



Herefordshire Supporting People Annual Update 2006-2007

on behalf of



(Executive Summary)

Supporting People makes an important contribution to achieving the key strategic aims of the Herefordshire Partnerships Community Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan.

Considerable progress has been made in integrating the Supporting People programme into the shared priorities and objectives of our commissioning and strategic partners. New schemes have been jointly commissioned and funded. This approach will be developed during the strategy period.

However, the continuing uncertainty in respect of long-term grant levels associated with the proposal to allocate Supporting People grant by a distribution formula and the challenging funding climate arising from three years of grant reductions is a difficult context within which to develop a detailed strategic approach.

Herefordshire collaborated with the members of the West Mercia Cross Authority Group to devise a response to the "Creating Sustainable Communities" consultation strategy. A detailed submission was also made to challenge the distribution formula and highlight the extreme impact on rural authorities.

Despite the uncertainty, the Supporting People Partnership were pleased that the prudent approach to managing the programme and negotiated efficiency savings made it possible to allocate funding to a number of the development priorities identified in the Five Year Supporting People Strategy and to pass on an inflationary "uplift" and payment to providers.

However, continuing uncertainties with regard to the longer-term ability to roll forward efficiency savings have required the Partnership to be cautious about committing resources to create services which have no long-term stability.

The programme of first reviews was completed within Central Governments mandatory timetable. Provider's commitment to addressing issues identified in the Improvement Plans is delivering quantifiable improvements in service quality. The Supporting People Partnership is committed to maintaining the agenda of continuous improvement within the available resources.

In view of the envisaged further contraction in funding, approaches to effective joint strategic commissioning and procurement will be developed. This will include a strategic assessment and the introduction of a revised contract model. Where appropriate and viable, services will be subject to market testing and opportunities for cross authority commissioning will be evaluated.

This plan will be kept under continual review and will be updated to reflect emerging policy and the outcomes of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn of 2006.

Richard Gabb
Chair of Commissioning Body

Supply and Strategic Relevance

Current Supply Profile

As of the 31st March 2006 there were 2,599 people in receipt of Supporting People funded services in Herefordshire.

Supporting People Grant distribution by service type

The services being delivered comprise of:

- 63 Accommodation Based Services
- 17 Floating Support Services

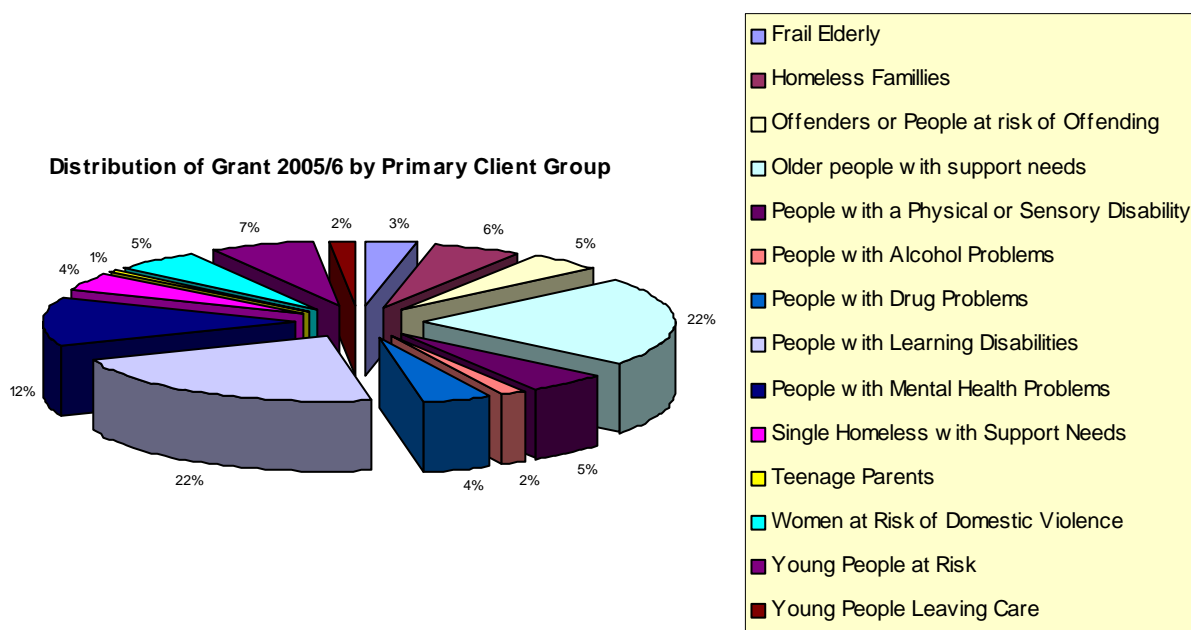
The current allocation of resources shows a higher number of clients who are receiving housing-related support in accommodation - based services as opposed to those in receipt of floating support. However, in respect of funding, the percentage of grant allocated is more evenly balanced.

