

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### **Report to Health and Housing Policy Development Review Panel**

**Date**                    **11 September 2014**

**Report of:**            **Director of Community**

**Subject:**              **SUPPORTING PEOPLE - CHANGES TO BUDGET AND  
COMMISSIONED SERVICES**

#### **SUMMARY**

This report provides a summary of the proposed changes to the funding provided by Hampshire County Council via the Supporting People programme and the potential impacts on those residents living in Fareham who receive support.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the panel note the contents of the report.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Supporting People (SP) programme currently provides accommodation-based and community support services for approximately 17,000 people across the county. The programme meets the support needs of older people, people with disabilities and others who needed support but are not eligible for statutory services provided through the Adult Services department.
2. Following the national removal of the ring-fence on the SP budget in 2009, Hampshire County Council (HCC) has undertaken reviews of the services provided under the SP programme. Following these reviews, reductions in the SP budget for 2014/15 were agreed by HCC in February 2014 and that same report identified the potential for further reductions of £7.6 million in the 2015/16 budget. A report was taken to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health on 30 July 2014 setting out these proposals.
3. It has been agreed that across Hampshire, £3.3 million will be removed from the budget which supports older people, £1.6 million for that supporting people with disabilities and £2.7 million for socially excluded people.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR FAREHAM RESIDENTS**

4. As we have no SP funded programmes for people with disabilities in Fareham, this report focuses on the potential impact on those people who are 'socially excluded' and our older residents in our sheltered housing schemes.
  - (a) Socially excluded (including homeless people, people with mental health problems and ex-offenders) – due to the complex nature of many of the services currently receiving funding, HCC have committed to undertake a comprehensive review and recommendations will be made during 2015. This could lead to a reduction in funding for the core services provided by Two Saints in the borough - the homeless hostel at 101 Gosport Road, the floating support service and Acton Lodge.
  - (b) Older people – a loss of approximately £300,000 funding for our sheltered housing service will affect over 470 residents. The table at appendix A sets out the impact and possible mitigation:

## **CONCLUSION**

5. Whilst the cuts in the SP budget are unwelcome, steps have already been taken to recoup some of the costs through the Housing Benefit scheme and further work in this area is on-going. A review of the Sheltered Housing Team structure and sheltered housing provision is also being undertaken. In the event that there is still a shortfall, there could be a requirement for the Council to absorb the costs within the HRA, resulting in a reduction in our future HRA capital spend.
6. The proposed budget cuts for support to the socially excluded group from April 2015 is of great concern, therefore although no decisions have yet been made, dialogue with HCC is ongoing. Representatives from Two Saints have met with officers and work is underway to identify potential savings and other funding opportunities.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Reference Papers:**

HCC Report to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health 30/7/14  
"Supporting People: Changes to budget, Services Commissioned and Commissioning Responsibilities

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Martyn George. (Ext 4400 )

**APPENDIX A**

| Older Person SP funded service  | Value of contract | Total No. of residents in scheme | Total No. of residents receiving financial support | Impact  | Comments/ mitigation  |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Community Alarm Service   | £16,973           | 419                              | 312  | Due to the proposed cancellation of the contracts for community alarm systems from 1/10/14, the cost of an alarm service would need to be met by residents currently receiving Housing Benefit (HB). (NB funding will continue for those who meet 'social care eligibility' criteria) | Cost will be met through increased HB due to alignment of service charges with HB regulations. Implemented with effect from 1/4/14.   |
| Downing Court   | £56,438           | 40                               | 33   | Proposals to cancel existing contracts for support services from 1/4/15 and replace them with a new model consisting of two elements – a 'short-term intensive support service' and a 'community-based support service'.  | The removal of our sheltered housing warden service would be extremely unpopular. Work is underway to establish what level of support is required and how this could be funded. Any arrangement would be topped up with the new services commissioned by HCC. Approx. 50% of the costs associated with the provision of support are already being met through HB wef 1/4/14. A full review of the sheltered housing service charges is currently being undertaken in order to maximise HB entitlement & thereby relieve pressure on residents and/or the Housing Revenue Account. The Vanguard review of HB Service and Housing Service could free up officer time to provide housing-related support. Full and thorough consultation would be required before re-modelling the service to avoid the risk of a legal challenge. |
| On-site wardens (former category 2 schemes*)  | £117,312          | 170                              | 133  |   |   |
| Community (floating) support. Mobile Wardens Service. (former category 1 schemes**) | £102,002          | 419                              | 312  |   |   |

\* Assheton Court, Barnfield Court, Collingwood Court, Crofton Court, Melvin Jones House

\*\* Norman Close, Hillson Drive, Nashe Way, Birchen Close, Beverley Close, Baytree Lodge, Holly Hill Mansions, Coniston Walk, King George Road, Lincoln Close, Garden Court, Spencer Court, Barnfield Court (mobile), Chapelside, Foster Close, Foy Gardens, Frosthole Close, Northmore Close, Robinson Court, Trafalgar Court, Western Court