

Report to: Cabinet

Report: 8th November 2012

Subject: Supporting People Review Update Report

Report of: Director of Older People

Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Supporting People Review and to enable Cabinet to determine the housing-related support services to be ceased, decommissioned or rationalised as a result of that review.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is recommended to

1. Note progress on the Supporting People Review;
2. Agree the changes to commissioned housing-related support services identified within Section 5 and Annex 1 of the report and authorise officers to proceed with implementation of those changes;
3. Note that a further report will be made to Cabinet to update Members on the progress of the as yet unresolved consultations with service providers, the Care and Support Reviews and Integrated Re-Commissioning of Supported/Assisted Living being undertaken as part of the Supporting people Review.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Children and Young People		√	
6	Creating Safe Communities		√	

7	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy			√

Reasons for the Recommendation:

On 21st June 2012 Sefton Council Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Older People which provided an update on the progress of the Supporting People Review and set out the proposed commissioning priorities for the Supporting People Service with regard to the achievement of budget savings required for 2012/13 and 2013/14. Cabinet resolved that:

- (1) approval be given to the adoption of the principles set out in 5.1 of the report;
- (2) Officers be authorised to work with providers, utilising the principles, to formulate reduction proposals to meet the required budget savings in 2012/13 and 2013/14; and
- (3) that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet on 19 July 2012.

A further report was submitted on 19 July 2012 setting out the general budget reduction proposals that were subject to detailed consultation with service providers and further details of the proposed approach to commissioned Care & Support services. Cabinet resolved that:

- (1) the progress on the Supporting People Review be noted;
- (2) the managed review and re-commissioning processes outlined in Section 5 of the report, including the integrated re-commissioning of all supported/assisted living services be approved; and
- (3) a further update report be submitted to the next Cabinet meeting.

This report meets the requirements of point (3) above.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

On 16th February 2012 Cabinet approved an in principle budget reduction of £2m in 2012/13 and a further £1m in 2013/14 from Supporting people commissioned services. Approximately half of the £3m savings required are expected to arise from services commissioned for Older People and Excluded Groups and half from Care and Support services. The proposals within this report will realise savings, towards the required budget reduction from Older People and Excluded Groups service providers, of approximately £489,998.00 in 2012/13, rising to £1,048,735.00 in 2013/14. Consultation and other work necessary to secure the further savings required to meet the budget reduction, has had to be extended with a small number of Older People and Excluded Groups service providers. A future report to Cabinet will update Members on those further savings along with savings arising Care and Support services as a result of the managed review and integrated re-commissioning of all supported/assisted living services approved by Cabinet on 19th July 2012.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no additional costs associated with this report

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal

The Supporting People grant support (which was formerly aid under Local Government Act 2000, s93) was withdrawn in April 2011 and the monies formerly allocated under this grant are now paid as part of the local authority 'Formula Grant'.

Human Resources

Whilst the majority of Supporting People services are commissioned from external service providers services and consequently reductions to the funding for those services have no Human Resource implications for Sefton Council, a small number of services are commissioned within the Council, reductions to funding for those services do have potential Human Resource implications. These are highlighted within the report and are subject to formal consultation with employees and trade unions.

Equality See Section 3

The Corporate Commissioning Team holds the responsibility for taking an overview on Equality Impact Assessments and assessing the impact of decisions. These will be published on the Council website.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. No Equality Implication | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

In relation to compliance with the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, Members need to make decisions in an open minded balanced way showing due regard to the impact of the recommendations being presented. Members need to have a full understanding of any risks in terms of people with protected characteristics and any mitigation that has been put in place. Equality Impact Assessments, including consultation, provide a clear process to demonstrate that Cabinet and Council have consciously shown due regard and complied with the duty.

Impact on Service Delivery:

E2.1 - There will be a reduction in the number of clients that will be able to be supported due to a reduction in units available, together with a change in the level of support available. This may have an impact on the community.

There is a related saving (E2.2), to review staffing support for the Supporting People commissioning functions, which will be progressed alongside E.2.1 and as part of a wider review of directorate commissioning resources. This will result in a reduction in the number of staff directly supporting the commissioning of the re-commissioned services.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

Regular and ongoing consultations have taken place with Strategic Directors, Director of Older People, Director of Commissioning, Head of Personnel, Head of Corporate Finance & ICT (**FD 1906/12**), Head of Legal Services (**LD 1224/12**) and Trade Unions.

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

A consultation plan was drafted by the Head of Service Commissioning and Partnerships and agreed by the consultation panel on 21st October 2011. It was agreed that the public consultation on the proposal would take place between 21st October 2011 and the 16th January 2012.

Since the Cabinet decision on the 16th February consultation has continued with service providers to identify if and how the in-principle budget reductions can be achieved. Since approval of the Commissioning Principles by Cabinet on 21st June, consultation has focused on more detailed discussions with providers to formulate reduction proposals to meet the required budget savings.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

None.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the call-in period for the minutes of this meeting

Contact Officer: Peter Moore
Tel: 0151 934 3730
Email: peter.moore@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

None

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Supporting People is a discretionary programme that funds housing-related support services to help vulnerable people live independently in their own accommodation or to move from temporary accommodation into a more permanent place. The report to Cabinet on 21st June 2012 detailed the specific client groups supported with the funding.
- 1.2 The programme funds a mixture of short-term (from a few weeks up to a maximum of two years) and long-term services, falling mainly into the following categories:
 - *Accommodation-based services* - where the support is linked to the person's temporary or permanent accommodation (e.g. sheltered accommodation, temporary hostels);
 - *Visiting/Floating support services* - where the support is not linked to the person's accommodation but is provided in the person's home; and
 - *Assistive Technology* - a "lifeline" community alarm system provided either as part of the accommodation or within someone's own home.
- 1.3 A more detailed description of the wide range of specific services commissioned through the Supporting People Programme was set out in the report to Cabinet on 21st June 2012.
- 1.4 On 21st June 2012, Cabinet gave approval to the adoption of the following Commissioning Principles, providing the basis for the targeting of the remaining funding and the development of reduction proposals.

That Commissioning would target the remaining funding at:

- Those at greatest risk of experiencing or causing harm
- Those most vulnerable to the loss of independence
- Services and interventions that prevent or minimise demand for higher level statutory services.

In this context the risk of harm and the vulnerability to loss of independence relates to the impact of the particular interventions funded rather than a general vulnerability, i.e. what impact does the presence/absence of the service have on risk of harm and vulnerability to loss of independence.

The focus of commissioning would be on:

- Prevention and early intervention/help
- Outreach, visiting support and shorter-term "move-on" accommodation
- Outreach, visiting support and early help services addressing multiple needs
- A more integrated approach to the commissioning of services across the Council and other partners to ensure the most effective use of the total available resources

In doing the above we will try to continue to deliver some service to all client groups

2. Consultation and Engagement Update

2.1 Since the Cabinet decision on the 21st June consultation has continued with service providers to formulate specific reduction proposals, utilising the Commissioning Principles agreed by Cabinet, to meet the required budget savings in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

2.2 On 2nd and 3rd July all providers were invited to attend Provider Consultation Meetings. These meetings were organised to address four broad groupings of providers:

- Older People Services;
- Excluded Groups - Accommodation-based Services;
- Excluded Groups - Floating Support Services; and
- Care & Support Services.

At those meetings providers were presented with: an overview of the Council's budget challenge; an update on the Cabinet decisions; confirmation of the agreed Commissioning Principles; and savings proposals for their particular service area.

2.3 At those meetings service providers were asked to: consider the information provided; consult with Service Users as necessary to inform their response; comment on how services might be re-modelled in line with savings required; and comment on impact and mitigation of changes. Service providers were requested to advise the Council of any feedback received from the consultation with Service Users and of any obstacles or particular problems that the timescales presented for their organisation, services or service users.

2.4 Since the last update report to Cabinet on 19th July 2012, officers have continued meeting with individual providers of Older People Services and Excluded Groups Services to discuss and understand the implications of implementing the proposals, to listen to alternatives and to formulate reduction proposals specific to each provider.

2.5 Details of the consultation undertaken with providers and service users, together with the feedback received is provided within Annex 2 to this report. Copies of consultation briefing papers and minutes/notes of meetings referred to in Annex 2 are available at:

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13193&path=0>.

3. Impact Assessment Overview

3.1 There is a potential that a reduction in Supporting People funding will lead to negative impacts for the vulnerable adults supported by the funded services, including those with protected characteristics of age, disability and gender and those in receipt of a care package for assessed care needs.

3.2 The Equality Impact Analysis Report, attached at Annex 3 to this report, addresses the potential impacts and identified mitigation against those impacts.