Table One

Analysis of Service Type, Supporting People Contract Values and Service User Numbers, 2005/6

<i>Service Type</i>	<i>No. of Clients</i>	<i>% of clients per Client Group</i>	<i>Annually (£)</i>	<i>% of Grant per Provision</i>
Floating Support Services	757	29.13%	2,766,654	48.97%
Accomodation Based Services	1,842	70.87%	2,882,635	51.03%
Total	2,599	100%	5,649,289	100%

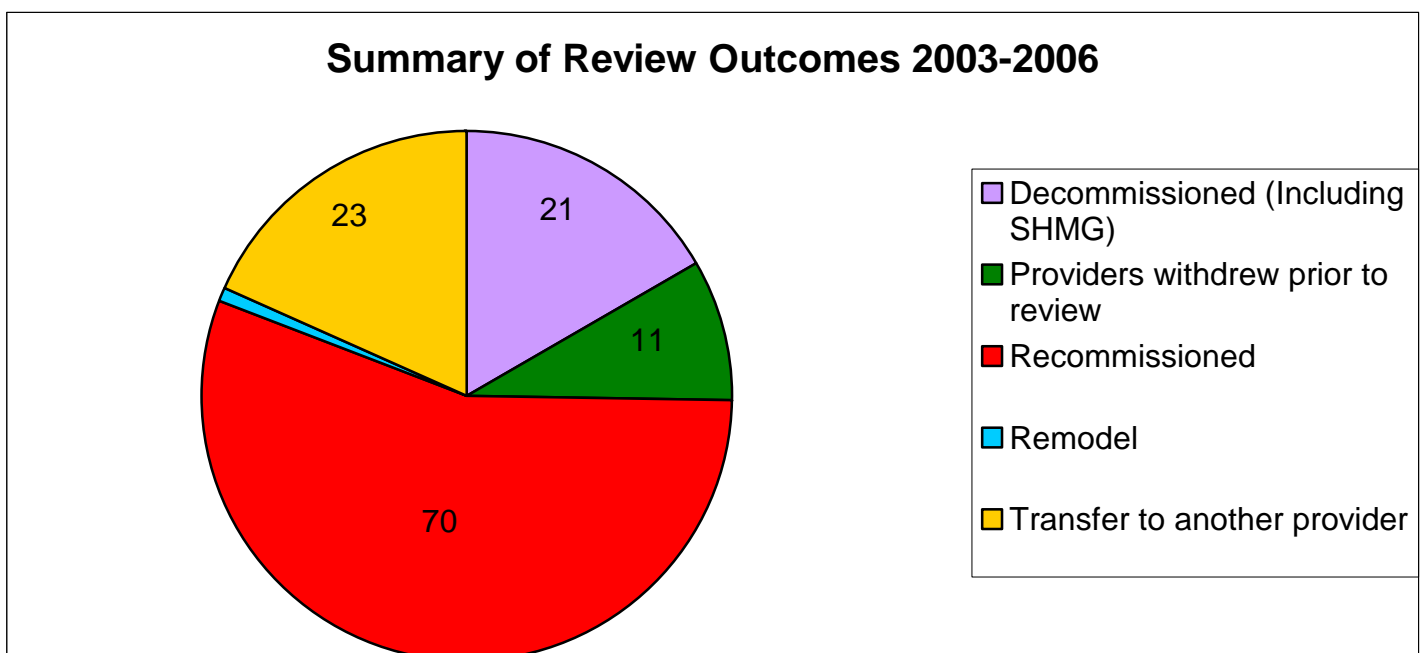
The analysis undertaken as part of the development of this annual update indicates that the process of redistribution across the client groups should continue in line with the revised strategic priorities reflected in this plan. The current provision to the primary client groups is shown in the chart below.



Service Reviews

During the last three years all Supporting People services in Herefordshire have been subject to review. The outcomes of these reviews are summarised as follows:

- 23 services were transferred to alternative providers
- 70 services were re-commissioned
- 1 service was remodelled
- 21 services were decommissioned - this includes the cessation of Supported Housing Management Grant payments in respect of 10 registered services
- 11 services were withdrawn from the programme by the providers prior to the commencement of the review



Operational Priorities for 2006/2007

The operational priorities of the Supporting People Programme are currently under review, following the publication of the consultation document "Creating Sustainable Communities: Supporting Independence" (ODPM, November 2005). The findings of the consultation are due to be published in the summer.

The local priority remains focussed on ensuring that the Supporting People Programme continues to operate within the budgets set by the Department of Communities and Local Government. Commissioning of new services will be undertaken in accordance with the Grant Conditions and eligibility criteria. In view of the envisaged sharp contraction in central government grant funding, further efficiency savings will be sought through commissioning and procurement activity that will be conducted in compliance with the Council's policies and procedures.

