
REPORT TO: JOINT COMMISSIONING BODY

REPORT FROM: DEVON SUPPORTING PEOPLE TEAM

DATE: 14th SEPTEMBER 2009

REVISING THE JCB PARTERSHIP AGREEMENT AND SUPPORTING PEOPLE
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Commissioning Body (JCB) to:

1. Agree the suggested process for redrafting the JCB Partnership agreement.
2. Agree the diagram at Appendix one as the current Devon Supporting People Governance arrangements, pending ratification of any new Partnership agreement and subsequent terms of reference for any group/s delivering these arrangements
3. Note the proposed revision of the Housing Support Strategic Partnership terms of reference, at Appendix 2 to this report.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In 2001 central government established a national Supporting People grant. The ring fenced was subject to grant conditions that specified how the grant should be utilised and governed. Devon's Supporting People Joint Commissioning Body Partnership Agreement 2005 -2008 is a local statement of compliance to these grants conditions. Since 2005, aside from some minor amendments, the partnership agreement has successfully described the programme's governance arrangements, and as a result has been an essential reference tool for commissioners and providers.
- 1.2 In a letter dated 26 November 2008, Mark Carroll (Director, Housing Care and Support Communities and Local Government) wrote to lead officers to say that as of this date, the Supporting People programme grant would be paid under section 31 as a un-ring fenced named grant, and from 2010/11 it would be paid as part of the Area Based Grant.
- 1.3 In response to these changing circumstances Devon JCB approved a local Supporting People finance strategy at its 15th December 2008 meeting, (Report JCB/08/169). The finance strategy was drafted to help re-establish the principles by which Devon County Council could continue to share accountability for the programme's performance and finances.
- 1.4 In response to these changing circumstances and other public sector challenges generally, on September 1st 2009 the Housing Support Strategic Partnership

(HSSP) reviewed its purpose and terms of reference. The HSSP wishes to contribute the outcome of this review into the re-drafting of any revised JCB Partnership agreement.

2. ISSUES

2.1 The Devon Supporting People Partnership Agreement 2005 - 2008 was designed around a ring fenced grant. Furthermore, the agreement technically expired at the end of 2008, but was left un-revised due to pending Local Government Reorganisation.

2.2 In the future context of unusually high pressures upon public finances, the revised partnership agreement will need to identify and prioritise the statutory obligations of partners. The local Authority performance framework, and the Comprehensive Area Assessment key lines of Enquiry may provide a ready made basis for a cross cutting agreement of these duties, as might the LAA.

2.3 In the future context of unusually high pressures upon public finances, the revised partnership agreement will need to clearly describe how financial risks will be dealt with locally, and as a consequence, what the decision making arrangements are.

2.4 Full JCB meetings are not suitable for developing and drafting a new partnership agreement. Alternative arrangements and partner representation therefore needs agreeing.