4. Risk Management Overview

- 4.1 Details of risks and mitigating actions are addressed within the Equality Impact Analysis Report attached at Annex 3.
- 4.2 There are risks that a significant reduction in access to preventative services funded through Supporting People could increase the pressure on higher-cost statutory services, including, adult and children's social care services and services provided to meet the Council's statutory homelessness duties.
- 4.3 Services commissioned with Supporting People funding are generally recognised as discretionary/non-statutory services, however, the review recognised that the services commissioned may to a greater or lesser extent support or enhance statutory services and the meeting of statutory duties, in particular statutory duties relating to homelessness, Children leaving care and adults with an assessed care need.
- 4.4 The need to prioritise "*Services and interventions that prevent or minimise demand for higher level statutory services*" is clearly recognised within the Commissioning Principles and the approach taken to the review and the formulation of specific reduction proposals sought to understand the proximity and support provided by individual services and to reduce the risks highlighted above through a more integrated approach to commissioning and the provision of early intervention and prevention services, to ensure the most effective use of the total available resources. Service users with the highest needs will continue to receive services if they meet the social care eligibility criteria for adults or children's services.

5. Budget Reduction Proposals

- 5.1 At the Provider Consultation Meetings referred to in 2.2 above, the following budget reduction proposals were shared with service providers:

Older People Services

- To reduce overall cost by conducting a full service redesign of both hours and hourly rates being delivered into Category 2 Sheltered Housing, and reshaping current service delivery. (This same approach applies to the single provider of Category 1 Sheltered Housing)
- Explore Value for Money of Community Alarm Services to reduce cost whilst increasing capacity.

Excluded Groups - Accommodation-based Services

- To reduce overall cost by varying hours, hourly rates and reshaping service delivery
- To retain the number of clients accessing a service at any one time
- Increase the throughput of clients by varying the length of stay in a support service

Excluded Groups - Visiting/Floating Support Services

- To reduce overall cost by varying hours and hourly rates and where necessary reshaping service delivery
- To retain the number of clients accessing a service at any one time
- Increase the throughput of clients by varying the length of stay in a support service

Care & Support Services.

- Managed Review of all Care & Support packages in line with assessed care needs and Fair Access to Care criteria.
- Integrated re-commissioning of supported/assisted living services across the People Directorate.

5.2 At these meetings providers were asked to consider the information provided; consult with Service Users as necessary to inform their response; comment on how services might be re-modelled in line with savings required; and to comment on the potential impact and mitigation of changes to services. The Provider Consultation Meetings were constructive meetings, with providers seemingly recognising the difficult situation that the Council faces and appearing to want to engage positively in seeking solutions.

5.3 As stated above, since the last update report to Cabinet on 19th July 2012, officers have continued meeting with individual providers of Older People Services and Excluded Groups Services to discuss and understand the implications of implementing the above proposals, to listen to any alternatives suggested by providers and to formulate the specific reduction proposals for each provider.

5.4 The following table provides an overview of the savings arising from the specific reduction proposals agreed with Providers to date:

Service	Current Value (£)	Future Value (£)	2013/14 Budget Saving (£)
Older People	613,162.60	227,833.32	385,329.28
Excluded Groups	1,686,577.51	1,023,171.08	663,406.44
Community Alarms	7,374.12	7,374.12	0
TOTAL	2,307,114.23	1,258,378.52	1,048,735.71

5.5 A more detailed presentation of these savings, identifying the service types and service providers affected, is attached at Annex 1.

5.6 The following Supporting People commissioned services (included within the above table and at Annex 1) that will be subject to funding reductions are commissioned from within the Council:

Service	Service Description	Implications
Assistive Technology and Community Support Workers	Community Alarms, Lifeline Alarm system, pendant & Smoke Alarm for older people with support needs. Community Support Workers.	There are Human Resource implications. The reduction proposal includes the reduction of Community Support Workers from 5 posts (one currently vacant), to one re-configured post.
Energy Advice Services	Visiting Advice Team for Energy Efficiency.	Currently there are no Human Resource implications as an alternative source of external funding has been secured.

- 5.7 There are a small number of services where it is considered necessary for consultation, negotiations and other work to continue beyond 8th November 2012 in order to safely achieve the savings required. The outcome of those discussions will be reported as soon as they are concluded. Included within these services are the following services commissioned from within the Council:

Service	Service Description	Implications
Homeless Families With Support Needs	Hostel for homeless families with support needs with onsite scheme manager. 10 units	Potential implications for the Council's statutory duties relating to homelessness and general revenue budget. Potential Human Resource implications.
Vulnerable Victim Team	Vulnerable Victim Team	Potential implications for the Council's statutory duties relating to homelessness. Potential Human Resource implications.

- 5.8 Any recommendations relating to the potential cessation, decommissioning or rationalisation of the Vulnerable Victim Team will be determined by the ongoing corporate Review of Domestic Violence related services. A Supporting People funding reduction of 25% has been proposed, with savings achieved through more integrated commissioning across the Council and the allocation of the remaining 75% funding being determined by the outcome of that corporate review.
- 5.9 Discussions are still ongoing with the Homelessness Team to ensure a sound understanding of the potential implications, risks and costs that might arise for the Council from any reduction in Supporting People funding, before a firm reduction proposal can be formulated.
- 5.10 Following Cabinet approval on 19th July for the managed review of Care and Support packages and the integrated re-commissioning of all supported/assisted living, these

projects have commenced and the Reviewing Team established. Progress of these projects will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

- 5.10 Subject to Cabinet approving the changes to commissioned housing-related support services identified within this report, officers will proceed with immediate implementation. It is proposed that Providers will be issued with a contract to provide the re-commissioned services until the end of March 2014, providing some stability for service providers and service users. These contracts will however include provision, in accordance with normal contracting practice, for the early termination of the contract in the event of performance failure or changes to commissioning priorities, including for example the need for further budgetary reductions.

Annex 1 – Detailed breakdown by Service type

Service Type	Current (2012/13) yearly service cost	Agreed/latest (2013/14) yearly service cost	Full year (2013/14) saving - (Current yearly service cost minus Agreed yearly service cost)
Accommodation based short term visiting support	£545,992.49	£365,635.04	£180,357.45
Accommodation based service scheme manager	£55,384.68	£40,544.92	£14,839.76
Accommodation based with Live in Landlord	£13,000.00	£0.00	£13,000.00
Advocacy service	£39,425.00	£0.00	£39,425.00
Community Alarms	£7,374.12	£7,374.12	£0.00
Sheltered Accommodation with onsite scheme manager	£497,943.16	£227,833.32	£270,109.84
Handyperson	£36,870.36	£0.00	£36,870.36
Hostel	£203,242.95	£169,628.55	£33,614.40
Long term accommodation based service	£152,067.24	£104,790.92	£47,276.32
Sheltered Housing	£38,924.08	£0.00	£38,924.08
short term visiting support	£435,398.31	£199,704.96	£235,693.35
short term visiting support/drop in	£186,638.52	£86,985.60	£99,652.92
visiting advice team	£63,110.97	£31,555.49	£31,555.49
Visiting support service	£31,742.35	£24,325.60	£7,416.75
Grand Total	£2,307,114.23	£1,258,378.52	£1,048,735.71

The above table provides details of the savings arising from specific reduction proposals agreed to date by specific service type with the providers listed below:

Adactus Housing
Addullam Homes
Beech Housing Association
Bosco Society
Carr Gomm
English Churches Housing Group
Forum Housing Association
Hanover Housing Association
Home Group
Light for Life
Mears Group PLC

Merseyside Society for Deaf People
Merseyside Youth Association
Mr and Mrs O'Connor
North West Property Custodians Ltd
Nugent Care Society - Deposit
Plus Dane Housing
Sahir House
Sefton Council Energy Team
The Abbeyfield Southport Society Ltd
Venus Resource Centre

Annex 2 – Consultation with Providers and Service Users

Background

1. The Supporting People Service supports 60 providers to deliver commissioned housing related support services. These services cover older people, homeless people, people with HIV/AIDS, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, offenders or people at risk of offending, substance mis-users, young people at risk, teenage parents and people at risk of domestic violence. The services include accommodation based, floating support and community alarm services. The services combined deliver support services to in excess of 5,000 clients at any one time. Services also include short term provision which has a large throughput of clients, e.g. offenders or people at risk of offending.
2. As part of the Budget and Transformation Programme, Sefton Council agreed the process for developing further budget savings at a meeting of its Cabinet on 13th October 2011. Councillors approved a report which outlined how a £25M package of options would be consulted on. One of the options was to review all services funded by Supporting People by looking at outcomes, contractual arrangements and diversity of services that this may fund. In financial terms, this would mean a reduction in the Supporting People budget of up to £3M, which equates to a 44% reduction in overall funding.
3. The Cabinet approved the proposal to commence consultation on the review of all services funded by Supporting People. This report describes the process of that consultation.