This plan will be kept under continual review and will be updated to reflect emerging policy and the outcomes of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending review in the autumn.

Annual Plan 2006 –2007

The Annual Plan for 2006/7 is derived from the Herefordshire Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010. The envisaged spend for 2006/07 will be £6,576,502 comprising £5,655,702 for current contract commitments and an estimated £920,800 for proposed developments, subject to available funding.

An update on the development priorities for 2005/06 and the development priorities for 2006/2007 are shown below.

Development Priorities 2006/2007

Scheme	Strategic Aim	Progress to Date	Further Actions
Transitional Supported Housing for Care Leavers	To enable the council to meet its commitment to provide after-care and support to vulnerable young people leaving the looked-after system	Four properties purchased. Two properties in development	Identify further properties or sites
Supported Accommodation for people with learning disabilities moving on from older carers	To enable the Council and its partners to meet their commitments in respect of the Valuing People Strategy	Proposed site currently being evaluated	Identify further properties or sites
General Needs dispersed 'Core and Cluster' housing for people with learning disabilities, with 'Keyring' floating support	To enable the Council and its partners to meet their commitments in respect of the Valuing People Strategy	Needs analysis is completed	Identify sites and or properties
Shared ownership housing for people with learning disabilities via Advance Housing's SOLD scheme	To enable the Council and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to meet their commitments in respect of the Valuing People Strategy		Advance & Enabling to undertake promotional activity to increase take up of the scheme
A housing-related support service to complement the Local Authority's priority to promote the independence of Older People	To enable the Council and the PCT to meet the Government's target to enable older people to remain independent in their own home for longer	Awareness raising of the SP programme has increased take up of housing related support services	To continue promotion of the SP programme. To keep configuration of provision under review
Shared Ownership Housing for people with mental health problems via Advance Housing's Own Home Scheme	To enable the Council and the PCT to provide housing options for people with mental health problems	Two Allocations in 2005/2006	Advance & Enabling to undertake promotional activity to increase take up of the scheme
A housing related support service to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers	To complement the activities of the Council's Traveller Liaison Service	Needs analysis completed	Devise Service Specification and Commission Service
Transitional supported accommodation for women and children fleeing from domestic violence	To enable the Council and its partners to meet the needs of women and children fleeing from domestic violence	Sites and properties evaluated with partners – none suitable to date	Identify property or site for the re-provision of the refuge

Development Priorities 2006/2007 continued

Scheme	Strategic Aim	Progress to Date	Further Actions
Housing related support service for people in the early stages of dementia type illness	To enable the Council and the PCT to enable older people to remain independent in their own home for longer	Needs analysis in progress. Awaiting outcome of bid for Partnership for Older People grant	PCT to undertake needs analysis. Service specification to be devised in partnership
Floating Support Service for people who misuse drugs	To enable the Council and its partners to address their strategic priorities	Needs analysis in progress	Devise Service Specification and Commission Service

Development Priorities 2007/2008

Scheme	Strategic Aim	Actions
Housing-related support scheme to meet identified needs of older people in the Extra Care Community currently being developed in Hereford	To enable the Council and the PCT to meet the Government's target to enable older people to remain independent in their own homes for longer	Service specification to be devised

In accordance with the Five Year Strategy, which identifies the requirement for detailed needs analysis in relation to a number of client groups, these developments will be informed by further need analysis. The housing related support needs of people with learning disabilities will be addressed in the revised Learning Disabilities Housing Plan. An assessment of the housing needs of people with physical disabilities is currently underway. The Mental Health Service have expressed an intention to undertake an analysis of housing and housing related support needs of their client group during the current financial year. An analysis of the supported housing and housing related support needs of offenders with complex needs will be undertaken in partnership with the West Mercia Probation service.

Fixed Term Funding /Pilot Schemes

The programme of reviews and the needs analysis work identified in the Five Year Strategy has provided evidence of an unmet need for housing related support services. This is in addition to the development priorities set out in the Five Year Strategy. The following proposals would contribute to the key strategic aims of the local authority and its partners

- An extension to the current floating support services to address the unmet housing related support needs of care leavers
- An extension of the current floating support service to address the unmet housing related support needs of teenage parents

- An extension of the floating support service to address the unmet housing related support needs of women escaping domestic violence
- A Handypersons Service, in line with the flexibilities provided in the revised grant conditions
- An extension to the current floating support services to address the unmet housing related support needs of people who experience mental health problems in receipt of services from the Assertive Outreach Team
- The provision of housing related support for people at risk of social exclusion, including those with or at risk of receiving Anti Social Behaviour Orders.

The delivery of these schemes will be dependent on the availability of funding.