

## Potential Supporting People Funding Cuts

Community and Housing Committee, 11 November 2010, item 6

**Committee:** Community and Housing Committee

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 11 November 2010

**6**

**Title:** Potential Supporting People Funding Cuts

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Item for decision

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### Summary

1. This report updates Members on the potential implications of the cuts to Supporting People funding.

### Recommendations

2. That a further report is brought before the Community and Housing Committee in January once the implications of the cuts are known.

### Financial Implications

3. The recommendations currently have unbudgeted costs, this information will be provided to the Community and Housing Committee in January.

### Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Supporting People Commissioning Body Papers and Minutes  
Financial spreadsheets from Supporting People

### Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Consultation will be required in future years if services are to be cut.
Community Safety	None at present
Equalities	None at present
Health and Safety	None at present
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None at present

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Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	Across the District
Workforce/Workplace	Could have staffing implications

### Situation

6. The Essex Supporting People Programme Grant for 2010/11 is £28,550,109. This is 3.6% less than 2009/10 when the Programme Grant was £29,622,839.
7. It has been confirmed that the Supporting People Administration Grant of £670,000 will be removed from April 2010. This grant paid for most of the cost of the Supporting People team, with the balance being made up by Essex County Council.
8. The Commissioning Body met in September 2010 to discuss potential further cuts to the service from the upcoming comprehensive spending review. At the time of the meeting it was not known how big the reduction in funding would be or how the reduction would be implemented.
9. It was anticipated that, in the worst case scenario, any savings required in year one could be achieved without the need for service closures. The proposal was that the majority of these savings could be achieved through the implementation of a maximum hourly rate and hours per unit per week.
10. Since the Commissioning Body met in September, the coalition Government has announced in its comprehensive spending review that reductions to the Supporting People programme have been minimised and it is committing £6.5 billion to Supporting People over the next four years and is giving councils more flexibility to deploy it in line with local needs. The announcement of the Financial Settlement is expected in November/December. Although nationally the figure looks relatively stable it remains to be seen how this will be rolled out locally and councils still need to look at ways to maintain supported housing services in the face of potential local cuts.
11. Essex County Council Cabinet will meet in January and the budget should be finalised in February. In order to feed through information to providers to allow budgets and service charges to be set, it will be necessary for Supporting People to have an agreed approach by December 2010.
12. The final recommendations will be presented to the Essex Supporting People Commissioning Body in December 2010 of which Cllr Julie Redfern is a Member.
13. The services this will affect in Uttlesford are
  1. All sheltered housing (Council owned)
  2. Grove Court, Great Dunmow (Springboard Housing)
  3. Station Street, Saffron Walden (Granta Housing)

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4. Bromfield House, Saffron Walden (Springboard Housing)
  5. St Edmunds Field, Great Dunmow (Springboard Housing)
  6. Ferguson Close, Saffron Walden (Family Mosaic)
  7. Young Parents Scheme, Ongar due to complete in January 2011 (East Living)
14. It has been proposed by the budget working group that the maximum Supporting People funded hourly rate for sheltered housing (excluding management time, community alarm costs and night cover costs) is set at £19 an hour for 2011/12. Further reductions in the maximum hourly rate for 2012/13 will also be explored.
15. The average hourly rate in Uttlesford for sheltered housing is £21.88 although this ranges from scheme to scheme. Officers are currently looking at the hourly rate per scheme and discussing this with the Supporting People team.
16. Other providers in Uttlesford will be looking at the maximum hourly rate of the services they provide and discussing how this will affect service provision in their schemes.
17. The removal of the ring fence for Supporting People is already showing that funding for vulnerable households may be invested in other public services which are considered to be of higher priority.
18. It has been suggested by Supporting People that the Council might be asked to prioritise schemes in future years in order of importance of funding. This will involve difficult decisions for the Council.
19. A further report will be presented to Community and Housing Committee in January once the full implications of the cuts are known.

## Risk Analysis

20.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Service cuts in schemes across Uttlesford	3 – it is likely that schemes will suffer cuts to services	3 – this will have a high impact due to the client groups living in these schemes	Further work to be carried out once the implications of the cuts are known

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.