



Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG) Meeting
Tuesday 16th March 2010

MINUTES

Attendance

Mike Ingram – Operational Manager Public Sector Housing, VOGC (Chair)
Pam Toms – Strategy and Supporting People Manager, VOGC
Delyth Thomas – Hafod Care, representing Vale Housing and Homelessness Forum

Apologies

Peter Shellens, South Wales Probation

Role & Terms of Reference of the Supporting People Planning Group

- These were discussed and agreed (**copy attached**).
- PT outlined the process to be followed by the SPPG for the identification of the future service priorities and the development of the Supporting People Operational Plan
- MI re-iterated the importance for all partners on the Planning Group to engage in the process of identifying the priorities. He advised that for the second year running, the Welsh Assembly (WAG) had given the Vale of Glamorgan additional Supporting People funding with which to commission new services.
- In addition, the Welsh Assembly (WAG) has engaged external consultants to undertake a full review of Supporting People across Wales which will inform the future re-distribution of existing funding. Therefore, in order to ensure that the Vale secures more money in the future it is critical that a robust planning framework is in place and that all partners engage in the process, especially as there are currently major gaps between support needs and available services in the Authority. It was therefore agreed that representation would be made to the Local Service Board to ask that the appropriate Officers from each Organisation attend future meetings. **Action PT**

Co-optees for Future Meetings

- Attached list agreed and PT was asked to write to all to request attendance at the relevant meetings; however concern was raised that some of the individuals on the list may no longer be in post, particularly in the Health Service because of the re-structure which is still ongoing.

- It was therefore agreed that the representatives on the Core Group for last year from Health and Social Services and the new Probation Member would be sent the list to check and be asked to provide details of any other relevant co-optees and invitations be extended accordingly

Dates of Future Meetings

- Dates for meetings 2 to 5 were agreed but unfortunately accommodation was not available for all dates and times in the Civic Offices , therefore the dates of meetings 2, 3, 4 and 5 are now confirmed as:
Meeting 2 Wednesday 21st April @ 2.30p.m. in Committee Room 2, Civic Offices
Meeting 3 Wednesday 28th April @ 10a.m. in Committee Room 2, Civic Offices
Meeting 4 Wednesday 19th May @ 10a.m. in Committee Room 1, Civic Offices
- Meeting 5 Wednesday 23rd June @ 2.30p.m in Mike Ingram's room, 3rd Floor, Civic Offices (Copy of client groups for each meeting on attachment)

Additional SP Funding

- PT advised the Group that the Vale of Glamorgan has been offered an additional £107,307.19 grant funding this year
- It was agreed that this would be accepted and the Group discussed the priorities from the current Supporting People Operational Plan **(attached pages 46 – 55)**
- The funding is revenue only, therefore the services requiring capital had to be discounted, which limits the funding to the new floating support services needed (priorities 3, 4, 6,7,11 and 13)
- In order to derive the maximum benefit from the funding, it was therefore agreed that a generic floating support service would be commissioned to cover the client groups in all six of the priorities above and across all tenures as there was currently a major gap in services available for vulnerable clients living as owner occupiers and those in the private rented sector. This would also mean that the most vulnerable clients could be supported at any one time, including those requiring crisis intervention, irrespective of their lead support need because it would be a generic service. The funding will enable the Authority to commission 19 new units of support.
- As this service has to be formally offered for tender, it will however take some months to set up – MI asked if WAG would agree to release the money to pay for additional units in existing projects until the service is up and running so that part of the 2010/11 allocated funding is not lost.
Action – PT to check with WAG but is not hopeful

Any other Business

- PT advised that WAG has given an inflationary uplift of 0.5% on the Supporting People budget for 2010/11 which is being passed onto support providers
- PT updated the Group on the work being undertaken by the Supporting People Team in respect of Vale of Glamorgan Council's Tenant Support Scheme, as the contracts expire on 31st March 2011. Because

the Council has to comply with strict Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, this service will have to be formally retendered, which is a very costly and onerous process. However, as the new monies will also require a formal tender process, the Team will be setting up a Commissioning Framework instead. This will allow for one tender process, which will result in the Council setting up a preferred support provider list for all new services. This will mean that to commission any new services after this preferred Provider list is in place will be much simpler and will not involve any further advertising costs and long delays to complete the legal process.