3. PROPOSALS

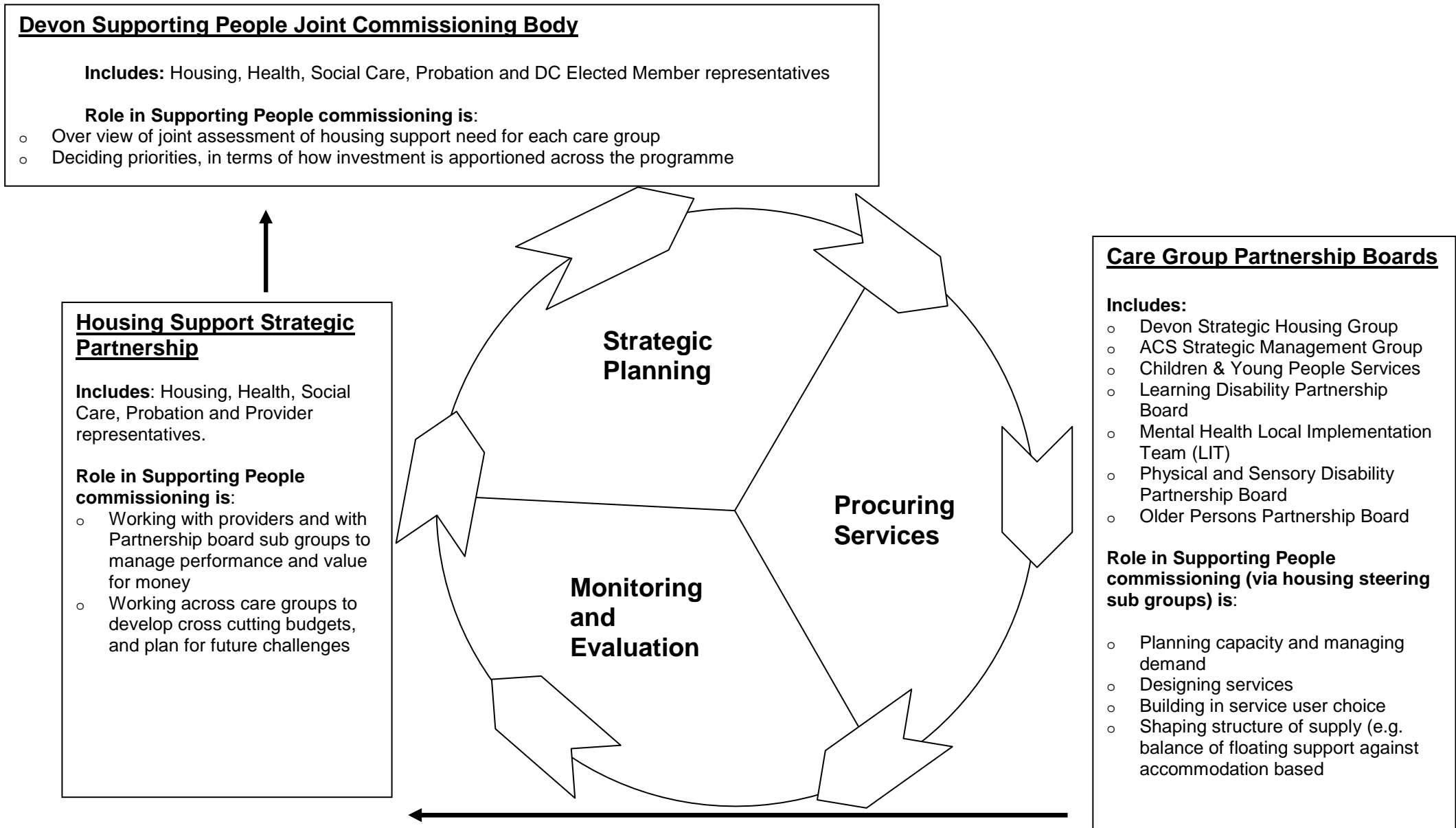
3.1 A sub-group of the JCB will meet for a half day session, and the basis of a revised partnership agreement drafted. The draft to be put forward as an agenda item at the full December JCB meeting. The sub - group to incorporate the suggested revision of the HSSP terms of reference into any new Partnership Agreement.

3.2 The sub-group developing the agreement to be made up of one representative only from each of the key organisations making up the programme:

- Devon Strategic Housing Group (one representative)
- Devon Primary Care Trust (one representative)
- Devon County Council (one representative)
- Probation (one representative)

3.3 Until such time as any revised partnership agreement becomes agreed by the JCB, the current commissioning and governance arrangements (as described at appendix one) will continue.

Devon Supporting People Commissioning & Governance arrangements - Appendix One to JCB-09-176



HOUSING SUPPORT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REVISED DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE SEPTEMBER 2009

Context

The Devon Housing Support Strategic Partnership is the officer group accountable to the Joint Commissioning Body and responsible for balancing the needs of all client groups across the programme.

Outcomes

The aim of the Partnership is:

- to assist partners to deliver their statutory duties
- to develop a common understanding of the housing related needs of the population
- to provide specialist knowledge and advice to the JCB and Care Group Partnership Boards.
- to provide a whole system approach to joint planning, commissioning, monitoring and review of housing related support services
- to ensure consistency in quality, performance and value for money in services across the County
- to ensure consistency in access to housing related support across the County

Terms and references

The Devon Housing Support Strategic Partnership will:

- Oversee the work of the Partnership Board Housing Steering Groups
- co-ordinate the development of policies and commissioning plans relating to supported housing accommodation and housing related support services for all vulnerable people in Devon, including traditionally 'hard to reach' groups
- Work across care groups to develop cross cutting budgets, and plan for future challenges
- Working with providers and with Partnership board sub groups to manage performance and value for money
- co-ordinate the development of a consistent format for collating and analysing needs

Principles

- the Partnership works within an equality and diversity 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.

Membership

Membership will involve:

Membership will follow discussion from the JCB re-draft of the Partnership Agreement

The challenges to membership include:

- The purpose of the group - what skills, roles are required.
- The possible conflict between special interests/ provider interests, and programme wide strategic commissioning interests

Accountability

The Devon Housing Support Strategic Partnership (HSSP) is accountable to the commissioning body appointed by the Devon Strategic Partnership (presently the JCB).