

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**ADULT SERVICES CABINET MEMBER**

**UPDATE ON PROVISION OF HOUSING SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE  
EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet Member of the outcome of the tender for a housing support service for victims of domestic violence.
- 1.2 To update Cabinet Member on the provision of services for victims of domestic violence.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Supporting People Programme in North Lincolnshire currently funds housing related support services to a variety of client groups. These services have been in existence for some time now and as part of a review of the programme a structured Procurement Plan was agreed by Corporate Services Cabinet Member on 21 March 2006 (minute 398 refers).
- 2.2 This plan highlighted services for people experiencing domestic violence as a priority area. Consequently a review of the service was undertaken by a group of professionals involved in the area of domestic violence and chaired by the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator. This was completed in June 2007. This report highlighted that:
  - o The original funding distribution does not meet projected needs. There is a lack of capacity for new customers and shortcomings in existing services. The current services did not meet the BVPI for the number of refuge places per head of population in North Lincolnshire.
  - o Adult Social Services should undertake a market testing exercise, as required by Financial Standing Orders, to ensure that expenditure is providing effective services, with realistic costs, whilst achieving the required outcomes for the service user.
  - o The current provision did not meet the needs of other groups of people who may experience domestic violence, in particular men, women with older dependent male children, people who are transgender and women who may not want to enter a refuge environment.

## **PROVISION AS AT APRIL 2007**

- o The provision of service funded by the Supporting People.
- o Programme as at April 2007 was one refuge facility that caters for women and children, a total of seven units of support.
- o This was supplemented by a housing support service that was available to women living in any property across North Lincolnshire, a total of 18 units.
- o Both these services were provided by one organisation under contract with Supporting People. Their contracts ended in June 2008. The contract for the refuge provision was extended with the existing organisation until September 2009. This was to ensure continued provision within the refuge environment.
- o The contract for the tenancy support service was re-tendered using a revised model following the outcome of the review, and was to include a dispersed housing model.

## **PROVISION AS AT JUNE 2008**

- o The new service was openly tendered in February 2008. Four organisations tendered for the new service, and following a rigorous evaluation process the new contract was offered to Carr-Gomm, an existing provider of supported housing services in North Lincolnshire.
- o This service is of a high quality and has resulted in the council obtaining improved value for money for the service. This service will provide support to up to 44 people, including to victims living in a variety of dispersed properties that are to be obtained through North Lincolnshire Homes. The total number of dispersed properties will be eight, which will be implemented over the coming year.
- o This has improved the service available to victims of domestic violence
- o And complements the other services available.
- o The refuge continues to accept women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

## **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 This report is for information only.

## **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 This report is for information only.

## **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

- 5.1 Financial implications - The cost of the services are met from the existing Supporting People Grant.
- 5.2 Staffing implications – Staff from the original provider have been transferred to the new provider organisation.
- 5.3 Property implications - there are no property related implications.
- 5.4 IT implications - there are no IT related implications.

## **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

- 6.1 Diversity implications – a Diversity Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to this report.
- 6.2 There are no other implications in relation to this report.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation has been undertaken with service users, carers, providers and professionals working in the community.
- 7.2 This has resulted in the housing support service being extended to meet the needs of a wider range of victims.
- 7.3 Trades Unions have been consulted and have raised no concerns relating to this report.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That Cabinet Member notes the outcomes of the review and the consultation that has been undertaken.
- 8.2 That Cabinet Member notes the improvements made to the housing support provision for victims of domestic violence.

SERVICE DIRECTOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

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Date: 12 June 2008

## **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

1. Review of Supporting People Services for victims of domestic violence.