Engagement and Consultation – Stage 1

4. A consultation plan was drafted by the Head of Service Commissioning and Partnerships in accordance with Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation Framework and was approved by Sefton's Engagement and Consultation Panel on 21st October 2011
5. It was agreed that public consultation on this stage of the process would take place between 21st October 2011 and the 16th January 2012.

The Aims of the Engagement Process for Stage 1 were:

6. To review all services that are funded by Supporting People by looking at outcomes, contractual arrangements and diversity of services that this may fund. The Consultation sought the views of service users, service providers and the general public on the impact of a reduction in Supporting People funding, how they would prioritise services/client groups and how they thought services might be delivered differently.

The Process for Stage 1

7. We approached the task of engaging Service Providers, service users, carers and other stakeholders in a number of ways:
 - Questionnaire made available online and in hard copy format which included an easy read version.
 - 32 Forums and face-to-face consultation events with service users
 - Communication to all providers and partners and posters were produced and distributed to scheme managers
 - Attendance at awareness sessions/forums for Equal Voice, ABILITY, People First, The Health & Social Care Forum, The Parenting Board and The Learning Disabilities Partnership events.
 - The option was also included in the Corporate Budget Options Telephone Survey.

Key Findings of Stage 1

Main Concerns of Respondents

8. A significant number of respondents agreed that a reduction in funding for services supporting vulnerable adults would impact on the community. That there would be increased pressure on social care and an increase in homelessness. Respondents also claimed that a reduction in funding for services supporting vulnerable adults would have an impact on them or somebody they know.
9. When asked to prioritise the client groups receiving support, respondents identified the highest priority Client Groups as:
 - older people with support needs;
 - people with physical/sensory disabilities;
 - people with mental health problems;
 - homeless families with support needs;
 - and people at risk of domestic violence
10. Indeed over half of the client groups currently supported by Supporting People funding were identified as essential or high priority by more than 50% of all respondents.
11. Suggestions for ways in which services might be delivered differently included suggestions relating to:
 - greater efficiency;
 - improved effectiveness to gain better value for money;
 - different ways of working,
 - including increased use of volunteers;
 - and means-testing for services.

12. A full analysis of the consultation feedback was provided within the report to Cabinet on 16th February 2012 which is available on the Sefton website <http://sb1msgov1:9070/documents/b15908/Supplementary%20Agenda%2016th-Feb-2012%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=9>
13. This report highlighted that the option had associated risks and impacts for vulnerable people; it was likely however, that these could to some extent be mitigated by including more co-ordinated commissioning and delivery of early intervention and prevention services.
14. Members approved the in-principle budget option and that the Review of Services funded by Supporting People would include a further period of consultation to determine Commissioning Priorities for the remaining resources and the detail of how the budget reduction could best be achieved whilst minimising/mitigating the impacts.
15. The results of the consultation were published via the Sefton e-consult website. Providers were also informed via Provider Forum meetings attended by Council Officers and were asked to ensure that their service users were also made aware of the results of the consultation. An easy read version of the results of the consultation was requested by Providers and produced by the Supporting People team and distributed to all Providers. The Providers then used the easy read feedback as part of their process to inform their service users about the results of the consultation.
16. Illustrative Commissioning Priorities were developed as a result of the Stage 1 engagement and consultation process, these were shared with Elected Members by way of a Cabinet Report and with Service Providers through written briefings and the Supporting People Provider Forum. Following feedback, Commissioning Principles were submitted to Cabinet, on 21st June 2012, they were approved and Officers authorised to work with providers, utilising the principles, to formulate reduction proposals to meet the required budget savings in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Engagement and Consultation – Stage 2

The Aims of the Engagement Process for Stage 2 were:

17. To identify and agree the commissioning priorities for the remaining resources and the detail of how the budget reduction could best be delivered whilst minimising/mitigating the impacts.
18. To work with providers, utilising the Commissioning Principles, to formulate reduction proposals to meet the required budget savings in 2012/13 and 2013/14.
19. Since the Cabinet decision on 16th February 2012, on-going engagement has continued with service providers, and through them Service Users, to identify if and how the in-principle budget reductions could be achieved and once

approved in June 2012, to formulate specific reduction proposals, utilising the Commissioning Priorities as a planning tool.

The Process for Stage 2

20. This stage of the consultation consisted of:

- Discussions at the Supporting People Governance Group meetings held in March and May]. These meetings were attended by Council Officers, the Chairperson of the Supporting People Provider Forum and the Chairpersons of the three Provider Forum sub-groups. (Minutes are available at <http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13193&path=0>).
- Verbal reports, by the Head of Commissioning & Partnerships and Supporting People Team Manager to the Supporting People Provider Forum
- Written Briefing Reports to all providers, provided by the Head of Commissioning & Partnerships and timed to inform meetings of special “task and finish” groups established by the Provider Forum to address the budget challenge. (Briefing Notes are available at <http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13193&path=0>).

The Illustrative Commissioning Priorities submitted for approval:

21. That Commissioning would target the remaining funding at:

- Those at greatest risk of experiencing or causing harm
- Those most vulnerable to the loss of independence
- Services and interventions that prevent or minimise demand for higher level statutory services.

22. In this context the risk of harm and the vulnerability to loss of independence relates to the impact of the particular interventions funded rather than a general vulnerability, i.e. what impact does the presence/absence of the service have on risk of harm and vulnerability to loss of independence.

23. The above bullet points should be viewed collectively and their order is not intended to be seen as prioritised.

24. The Commissioning Principles also identified that the focus of commissioning would be on:

- Prevention and early intervention/help
- Outreach, visiting support and shorter-term “move-on” accommodation
- Outreach, visiting support and early help services addressing multiple needs
- A more integrated approach to the commissioning of services across the Council and other partners to ensure the most effective use of the total available resources

25. Using the Commissioning Priorities as a planning tool would assist in addressing the concerns raised by respondents during stage 1 of the consultation and in doing so would assist in developing services which would continue to deliver

some service to all the vulnerable client groups receiving support via the Supporting People programme.

26. Approval was given to the adoption of the Commissioning Priorities and approval was also given that Officers be authorised to work with providers, utilising the commissioning priorities, to formulate reduction proposals to meet the required budget savings. This would form stage 3 of the consultation process.

Stage 3 Consultation

The Aims of the Engagement Process for Stage 3 were

27. To work with Providers using the commissioning priorities to formulate reduction proposals to meet the required budget savings.

The Process for Stage 3

28. On 2nd and 3rd July 2012 all providers were invited to attend Provider Consultation meetings. (Minutes of these meetings are available at <http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13193&path=0>). A total of 60 people representing 47 different Support Providers attended the meetings. These meetings were organised to address four broad groupings of providers:

- Older People Services
- Excluded Groups – Accommodation based services
- Excluded Groups – Floating Support Services; and
- Care and Support Services

29. At those meetings providers were presented with:

- An overview of the Council's budget challenge
- An update on the Cabinet decisions
- Confirmation of the agreed commissioning principles and
- Savings proposals for their particular service area

30. Providers were asked:

- to consider the information provided;
- consult with Service Users as necessary to inform their response;
- comment on how services might be re-modelled in line with reduced budget;
- and to comment on the potential impact and mitigation of changes to services.

31. As part of their Supporting People contracts, Providers are contractually obligated to work within the Supporting People Quality Assessment Framework. Within this framework it is incumbent on the Providers to consult with service users regarding any change or reshape to services.

32. The client base for the Supporting People programme is diverse and therefore Providers were expected to consult in ways that were applicable to their own client groups. No standard questionnaire was offered to Providers as each

service is individual and therefore any future planning or reshaping of services would also be individual.

33. The information requested from Providers was as follows:
- How many service users they have in total
 - How many service users they consulted with
 - What questions they asked or information they sought from service users regarding any possible change to their service
 - What feedback was received from service users
 - How they will use the feedback to feed into future planning
 - How they plan to mitigate for any changes which may impact on the level of support given to service users
 - Identify any particular worries or concerns specifically from those with protected characteristics
34. Following the above meetings, officers met with individual providers of Older Peoples and Excluded Groups to discuss and understand the implications of implementing the proposals, to listen to alternatives and to formulate reduction proposals specific to each provider.
35. The Supporting People team produced a questionnaire for Providers to evidence how they had consulted with their service users and, where appropriate, also requested copies of minutes of any meetings or other related evidence of consultation with their service users. The completed questionnaires were quality checked to ensure that the consultation carried out by providers was effective.
36. Whilst the processes for progressing the proposals in respect of Older People Services and the services to Excluded groups are similar, the process in respect of Care and Support services requires a different approach. The Care and Support services are commonly provided to service users who have assessed care needs. These services are used to support the package of care provided to meet those needs, hence the need for a managed review of all individual care and support packages in line with assessed care needs and Fair Access to Care criteria.
37. The reviews for clients within the Care and Support group will be carried out with individuals in a person centred approach. If, following the reviews it is identified that there is a need to redesign any services then service users will be consulted accordingly.
38. In the event that the identified efficiencies cannot be achieved from the reassessment/review of all clients SP and non SP living in supported/assisted housing, it will be necessary for the re-commissioning/procurement process to take this into account.

