

Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Adult Services

***Tuesday, 16 October 2012 at 9.00 am
County Hall, New Road, Oxford***

Items for Decision

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 25 October 2012 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

These proceedings are open to the public



Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

October 2012

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Note: *Date of next meeting: 27 November 2012*

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Items for Decision

1. Declarations of Interest

2. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet Member's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

3. Petitions and Public Address

4. Supporting People Commissioning Body (Pages 1 - 4)

Forward Plan Ref: 2012/115

Contact: Natalia Lachkou, Commissioning Manager Tel: (01865) 323684/Ann Nursey , Lead Commissioner (Adult) Tel: (01865) 323669

Report by Deputy Director – Joint Commissioning (**CMDAS4**).

This report describes the changes to the commissioning arrangements for housing-related support (Supporting People) that have taken place in Oxfordshire and the implications of this for the Supporting People Commissioning Body.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services is RECOMMENDED to approve that the Supporting People Commissioning Body be dissolved on 31 October 2012.

Division(s): All

CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES 16 OCTOBER 2012

SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING BODY

Report by Director for Social & Community Services

Introduction

1. This report recommends that the Supporting People Commissioning Body be dissolved and that the oversight of commissioning of housing-related support be brought within the structure of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
2. The intention of the proposed changes is to reduce bureaucracy and to devolve decision making to the most appropriate partnership groups. They are not intended to change the plans for spending on services within the current Supporting People programme.

Background to proposed changes

3. The Commissioning Body was set up in 2003 to manage a ring fenced Government grant which helped provide support to vulnerable people so that they could live independent lives. This grant declined steadily from £20.9m in 2003/04 to £16.2m in 2010/11. As part of the financial settlement announced at the end of 2010, the Government incorporated this ring fenced grant into the County Council's revenue grant settlement. This means that the County Council could use this resource in the most appropriate way it deems necessary to meet the needs of the local population
4. This matter was considered as part of the County Council's service and resource planning process at the time. The Commissioning Body had already agreed to reduce spending to £13.8m by 2013/14. This was a 15% reduction from the level of activity in 2010/11. The Cabinet accepted this as a reasonable proposal at the time given that services supported by Supporting People are an important part of our strategy of preventing people needing more intensive and expensive forms of adult social care. However, the effective amount that the Government included in our overall revenue grant was £9.5m. Thus, the County Council is effectively subsidising the Supporting People programme. The County Council took the view that this makes sense because much of the spending helps pay for services for vulnerable people and reduces their need for more expensive forms of care. In other words if we were to pursue radical reductions to the services currently funded by the Supporting People programme beyond those savings already planned then it is likely that this would lead to new financial pressures on either children's or adults' services.

5. Running alongside these developments as part of its wider reorganisation the Council has been considering how it commissions and contracts for services relating to social care and education. The Council has centralised its commissioning service for adults and children with the aim of reducing duplication, creating better outcomes for families and improving communication with external providers. As a result of these changes it became necessary to consider whether we needed to continue with a Supporting People programme as a separate entity, or whether it would make more sense to transfer relevant budgets to either existing partnership arrangements or to new partnership arrangements which support the work of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
6. Proposals to bring the commissioning of housing-related support into the structure of the Council's Joint Commissioning Team and to align the governance arrangements under the newly formed structures of the Health and Wellbeing Board were discussed and agreed at Oxfordshire Chief Executives.
7. Most of the budgets support adult social care or children's services and are being transferred to the relevant place, in most cases the relevant Joint Management Group. The Joint Management Groups will be overseen by the Adult Health and Social Care Board which supports the work of the Health and Well Being Board. Spend which is much more pure housing support or more directly related to the work of health improvement will be the responsibility of the new Health Improvement Board, which supports the work of the Health and Well Being Board. The Health Improvement Board is chaired by the Districts and will have a focus on the wider issues that prevent ill-health and promote wellbeing.
8. These proposals do not require a Supporting People Commissioning Body as oversight of the commissioning of housing-related support will take place through the Health and Well Being Board structures. Officer support for the functions which become the responsibility of the Health Improvement Board would continue to be provided by the Joint Commissioning service.
9. These changes have been fully discussed and agreed with the Districts and City Council, NHS and Probation Service. Letters have been sent to the Chief Executives of the organisations represented on the Commissioning Body, for them to sign and return to formally agree the dissolving of the Commissioning Body on 31 October 2012.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

10. These changes align the commissioning and governance structures with those of the Health and Well Being Board in a way that reduces duplication and promotes partnership working.

Financial and Staff Implications

11. There are no financial implications as this will not change the plans for spending on services within the original Supporting People programme.

12. The integration of Supporting People staff into the Joint Commissioning Team has taken place successfully, following consultation and internal restructure. There are no staffing implications for the new governance arrangements as officer support for the functions which become the responsibility of the Health Improvement Board will continue to be provided by the Joint Commissioning service.

Legal Implications

13. Legal advice has been followed to ensure the process for dissolving the Commissioning Body is correctly implemented. There are no other legal implications of this change.

RECOMMENDATION

14. **The Cabinet Member for Adult Services is RECOMMENDED to approve that the Supporting People Commissioning Body be dissolved on 31 October 2012.**

JOHN JACKSON

Director for Social & Community Services

Contact Officer: Ann Nursey, Lead Commissioner (Adults).

September 2012

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