

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Housing Policy Development and Review Panel

Date 19 July 2018

Report of: Managing Director of Fareham Housing

Subject: **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL FUNDED
SOCIAL INCLUSION SERVICES IN FAREHAM**

SUMMARY

Social Inclusion services are the services currently funded by Hampshire County Council for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The County is currently consulting on proposed changes to these services which will deliver £1.8m savings. This report sets out the current provision of such services in Fareham and details of the proposed changes, which if implemented, will take effect from Autumn 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Panel notes the content of this report.

INTRODUCTION

1. In November 2017, Hampshire County Council (HCC) agreed a £2m reduction in the Adult's Health and Care budget for Social Inclusion services. These services provide support for homeless people living in supported housing schemes across the county together with community support to vulnerable individuals or families requiring help to access or maintain accommodation.
2. The decision by HCC to reduce funding for social inclusion services from 2019 was part of a set of broader savings options (known as Transformation to 2019 Programme) to reduce spending.
3. Although HCC has no direct statutory responsibilities to deliver homelessness support services, they accept that as these services are relied upon by some of the most vulnerable in society they will continue to invest, albeit at a much-reduced rate.
4. HCC have now launched a public consultation on the proposed changes to the existing homelessness support services which will deliver a financial saving of £1.8 million (the savings figure was reduced following an Equality Impact Assessment in May 2018). This report provides the Panel with details of the proposals and how they may affect the provision of support in Fareham.

ENGAGEMENT - SEPTEMBER 2017 TO DATE

5. In September 2017, HCC set up a Social Inclusion Strategic Review Advisory Group (task and finish). This group, comprising representatives from Adult Social Care, Mental Health and Substance Misuse, Public Health, Children's Services, Probation, Department for Work and Pensions as well as district/borough Housing teams, was tasked with providing input into the reconfiguration of the existing Social Inclusion services in preparation for public consultation.
6. To further support this work, the County also set up a cross-party group (a working group of their Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee), involving a number of County Councillors to provide overview and scrutiny throughout the review of Social Inclusion Services.

PROPOSALS ACROSS HAMPSHIRE

7. HCC are proposing no changes to the funding for supported housing schemes that "*meet the needs of the most vulnerable people who are sleeping rough or most at risk of sleeping rough*". These are the existing intensive supported housing and night shelter services across the county. However, funding for lower level and move-on supported housing will cease, except in some areas that do not have existing intensive support housing and/or night shelters.
8. It is important to note here that only the 'housing related support' such as managing tenancies and money, improving physical and mental health, managing and addressing drug and alcohol issues, finding employment, etc is paid for by HCC. The housing costs are paid for by rent, which for most service users is covered by Housing Benefit. The Government propose to make changes to the way housing costs for supported housing are paid but it is currently unclear what these changes will look like.

9. HCC are also proposing to reduce the existing community-based housing related support services and only fund a targeted service for people moving on from supported housing, those living in lower level or 'move-on' supported housing and single homeless people (including rough sleepers) who are unable to access other sources of support.
10. Furthermore, HCC will only contribute funding to Street Outreach services in areas where the district/borough councils choose to jointly fund this type of service.

CURRENT PROVISION IN FAREHAM

11. Two Saints, the not-for-profit organisation who run the hostel at 101 Gosport Road, are currently under contract to HCC to provide Social Inclusion services across Fareham and Gosport. The contract, which commenced in April 2016 and ends in March 2019, includes the following provision:

- **Street Outreach:** support for people sleeping rough.
- **Stage 1 accommodation:** 24/7 support at 101 Gosport Road, Fareham for single homeless people (18 units plus fluctuating number of emergency beds).
- **Stage 2 accommodation:** short-term supported accommodation at Acton Lodge, West Street, Fareham with a lower level of support for single homeless people (10 units)
- **Community Support:** short-term housing related support (as detailed in point 8 above) which is not attached to accommodation and available to any person who is homeless or at risk of homelessness regardless of their current housing status.

12. Analysis of the occupancy data supplied by Two Saints shows the number of individuals using the services at 101 Gosport Road and Action Lodge is generally split equally between those with a local connection to Fareham and those with a local connection to Gosport. Similar analysis of the Street Outreach data shows there is a higher number of individuals using this service in Gosport in recent months. The numbers accessing Community Support in Fareham is consistently significantly lower than in Gosport. Full details of can be seen at Appendix A to this report.

IMPACTS FOR FAREHAM

13. The proposals contained within the consultation document confirm HCC's commitment to funding housing related support at 101 Gosport Road but withdraw funding for this service at Acton Lodge.
14. The existing budget for Community Support will be reduced by approx. 80% and the remaining funds will be used for a new community-based housing support service specifically for those who are moving on from 101 Gosport Road, living at Acton Lodge and single homeless people who are unable to access other sources of support. Other groups previously supported will receive homelessness prevention services via our Housing Options Team under the extended requirements within the Homelessness Reduction Act. This work will also be supported by other existing partnerships and initiatives such as The Troubled Families Programme, Early Help Hub etc.

15. A Street Outreach service in Fareham will only continue if co-commissioned and jointly funded by FBC and the County.

CONSULTATION AND DECISION TIMELINE

16. A public consultation opened on 11 June 2018 and will run until 6 August 2018. HCC are seeking views from service users and other interested stakeholders predominately via their website but also through a series of drop in events to be held across the area.

17. A copy of the consultation document can be seen at Appendix B to this report.

CONCLUSION

18. Following analysis of the consultation responses, HCC's Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee will publish their recommendations in November 2018. A final decision will be taken by their Executive Member on 5 December 2018, followed by the procurement and contract work required for the new services to be implemented from August 2019.

19. Once we are clear as to the future provision of HCC funded homelessness support services in Fareham, a further report will be brought to this panel detailing the exact implications and options to consider for ensuring appropriate and affordable support remains available to the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Caroline Newman. (Ext 4645)

Snapshot data – Number of service users supported on 15 May 2017:

	Outreach		101 Gosport Road		Acton Lodge		Community Support	
Total number	25		18		10		158	
	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total
Fareham	14	56%	8	44%	3	30%	34	22%
Gosport	11	44%	10	56%	7	70%	124	78%

Snapshot data – Number of service users supported on 15 August 2017:

	Outreach		101 Gosport Road		Acton Lodge		Community Support	
Total number	15		19		10		154	
	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total
Fareham	8	53%	8	42%	1	10%	36	23%
Gosport	7	47%	11	58%	9	90%	118	77%

Snapshot data – Number of service users supported on 15 November 2017:

	Outreach		101 Gosport Road		Acton Lodge		Community Support	
Total number	29*		19		10		166	
	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total
Fareham	10	34%	9	47%	2	20%	37	22%
Gosport	18	62%	10	53%	8	80%	129	78%

**Includes one service user from outside of HCC area*

Snapshot data – Number of service users supported on 15 February 2018:

	Outreach		101 Gosport Road		Acton Lodge		Community Support	
Total number	51		19*		10		184	
	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total
Fareham	21	41%	5	26%	5	50%	44	24%
Gosport	30	59%	13	68%	5	50%	140	76%

**Includes one service user from Havant area*

Snapshot data – Number of service users supported on 15 May 2018:

	Outreach		101 Gosport Road		Acton Lodge		Community Support	
Total number	29		20		10		167	
	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total
Fareham	12	41%	8	40%	6	60%	51	24%
Gosport	17	59%	12	60%	4	40%	116	69%