Key Findings of Stage 3

39. Supporting People requested feedback from the Provider consultations and the main findings of this feedback are detailed below.

40. A number of providers within the care and support group also carried out the consultation despite not having the chance yet to discuss future proposals due to their clients being part of the care review. Their feedback is also included below:

Overview of Shared Concerns

Older People - Service User Concerns

- More vulnerable due to less support
- Isolation
- Loss of Scheme warden

How Providers are dealing with these concerns

- Seeking alternative funding
- Some would offer same support but may have to charge any shortfall to clients

Excluded Groups - Service User Concerns

- Would not know where else to go for support if service closed
- Worry about maintaining tenancy
- Loss of emotional support – isolation

How Providers are dealing with these concerns

- Using feedback to identify service user priorities
- Identify appropriate agencies and organisations to provide complementary support
- Restructuring support around service users

Care and Support - Service User Concerns

- Worried about changing support worker
- Deterioration in mental health
- May not be able to stay living in current home
- Wouldn't manage with less support

How Providers are dealing with these concerns

- Working with service users to redesign services/support
- Reviewing service users level of need and hours of support
- Signposting to alternative services where necessary

Annex 3 – Equality Analysis Report

Supporting People: Consolidation and efficiencies programme

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At a glance

Client group targeted at protected characteristics (Section A)	proximity to other statutory duties	comments
Domestic violence	High	meets Equality Duties
Young people at risk	medium	meets Equality Duties
Older people	low/nil	meets Equality Duties
People with mental health problems	high	exempt from this analysis due to review
People with learning difficulties	high	exempt from this analysis due to review
people with physical/sensory disability	high	exempt from this analysis due to review
People with HIV	medium	meets Equality Duties
Client group targeted by need (Section B)		
Offender or people at risk of offending	High	meets Equality Duties
people with substance misuse	low	meets Equality Duties
Homeless families with support needs	medium	meets Equality Duties
Single Homelessness	medium	meets Equality Duties
multiple needs	low	
Vulnerable people	low	meets Equality Duties
Energy efficiency/Home improvements	nil	meets Equality Duties
Community alarms	low	meets Equality Duties

Introduction

Background:

The Supporting People programme funds organisations to provide Housing Related Support services.

This falls in to two broad categories:

- 1) Those facing homelessness
- 2) Those needing support to maintain tenancies

The 'supporting people' designation refers to a non statutory programme, the specific funding for which was withdrawn in April 2011.

Sefton Council instructed People Directorate (October 2011) to investigate the service provision and identify any opportunities for efficiency savings. .

In doing so, people directorate have examined the business case and established a cost saving strategy which looks at 'going rates' for services and standardising costs around average rates. Also, moving away from 'block payments', which assumes that a client **has to have** particular services, to a **flexi-needs payment** which provides the service provider with a minimum amount per client but also a 'pool' from which it can draw to adjust level of support where clients need more than minimum.

In designing this, they consulted with users and providers and established an alternative service plan which will make savings in the region of £3million

Supporting people in relation to statutory legislation.

In order to analyse service provision it is vital that several distinctions are drawn, namely;

- where services cross cut against other statutory duties and
- Where a service is particularly targeted at individuals because of a protected characteristic.

In 2002, the Government amended the homelessness legislation through *the Homelessness Act 2002* and the *Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002* to:

- ensure a more strategic approach to tackling and preventing homelessness, in particular by requiring a homelessness strategy for every housing authority district,

And

- strengthen the assistance available to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness by extending the priority need categories to homeless 16 and 17 year olds; care leavers aged 18, 19 and 20; people who are vulnerable as a result of time spent in care, the armed forces, prison or custody, and people who are vulnerable because they have fled their home because of violence.

However, the act draws a distinction, in that:

(s10.14) the applicant's vulnerability must be assessed on the basis that he or she is or will become homeless, **and not on his or her ability to fend for him or herself while still housed.**

Under s.175 (4), a person is "threatened with homelessness" if he or she is likely to become homeless within 28 days. In many cases, effective intervention can enable homelessness to be prevented or the loss of the current home to be delayed sufficiently to allow for a planned move.

In addition to the Homelessness Act, the Council has a statutory duty to provide **Adult Social Care** via the mechanism of 'Fair Access to Care Assessments' (FACS). FACS offers a number of criteria and allows the Council to choose the level and priority of need against which it will fund services.

With this, users will fall in to three broad categories:

- 1) Services that support the homelessness act and homelessness initiatives.
- 2) Services that are provided as part of FACS
- 3) Other services where there is no statutory duty, and are legacy services. i.e. services that historically have been developed to meet need, but there is no statutory driver.

This impact assessment will be looking at 1 & 3. Services linked to 2 (Appendix 1 lists details) are under separate review; therefore at this juncture they are excluded from the analysis.

Protected Characteristics.

Equality Law (Equality Act 2010) is clear that there are particular characteristics intrinsic to an individual against which it would be easy to discriminate.

Section 149 (public sector equality duty) lists the goals of the act and the characteristics, known as 'protected characteristics,' against which we have to test for discrimination.

However a clear distinction has to be made: where a protected characteristic is the ground for discrimination and where it is not. For example; it is clear that domestic violence on the vast majority of cases affects women. Therefore having the 'characteristic of being female' is intrinsically linked with domestic violence. By contrast 'substance abuse' is not intrinsically linked to any particular characteristic, young, old, male, female etc, as substance abuse cuts across all types.

Therefore from an equality analysis perspective this distinction has to be kept in clear view: users as 'vulnerable' per say, and the distinction of service users who are vulnerable **because** of a protected characteristic. Where it is a case of the latter, then particular attention to the decision to change services has to be made under the Equality Act.

Preliminary consultations and methodology of assessment.

As part of austerity measures Council asked People Directorate to evaluate its services with a view to consolidation and efficiency.

In recognising the vulnerability of service users a methodology was adopted to decrease funding 'across the board', so all services shared reductions rather than prioritising key services and eliminating perceived peripheral services.

However, this strategy whilst seeming fair may disproportionately affect service providers where their services are linked to statutory duties, by taking funding from them to maintain less essential non statutory services. In order to test against this, extensive consultation with service providers has taken place – as such whilst there is obvious concern from providers regarding reduced levels of funding, all have felt that they would maintain an appropriate, **albeit changed**, level of service and have either;

- found alternate ways to fund services
- Withdrawn from service provision and their users have been adopted by other services within the same field
- accepted the agreement and drafted new terms and conditions
- Have given an in principle agreement whilst reorganisation of their services takes place.

The consultation was a lengthy process (as outlined in the Consultation report) whilst including service users it focused on the service providers and made it clear:

- The strategy for change
- Prioritisation
- Ample scope for provider input
- Ample scope for providers to consult their service users
- Providers know the needs of their service users and should negotiate accordingly.

As a result of this, a table was produced which showed each service provider and a 'before and after' chart. This is at Annex 2 and contains the 'key legend' to some of the grading used below.

This Analysis report will assess whether these changes comply with the Equality Act (section 149 PSED). It is beyond the remit of this report to comment on efficiency of models (whether there are different or more productive ways of doing things beyond the suggested changes.)

The Equality Act 2010.

In order to meet equality legislation we have to consider (section 149):

- A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –*
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

Within section 149 there is further clarification of what (b) and (c) mean. These have been addressed as each proposal is assessed.

With this, each 'client group service area' (listed in annex2) will be assessed; the following table lists the client group by protected characteristic:

Client group targeted at protected characteristics (section A)		
	proximity to other statutory duties	comments
Domestic violence	High	
Young people at risk	medium	
Older people	low/nil	
People with mental health problems	HIGH	exempt from this analysis due to review
People with learning difficulties	high	exempt from this analysis due to review
people with physical/sensory disability	high	exempt from this analysis due to review
People with HIV	medium	

Client group targeted by need (section B)		
Offender or people at risk of offending	High	
people with substance misuse	low	
Homeless families with support needs	medium	
Single Homelessness	medium	
Energy efficiency/Home improvements	nil	

Section A

This section looks at services that are intrinsically targeted at particular protected characteristics, in that as a result of having the characteristic then there is a clear vulnerability and/ or need.

