

HOUSING SUPPORT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Context

The Devon Housing Support Strategic Partnership is the officer group accountable to the Joint Commissioning Body and responsible for overseeing the planning of supported housing accommodation and support services for vulnerable people across Devon to promote their quality of life, well being and independence, in accordance with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister guidelines.

Outcomes

The aim of the Partnership is:

- to develop a common understanding of the needs of the population
- to provide improved arrangements for a whole system approach to joint planning, commissioning, monitoring and review of housing support services
- to improve arrangements for managing how well services are arranged and provided across Devon County Council
- to improve arrangements for sharing information

Terms and references

The Devon Housing Support Strategic Partnership will:

- co-ordinate the development of policies relating to supported housing accommodation and support services for all vulnerable people in Devon, including traditionally 'hard to reach' groups
- recommend to the Joint Commissioning Body a five year-strategy that meets government requirements under the Supporting People Programme and feeds into associated housing, health, social care and other partnership strategies to achieve greater simplification and unity
- co-ordinate the development of a consistent format for collating and analysing needs
- steer the planning of the Supporting People Service Review Programme to ensure reviews are meaningful and fitted into the delivery of the strategy (and Best Value Review Action Plans)
- assist in the development of county-wide quality standards that cut across accommodation and support issues
- provide a forum for barriers between agencies to be discussed and recommendations for removal made
- understand the impact of emerging government policies across the partnership agencies and identify future actions / changes that are likely to arise.

Whilst the strategic Partnership will not exercise authority over the agencies which are its members, it will be influential in driving forward the supported housing and support agenda in Devon.

Principles

- members respect each other's perspectives and responsibilities and work in a co-operative way
- the Partnership works within an equal opportunity framework
- the Partnership recognises the real contribution that providers, service users and their carers can make to the Partnership and ensures effective mechanisms are in place to allow this to happen (recognising the wide range of vulnerable client groups covered by the Partnership)

Membership

Membership will involve:

- senior officer representative from each District Council
- senior officer representative from the Older Person Strategic Partnership Board
- senior officer representative from the Children and Young Person Strategic Partnership Board
- senior officer representative from the Learning Disability Partnership Board
- senior officer representative from the Mental Health Partnership Board/LIT
- senior officer representative for people with Physical Disabilities
- senior officer representative from Devon and Cornwall Probation Services
- representative from the Devon Drug Action Team
- representative from the Devon Community Safety / Domestic Violence Networks
- Devon SP Co-ordinator and Deputy SP Co-ordinator
- senior officer representative from Social Services Strategic and Corporate Services

The Partnership membership will seek to actively involve service user and provider representatives as new networks evolve across Devon.

Membership will be by nomination from the relevant organisations / networks / partnerships and will be subject to on-going review. Each organisation / network / partnership is responsible for ensuring they are represented.

Members will be expected to inform their organisation / network / partnership about the work of the Housing Support Strategic Partnership and consult them on key issues and recommendation.

The chair will be on a rota basis as agreed by members.

Members should:

- be aware of national and local issues concerning housing support services
- be able to influence change in their organisations / networks / strategic partnerships around housing support issues
- be able to input into recommendations to JCB on behalf of their organisations/ networks / partnerships when required

- commit to being a member of the Housing Support Strategic Partnership.

Connections with other groups

The Devon Housing Support Strategic Partnership operates within the overall framework provided by the Devon Wide Strategic Partnership, Local Strategic Partnership and the Devon Supporting People Joint Commissioning Body.

There are also links with other Strategic Partnerships, the Devon Strategic Housing Group, Devon wide networks and the developing Third Age Services