduction in service. The following table sets out the cost of services as it is now proposed in 2011/12 in terms of percentage cost of each service area compared to 2010/11.

Cost of Programme element	2010/11 apportionment as %	2011/12 apportionment as %	Difference
Learning disability	13	12.5	-0.5
Domestic violence	7	7	0
Physical disabilities	3	3	0
Mental health	9	9	0
Homelessness	46	45	-1
Older people	19	19	0
Home improvement agency	3	4	1
Total in value in £'000's	2027	1739	288

At the time of writing the homelessness floating support service tender was being evaluated and this may offer more efficiency.

3.9.   The Supporting People Strategy is still to be considered. Although the last meeting of the Supporting People Commissioning Body considered a draft of the strategy it has decided not to progress the strategy until there is clarity over funding for Supporting People. The Local Government settlement will include an indicative element for Supporting People but as the grant is no longer ring fenced funding will need to be considered in the light of the Councils other funding requirements.