1. Domestic violence. (High priority. Very close association to Statutory legislation on Homelessness)

Our community is made up roughly of 50% males and females; however 98% of domestic violence is perpetrated by men on women. All domestic violence is criminal and is classified as a 'hate crime'.

Domestic violence is categorised as; physical, mental, sexual abuse that happens in a home setting perpetrated by a partner, friend or family member. As such it has pernicious consequences in that it destroys lives and futures.

Sefton currently funds two types of provision: one is accommodation/hostel (refuge) which supports victims fleeing violent environments and the other is a 'sanctuary' (security measures in the home so it's safe for the victim to remain in their home) service with visiting support where the home is made secure for the victim.

Due to the fact that the victims are overwhelmingly female this is a gender based issue that would come under the first equality duty of 'eliminating discrimination and harassment' - and as such Council has to pay particular attention to the need to continue funding services.

In consultation with service providers, it was felt that there could be no change to the 'sanctuary' visiting support service for women who wish to stay in their own homes.

People using current services
(over last
12 months)

Age Range - CRF	Age range Totals	Male	Female	Age Range %
16 - 25	85	0	85	0%
26 - 59	152	3	149	100%
60 - 95+	4	1	3	0%
Not Recorded / Not Declared	0	0	0	0%
Total	241	4	237	100%
		2%	98%	
White: British	90.87%			
Asian/Asian British:				
Indian	0.83%			
Refused	0.41%			
Asian/Asian British:				
Pakistani	0.41%			
Black/Black British: Other	0.41%			
Asian/Asian British:				
Chinese	0.83%			
White: Other	4.56%			
Mixed: Other	0.41%			
Other ethnic group: Other	0.83%			
Asian/Asian British:				
Bangladeshi	0.41%			

Proposed changes:

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
WOMEN AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	Short term visiting support for women at risk of domestic violence	Sefton Council VVAT	B	75% of funding to be retained for services commissioned in-line with outcomes of corporate review of domestic violence	Service to be retained at current funding level.
	Hostel for	Sefton	A		Service to

	women at risk of domestic violence	Women and Children's Aid			be retained at reduced funding level
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There is no change to the threshold of who can ask for support and there is no change to the current capacity of the service in terms of numbers of victims it can support.

The change of service is in the level of support hours in the Hostel environment such that 'block hours' are not awarded per client but flexible contracts based on core issues and needs.

Obviously people who are victims of domestic violence come in all types, different ethnicity, religion, sexuality, age, gender and trans gender; it's recognised by service providers by way of their commissioning contracts that specific needs in relation to these categories are met.

Meeting the Duties:

This service has a close association to the statutory homelessness act and is an essential part of meeting the homelessness' act's requirements. In providing this service the council is clearly advancing equality of opportunity for women.

As such it is:

- Eliminating discrimination and harassment: by working with partners, such as the police, this programme is identifying and addressing some of the most pernicious and inherent discriminative treatment that women can face in our society.
- Advancing equality of opportunity: expecting to live a life without fear of abuse for the most of us is taken for granted; this programme allows this simple life's chances to be enabled. It shows that violence against women is unacceptable and efforts will be made to support women to allow them to lead a life that they wish to lead.
 - a) This programme recognises that the vast majority of domestic violence is targeted at women and therefore a particular response is required
 - b) Whilst the service is targeted at women, differences in needs are acknowledged and catered for.
 - c) The effect of domestic violence is such that it disproportionately affects women by reducing their ability and confidence to engage in everyday life activities. This programme supports women in 'reclaiming their lives and identify'
- Foster good relations between groups. Multi agency work on domestic violence is clearly breaking down the social taboo of pretending it doesn't exist. As such women become more aware of the illegality of such behaviours and the fact that there are support mechanisms for them to escape such behaviour. This work contributes to and challenges the stereotypes and prejudice that hides and supports such violence.

In proposing these changes the council is not discriminating and is meeting its public sector equality duties. However, domestic violence nationally is on the increase and a review is currently in progress to ascertain the size and shape of these services going forward.

2. Young People.(services have proximity to Homelessness legislation)

Society caters for and has expectations for young people – school, apprenticeship, college and job etc, however many young people have chaotic or difficult home lives such that they feel they need to leave. As such they often become 'sofa surfers' staying at friends & relatives until their welcome wears out in many cases forcing them into 'homelessness'. Without support and intervention many will present as homeless for help and support.

People under 18 are not entitled to enter in to any contractual relationship; therefore Landlords are unlikely to offer them tenancies. In order to counter this a number of 'hostels' are used which use a 'licence' agreement – essentially a voluntary arrangement which stipulates what is expected of each party but make it clear the that young person has no long term rights of tenancy.

The maximum a person can stay within the service is 2 years. The expectation is that the person will have either:

- Returned home if safe to do so
- Establish independent living with their own tenancy within the public or private sector.

Users of the service (young people at risk):

16-17year olds = 53 users
 18-21year olds = 185 users
 22-25 year olds = 52 users

The average age of users is 19 years old. There are a total of 107 units available and 2011/12 saw 237 young people access the service.

Males were 68% of clients (160)
 Females 32% of clients (77)

Data shows that 95.36% of users classed themselves as white British. (the next significant groups were: 0.84% presented as Asian/Asian British or Pakistani, 0.84% presented as Black/Black British, 1.69% presented as white or Black African. 55% presented as Christian, 0.84% presented as Muslim)

Providers of services do not collect data on the 'cause of homelessness' (i.e. why were young people showing up?)

Users of service (Single homeless with support needs)

Age Range - CRF	Age range Totals	Male	Female	Age Range %
16 - 25	96	65	31	65.75%

26 - 59	49	42	7	33.56%
60 - 95+	1	0	1	0.68%
Not Recorded / Not Declared	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	146	107	39	100.00%
		73%	27%	

White: British	93.15%
White: Irish	2.05%
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	0.68%
Black/Black British: Other	1.37%
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	0.68%
White: Other	1.37%
Black/Black British: African	0.68%

The support offered to young people varies, but will include benefits advice, job search or return to college as well as help with locating a more permanent tenancy.

Proposed change in service provision:

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK	Hostel for young people at risk	Forum Housing Association	C	Remodel current 24hr direct access service to deliver day time support only and a reduced night time provision	4 services merged resulting in more cost effective and efficient service Direct day time access to service with night time security/on call service.
	Accommodation based short term visiting support for young people at risk	Forum Housing Association	C	To retain 43% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours but retaining	4 services merged resulting in more cost effective and efficient service Direct day time access

				number of units	to service with night time security/on call service.
	Accommodation based short term support for young people at risk with Live in Landlord (supported Lodging)	Local Solutions	B/C	To retain 59% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours delivered by support workers but retaining support and number of Householders	Service to be retained at reduced funding level reducing hours to 2 hours per client per week from support staff in line with other visiting support
	Short term visiting support/drop in for young people at risk	Merseyside Youth Association	C	To retain 57% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours but retaining number of units	Service to be retained at reduced funding level reducing hours to 2 hours per client per week from support staff in line with other visiting support
YOUNG SINGLE HOMELESS WITH SUPPORT NEEDS	Accommodation based short term visiting support for young single homeless with support needs	Forum Housing Association	C	To retain 34% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying	4 services merged resulting in more cost effective and efficient service

				support hours but retaining number of units	Direct day time access to service with night time security/on call service.
	Hostel for young single homeless with support needs	Forum Housing Association	C	Remodel current 24hr direct access service to deliver day time support only and a reduced night time provision	4 services merged resulting in more cost effective and efficient service Direct day time access to service with night time security/on call service.

In providing this provision the councils is:

- Eliminating discrimination; by providing a homeless advice and support system directed at young people
- Advancing equality of opportunity; by providing an essential building block – a safe home – in order to build a life, such that:
 - a) The service supports young people in issues that affect them because they are young (e.g. not knowing how to access benefits, not knowing how to access training or education, not knowing how to budget and manage income, not knowing how to cook or shop)
 - b) The service provides a tailored support to meet individual needs as ‘one size does not fit all’ by working with the young person to identify the best path forward.
 - c) Many young people due to family circumstances, or being involved in a care environment, or with learning difficulties can be disproportionately affected such that simply finding and maintaining a home can be an extremely challenging task
- Fosters good relations: by demonstrating to young people that they have a place in society and the local tax paying community helps them to ‘get on their feet’ in the absence of a loving and nurturing family.

In accepting this proposal the Council is not discriminating and is meeting its duties.

3. Older People:

Older people in the community often have a varied and active life, involved with friends and family, however, we recognise that a small proportion of older people become frail or fragile in some way; be it ill health, isolation, fear of crime etc. As such many older people seek safer places to live where they can have some community life and feel safe in their environment.

In order to meet this need, historically, 'Sheltered Housing' provision was established. The proposal concerning sheltered housing (see below) in consultation with service providers have found a solution which:

- Enables all current users to remain in the service/accommodation.
- Redefines support packages so they are more person focussed rather than 'off the shelf block contracts'
- Relies more on electronic safety measures which are 24/7 365 days a year rather than a 9-5, Mon-Fri scheme manager.

Older People currently using services

Age Range - CRF	Age range Totals	Male	Female	Age Range %
16 - 25	0	0	0	0%
26 - 59	126	76	49	6%
60 - 95+	1851	769	1035	93%
Not Recorded / Not Declared	4	1	2	0%
Total	1981	846	1086	100%

White: British 100%

(NB 100% white British may be an anomaly, although there is a small minority in sefton given the large sample size – none are showing at the time of this data count)

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision

		Pierhead Housing Association			
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As such the service will continue to provide for and respond to any health/wellbeing issues.

The threshold of eligibility has not changed and the capacity to house elder people within the units has not changed.

The only change has been the level and type of support that residents have whilst in the homes. The schemes will continue to meet the fundamental needs of residents.

There are currently 2236 units on offer, obviously older people come in all types, different ethnicity, gender, religion, sexuality, disability and transgender, it's recognised by service providers by way of their commissioning contracts that specific needs in relation to these categories are met.

Meeting the Duties?

This service is non statutory yet the proposal maintains services to older people who require sheltered accommodation, as such it:

- Eliminates discrimination, by ensuring that services for older people are provided
- Advances equality of opportunity; by ensuring that older people can maintain a dignified and balanced life by living in a safe environment. It does this in such a way that it:
 - a) Recognises that older age can come with its own difficulties and helps to support the person with this.
 - b) In providing a service it looks at each person's needs and addresses them rather than a 'one size fits all'
 - c) Ensures that older people can maintain a life style rather than be isolated and excluded from society.
- Foster good relations between groups; by recognising that older people have needs and that society wishes to help and support them during this phase of their lives.

The Council is not discriminating by accepting this proposal and is meeting its general duties.

4. People with HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS under the Equality Act 2010 is categorised as having a 'disability' and as such is a protected characteristic. Whilst the service on offer is a non statutory service, Council has to be mindful that it has a role to play in responding to the needs of people with HIV/AIDS, especially as they are easily targeted for hate crimes and prejudice.

Many, on revealing to family, friends, employers that they have HIV/AIDS can be ostracised and shunned.

In consultation with Providers it was found that the first provider (Adullam Homes) had no users with HIV/AIDS within its service, this provision has been withdrawn. The second provider (Sahir House) is in fact funded by 5 Merseyside based Local authorities. Sefton funds 4 beds in the unit for Sefton residents.

People with HIV/Aids service users

Age Range - CRF	Age range Totals	Male	Female	Not Recorded / Not Declared	Age Range %
16 - 25	0	0	0	0	0.00%
26 - 59	1	1	0	0	100.00%
60 - 95+	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Not Recorded / Not Declared	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	1	1	0	0	100.00%

White: British 100%

It was agreed that this service will continue for another 12 months and then reviewed again.

Proposed changes to service:

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS	Accommodation based short term visiting support for people with HIV/Aids	Adullam Homes	C	SP funding to be withdrawn by September 2012	
	Cross Authority visiting support for people with HIV/Aids	Sahir House	X	No Change	Service to be retained at current funding level.

The service provision is currently meeting need; there is no change in threshold. Capacity has been reduced due to the withdrawal of Adullam homes but this reflects 'real world usage'.

People who have HIV/AIDS are all types, different ethnicity, religion, sexuality, age, gender and trans gender, it is recognised by service providers by way of their commissioning contracts that specific needs in relation to these categories are met. Meeting the duties?

Whilst this is non statutory service, none the less Sefton is playing its part in supporting people with HIV/AIDS as such it is:

- Eliminating discrimination; by ensuring that there are provisions for people with HIV/AIDS
- Advancing equality of opportunity; by ensuring that there is care and respite for people living with HIV/AIDS such that:
 - a) The service recognises the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and addresses this
 - b) The care offer has individualised elements ensuring that different needs for different people are taken in to account
 - c) People with HIV/AIDS are often excluded from services and society and this care offer helps to redress the imbalance.
- Foster good relations: the programme helps to work with people, families and community to help remove prejudice and misunderstanding connected to HIV/AIDS

In accepting this proposal Council is not discriminating and is meeting its public sector equality duties.

Section B

Section B looks at services that are targeted at people's needs but not specifically at a protected characteristic.

5. Offender or people at risk of offending

The homelessness act requires that provision should be made to ensure that people returning to the community after prison sentence should be assisted with their housing needs.

Service Users:

Age Range -	Age range Totals	Male	Female	Age Range %
16 - 25	20	17	3	22.99%
26 - 59	67	52	15	77.01%
60 - 95+	0	0	0	0.00%
Not Recorded / Not Declared	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	87	69	18	100.00%

79% 21%

White: British 98%
 Mixed: White & Black Caribbean 1%
 Black/Black British: Caribbean 1%

Proposed changes to services:

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
OFFENDERS OR PEOPLE AT RISK OF OFFENDING	Accommodation based short term visiting service	Adullam Homes	B	Retention of all units of supported accommodation. Retain 50% of the current contract value	4 services to merged and 1 service to be procured at North West hourly rate or below.
	Hostel for offenders or people at risk of offending	North West Property Custodians Ltd	B/C	No Change	Service to be retained at current funding level.
	Short term visiting support for offenders(including MAPPA 2&3) or people at risk of offending	DISC	C	To retain 86% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours	Service to be retained at reduced funding level.

This service is not targeted at a particular protected characteristic but meets social needs of people returning in to the community.

As such, the equality legislation would focus on ‘how the service is being delivered’ – as the data shows, there are a cross section of sefton’s society using the service and the commissioning contracts ensure that individual needs are understood and the support package users receive takes in to account their need.

Meeting the duties?

- Eliminating discrimination; by ensuring that this provision services different users

- Advancing equality of opportunity; by ensuring that services and facilities service different protected characteristics
 - a) The service recognises the needs of the individual and addresses this
 - b) The offer has individualised elements ensuring that different needs for different people are taken in to account and supported in ways pertinent to them
 - c) People returning from prison or in danger of offending are often excluded from services and society and this service offer helps to redress the imbalance.
- Foster good relations: the programme helps to work with people, families and community, employers to help remove prejudice connected with offenders and potential offenders.

In accepting this proposal Council is not discriminating and is meeting its public sector equality duties.

6. Alcohol & Substance misuse.

Alcohol and substance misuse cuts across all society and can have a devastating effect on the person and family and friends.

Chronic users can spiral down such that they become homeless and develop behaviour that can lead to criminality.

The support services help them to maintain a tenancy.

Although alcohol and substance misuse can lead to homelessness, the Homelessness Act is clear on 'intentional homeless', in that one's behaviour (e.g. spending the rent money on something less substantial) if it lead to homelessness, would be outside the Act's purview.

In addition the Act stipulates that 'homelessness' would have to occur within 28 days. However this has to be balanced against 'illness and mental health conditions', addictions can cause deterioration and become mental health conditions. As such the Homelessness act would then offer protection for such persons.

Whilst this service is connected with the Homelessness Act it is at 'arms length'. As such the service can be designated 'non-statutory'. None-the-less, it is clear that these service users are in need and without support would enter a spiral of decline.

Age Range - CRF	Age range			Age Range %
	Totals	Male	Female	
16 - 25	2	1	1	13%
26 - 59	12	8	4	80%
60 - 95+	1	1	0	7%
Not recorded	0	0	0	0%
Total	15	10	5	100%
		67%	33%	
White: British	100%			

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
PEOPLE WITH ALCOHOL / SUBSTANCE PROBLEMS	Accommodation based short term visiting support for people with alcohol problems	DISC	C	No change	Service to be retained at current funding level.

This service is not targeted at a particular protected characteristic but meets social needs of people substance abuse problems.

As such, the equality legislation would focus on 'how the service is being delivered' – as the data shows, there are a cross section of sefton's society using the service and the commissioning contracts ensure that individual needs are understood and the support package users receive takes in to account their need.

Meeting the duties?

- Eliminating discrimination; by ensuring that this provision services different users
- Advancing equality of opportunity; by ensuring that services and facilities service different protected characteristics
 - a) The service recognises the needs of the individual and addresses this
 - b) The offer has individualised elements ensuring that different needs for different people are taken in to account and supported in ways pertinent to them
 - c) People suffering from addiction are in danger of offending are often excluded from services and society and this service offer helps to redress the imbalance.
- Foster good relations: the programme helps to work with people, families and community, employers to help remove prejudice connected with offenders and potential offenders.

In accepting this proposal Council is not discriminating and is meeting its public sector equality duties.

7. Multiple needs

This service is available to people who are in a tenancy and feel they need some support in order to deal with a problem or perceived problem (fear over threat of violence)

Multiple Needs

Age Range - CRF	Age range Totals	Male	Female	Not Recorded / Not Declared	Age Range %
16 - 25	0	0	0	0	0%
26 - 59	1	1	0	0	0%
60 - 95+	0	0	0	0	100%
Not Recorded / Not Declared	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	1	0	0	100%

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
MULTIPLE NEEDS	Short term visiting support for people with multiple needs	Homegroup		To retain 49% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support and reducing hourly rate, but retaining number of units	Provider unable to agree new contract price, Contract expired and clients absorbed into existing services .
	Short term visiting support for Women with multiple needs	Venus Resource Centre	B	To retain 65% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support but retaining number of units	Service to be retained at reduced funding level.

As such, the equality legislation would focus on 'how the service is being delivered' – there is little data to go on for analysis.

Meeting the duties?

- Eliminating discrimination; by ensuring that this provision meets individual needs.

- Advancing equality of opportunity; by ensuring that services and facilities service different protected characteristics
 - a) The service recognises the needs of the individual and addresses this
 - b) The offer has individualised elements ensuring that different needs for different people are taken in to account and supported in ways pertinent to them
 - c) People who find themselves in a difficult or traumatic position in society can often feel marginalised and this service offer helps to redress the imbalance.
- Foster good relations: the programme helps to work with people, families, community, employers to help families back on to their feet.

In accepting this proposal Council is not discriminating and is meeting its public sector equality duties.

8. Single homeless

The Council has a statutory duty under the homelessness act to support people that become homeless. Council has a historically developed two pronged approach. The first being an immediate assessment at the 'homelessness unit' and then if accepted as in need the single person is placed in temporary accommodation, either within a Council run facility or a third sector run facility. During this stay they will receive support in finding and securing more permanent accommodation, accessing benefits and support with finding work/training.

Single homeless users:

Age Range -	Age range Totals	Male	Female	Age Range %
16 - 25	96	65	31	65.75%
26 - 59	49	42	7	33.56%
60 - 95+	1	0	1	0.68%
Not Recorded / Not Declared	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	146	107	39	100.00%
		73%	27%	
White: British	93.15%			
White: Irish	2.05%			
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	0.68%			
Black/Black British: Other	1.37%			
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	0.68%			
White: Other	1.37%			
Black/Black British: African	0.68%			

Proposed change to services:

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
SINGLE HOMELESS WITH SUPPORT NEEDS	Accommodation based short term visiting support for single homeless with support needs	Adullam Homes Bosco Society	C C	To retain 39% of current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours and reducing hourly rate, but retaining number of units	2 services to be retained at reduced funding level
	Hostel for single homeless with support needs	Bosco Society	C	No Change	Service to be retained at current funding level.
	Short term visiting support for single homeless with support needs	Light for Life	C	To retain 63% of current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours but retaining number of units	Service to be retained at reduced funding level

As such, the equality legislation would focus on 'how the service is being delivered' – as the data shows, there are a cross section of sefton's society using the service and the commissioning contracts ensure that individual needs are understood and the support package users receive takes in to account their need.

Meeting the duties?

- Eliminating discrimination; by ensuring that this provision services single people of all types.
- Advancing equality of opportunity; by ensuring that services and facilities service different protected characteristics
 - a) The service recognises the needs of the individual and addresses this
 - b) The offer has individualised elements ensuring that different needs for different people are taken in to account and supported in ways pertinent to them
 - c) People who find themselves homeless, are in a very difficult and traumatic position in society and this service offer helps to redress the imbalance.
- Foster good relations: the programme helps to work with people, families, community, employers to help families back on to their feet.

In accepting this proposal Council is not discriminating and is meeting its public sector equality duties.

9. Vulnerable adults

Vulnerable adults are already in tenancies but because of their situation may need support in maintaining the tenancy. This is a non statutory service.

Vulnerable Adults service users:

Age Range - CRF	Age range Totals	Male	Female	Not Recorded / Not Declared	Age Range %
16 - 25	9	6	3	0	1.52%
26 - 59	146	96	49	1	24.70%
60 - 95+	436	177	253	6	73.77%
Not Recorded / Not Declared	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total	591	279	305	7	100.00%
		47%	52%	1%	

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
VULNERABLE ADULTS	Accommodation based long term visiting support for	One Vision Housing	X	To retain 41% of current contract	2 services to be merges and retained at

	vulnerable adults			values. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours, hourly rates and capacity	reduced capacity and funding level
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As such, the equality legislation would focus on ‘how the service is being delivered’ – as the data shows, there are a cross section of sefton’s society using the service and the commissioning contracts ensure that individual needs are understood and the support package users receive takes in to account their need.

Meeting the duties?

- Eliminating discrimination; by ensuring that this provision services different protected characteristics.
- Advancing equality of opportunity; by ensuring that the services
 - a) recognises the needs of the individual and addresses this
 - b) The offer has individualised elements ensuring that different needs for different people are taken in to account and supported in ways pertinent to them
 - c) Ensures that people can maintain a life style rather than be isolated and excluded from society.
- Foster good relations between groups; by recognising that vulnerable adults have needs and that society wishes to help and support them during this phase of their lives.

In accepting this proposal Council is not discriminating and is meeting its public sector equality duties.

10. Home improvement and Energy efficiency.

As part of supporting older tenants a number of projects have been developed. They are non – statutory.

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY	Advocacy Service/Home Improvement Agency	Mears Group PLC	X	SP funding to be withdrawn in line with commencement of new service	services to be replaced by newly tendered services

Ensure provision is included within other council contracts for Advocacy service and Handyperson Service. Retain current level of service for Energy Efficiency team through integrated commissioning					within Places Directorate
	Handyperson/Home Improvement Agency	Mears Group PLC	X	SP funding to be withdrawn in line with commencement of new service	services to be included in newly tendered services within Peoples Directorate
	Visiting Advice Team for Energy Efficiency.	Sefton Council Energy Team	X	50% of SP funding to be removed by September 2012	Retain current provision with joint funding arrangement with partners

Community Alarms.

Community Alarm is the technical support service that provides assistance to residents.

Client Group	Current Provision	Providers	Proximity to Statutory Duties*	Change to Provision	Proposed Provision
COMMUNITY ALARMS	Community Alarm for older people with support needs	Sefton Careline Anchor Trust Arena Housing Association English Churches Housing Group Hanover Housing Association Pierhead Housing Association	X X X X X	To retain 91% of current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying hourly rates and retaining number of units	Procure same service at reduced level of funding
	Community Warden for	Sefton Careline	X	To retain 20% of	Procure same

	older people with support needs			current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours, hourly rates and capacity	service at reduced level of funding and capacity
	Generic Telecare service	Sefton Careline	X	To retain 90% of current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying hourly rates and retaining number of units	Procure same service at reduced level of funding

Both these provisions meet the equality duties:

- Eliminate discrimination: they offer technical support to enable other programmes (listed above) to be carried out.
- Advance equality of opportunity: by ensuring that services are provided, thus enabling people to acquire or maintain a tenancy
- Foster good relations between groups: by recognising that different people have different needs and that society wishes to help and support them during this phase of their lives.

In accepting this proposal Council is not discriminating and is meeting its public sector equality duties.

General Comment:

In looking at the above proposals a key factor has been the service providers willingness to design and operate services differently and in doing so services are still being offered to protected groups and those in need.

However, close monitoring and ongoing evaluation will be needed to ensure that the most vulnerable are being supported.

The Council in accepting these proposals will not be in breach of its general duties under the Equality Act.

Appendix 1. List of service outlets and providers that are under separate 'FACS' review.

<i>Saving area</i>	Provider name	Service name
<i>Care & support</i>	A Lymath	A Lymath Adult Placement
<i>Care & support</i>	Access Community Services Ltd	The Barn
<i>Care & support</i>	Access Community Services Ltd	Community Support for Adults with LD
<i>Care & support</i>	Access Community Services Ltd	Broome Road
<i>Care & support</i>	Autism Initiatives	Stanley Road
<i>Care & support</i>	Autism Initiatives	Pembroke Road
<i>Care & support</i>	Autism Initiatives	Autistic Service
<i>Care & support</i>	Autism Initiatives	Tarbrock Court
<i>Care & support</i>	Autism Initiatives	Kinross Road
<i>Care & support</i>	Autism Initiatives	Westmoreland Road
<i>Care & support</i>	Barbara Hemmings	Orlando Street
<i>Care & support</i>	Barbara Jones	B Jones Adult Placement
<i>Care & support</i>	DeafBlind UK	Floating Communicating Guide
<i>Care & support</i>	European Wellcare Lifestyles Ltd	Supported Living Service
<i>Care & support</i>	European Wellcare Lifestyles Ltd	The Poplars
<i>Care & support</i>	Expect	Daniel Close
<i>Care & support</i>	Expect	Olivia Street
<i>Care & support</i>	Expect	Outreach Support Service
<i>Care & support</i>	Expect	Caradoc Road
<i>Care & support</i>	Expect	Burns Street

<i>Care & support</i>	Expect	Prior Street
<i>Care & support</i>	Expect	New Fort Way
<i>Care & support</i>	Expect	Akenside Street
<i>Care & support</i>	Geraldine McKay	Cambridge Avenue
<i>Care & support</i>	Glenelg Support	Learning Disability Support
<i>Care & support</i>	Imagine	Mental Health Service
<i>Care & support</i>	Imagine	Princes Street Scheme
<i>Care & support</i>	Imagine	Summer Road
<i>Care & support</i>	Imagine	Mental Health Scheme
<i>Care & support</i>	J Mackie	J Mackie Adult Placement
<i>Care & support</i>	K Parkes	K Parkes Adult Placement
<i>Care & support</i>	Kensington Supported Housing	Gloucester Road
<i>Care & support</i>	Making Space	Leicester Street
<i>Care & support</i>	Mencap	Palmerston Drive
<i>Care & support</i>	Mencap	Marina House
<i>Care & support</i>	Nugent Care Society - Ainsdale	Ainsdale Care in the Community
<i>Care & support</i>	PSS	Sefton Adult Placement Scheme
<i>Care & support</i>	Rethink	Station Grove
<i>Care & support</i>	Sefton New Directions Limited	Simonscroft
<i>Care & support</i>	Sefton New Directions Limited	Holly Grove
<i>Care & support</i>	Sefton New Directions Limited	Poulsom Drive
<i>Care & support</i>	Sefton New Directions Limited	Lyra Road

<i>Care & support</i>	Sefton New Directions Limited	Wavell Close
<i>Care & support</i>	Sefton New Directions Limited	The Woodlands (Landsdowne House)
<i>Care & support</i>	Sefton SSD Adult Placement	Sefton SSD Adult Placement
<i>Care & support</i>	SLC Raglin	Raglin Care
<i>Care & support</i>	Warren Care	Captains Lane
<i>Care & support</i>	Warren Care	Summer Road
<i>Care & support</i>	Warren Care	Gladstone Road

		Housing Association Pierhead Housing Association			
HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY Ensure provision is included within other council contracts for Advocacy service and Handyman Service. Retain current level of service for Energy Efficiency team through integrated commissioning	Advocacy Service/Home Improvement Agency	Mears Group PLC	X	SP funding to be withdrawn in line with commencement of new service	services to be replaced by newly tendered services within Places Directorate
	Handyperson/Home Improvement Agency	Mears Group PLC	X	SP funding to be withdrawn in line with commencement of new service	services to be included in newly tendered services within Peoples Directorate
	Visiting Advice Team for Energy Efficiency.	Sefton Council Energy Team	X	50% of SP funding to be removed by September 2012	Retain current provision with joint funding arrangement with partners
HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH SUPPORT NEEDS	Hostel for homeless families with support needs with onsite scheme manager. 10 units	Sefton Council Homeless Department	C	Retain 50% of the current unit provision	Hostel for homeless families with support needs with onsite scheme manager. 5 units
MULTIPLE NEEDS	Short term visiting support for people with multiple needs	Homegroup		To retain 49% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support and reducing hourly rate, but retaining number of units	Provider unable to agree new contract price, Contract expired and clients absorbed into existing services.
	Short term visiting support for Women with multiple needs	Venus Resource Centre	B	To retain 61% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved	Service to be retained at reduced funding level.

				by varying support but retaining number of units	
OFFENDERS OR PEOPLE AT RISK OF OFFENDING	Accommodation based short term visiting service	Adullam Homes	B	Retention of all units of supported accommodation. Retain 50% of the current contract value	4 services to merged and 1 service to be procured at North West hourly rate or below.
	Hostel for offenders or people at risk of offending	North West Property Custodians Ltd	B/C	No Change	Service to be retained at current funding level.
	Short term visiting support for offenders(including MAPPA 2&3) or people at risk of offending	DISC	C	To retain 86% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours	Service to be retained at reduced funding level.
PEOPLE WITH ALCOHOL PROBLEMS	Accommodation based short term visiting support for people with alcohol problems	DISC	C	No change	Service to be retained at current funding level.
PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS	Accommodation based short term visiting support for people with HIV/Aids	Adullam Homes	C	SP funding to be withdrawn by September 2012	
	Cross Authority visiting support for people with HIV/Aids	Sahir House	X	No Change	Service to be retained at current funding level.
SINGLE HOMELESS WITH SUPPORT NEEDS	Accommodation based short term visiting support for single homeless with support needs	Adullam Homes Bosco Society	C C	To retain 39% of current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours and	2 services to be retained at reduced funding level

				reducing hourly rate, but retaining number of units	
	Hostel for single homeless with support needs	Bosco Society	C	No Change	Service to be retained at current funding level.
	Short term visiting support for single homeless with support needs	Light for Life	C	To retain 63% of current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours but retaining number of units	Service to be retained at reduced funding level
VULNERABLE ADULTS	Accommodation based long term visiting support for vulnerable adults	One Vision Housing	X	To retain 41% of current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours, hourly rates and capacity	2 services to be merged and retained at reduced capacity and funding level
WOMEN AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	Short term visiting support for women at risk of domestic violence	Sefton Council VVAT	B	75% of funding to be retained for services commissioned in-line with	Service to be retained at current funding level.
	Hostel for women at risk of domestic violence	Sefton Women and Children's Aid	A	outcomes of corporate review of domestic violence	Service to be retained at reduced funding level
YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK	Hostel for young people at risk	Forum Housing Association	C	Remodel current 24hr direct access	4 services merged resulting in more cost

				service to deliver day time support only and a reduced night time provision	effective and efficient service Direct day time access to service with night time security/on call service.
	Accommodation based short term visiting support for young people at risk	Forum Housing Association	C	To retain 43% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours but retaining number of units	4 services merged resulting in more cost effective and efficient service Direct day time access to service with night time security/on call service.
	Accommodation based short term support for young people at risk with Live in Landlord (supported Lodging)	Local Solutions	B/C	To retain 59% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours delivered by support workers but retaining support and number of Householders	Service to be retained at reduced funding level reducing hours to 2 hours per client per week from support staff inline with other visiting support
	Short term visiting support/drop in for young people at risk	Merseyside Youth Association	C	To retain 57% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours but retaining	Service to be retained at reduced funding level reducing hours to 2 hours per client per week from support staff in line with

				number of units	other visiting support
YOUNG SINGLE HOMELESS WITH SUPPORT NEEDS	Accommodation based short term visiting support for young single homeless with support needs	Forum Housing Association	C	To retain 34% of current contract value. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours but retaining number of units	4 services merged resulting in more cost effective and efficient service Direct day time access to service with night time security/on call service.
	Hostel for young single homeless with support needs	Forum Housing Association	C	Remodel current 24hr direct access service to deliver day time support only and a reduced night time provision	4 services merged resulting in more cost effective and efficient service Direct day time access to service with night time security/on call service.
COMMUNITY ALARMS	Community Alarm for older people with support needs	Sefton Careline Anchor Trust Arena Housing Association English Churches Housing Group Hanover Housing Association Pierhead Housing Association	X X X X X	To retain 91% of current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying hourly rates and retaining number of units	Procure same service at reduced level of funding
	Community Warden for older people	Sefton Careline	X	To retain 20% of current	Procure same service at reduced

	with support needs			contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying support hours, hourly rates and capacity	level of funding and capacity
	Generic Telecare service	Sefton Careline	X	To retain 90% of current contract values. Savings to be achieved by varying hourly rates and retaining number of units	Procure same service at reduced level of funding
<p>* Proximity to Statutory Duties – Key A – Supporting or very close proximity to statutory duties B – Not close but some proximity to statutory duties C – Distant or no proximity to statutory duties X – No proximity to statutory duties</p>					