

## **PART THREE - STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

The Supporting People Programme in Devon is managed by a partnership comprising the eight District Authorities, the County Council, Probation services and the six Primary Care Trusts. During 2004, the Partnership has reviewed and agreed a new joint commissioning structure for Supporting People which is embedded within the wider Local Strategic Partnership community planning structure and integrates the strategic development and review of housing-related support services into existing planning mechanisms (see Annexe Three).

Locally, Strategic Development and Planning is ongoing and now takes place in two ways:

- firstly at a District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) level through emerging 'Housing Support sub-groups' of the LSPs which consider local needs and priorities.
- Secondly through client-specific Partnership Boards which consider county-wide client-specific needs and priorities (providing an overview and strategic steer).

In addition, consideration is also given to the strategic development and planning of services that meet a regional and sub-regional demand for specialist support services. A Cross Authority Statement has been produced and can be found in Annexe Four to the Strategy. A Regional Housing Support Statement, commissioned by the Regional Housing Body to support the new Regional Housing Strategy has recently been published, but it has not been possible to assess its implications locally for inclusion in this Strategy. Updates to the Strategy and future Annual Plans will highlight any action required locally once the Cross Authority Group has agreed its action plan as outlined in the Cross Authority Statement.

The old Core Strategy Development Group has been replaced by a new **Housing Support Strategic Partnership (HSSP)**. It has a stronger strategic planning role, with membership comprising senior officers from the eight District Housing Authorities, the Mental Health Partnership Trust, the Children's Trust, the Learning Disability Partnership Trust, Social Services Adult Services Management Board, Devon & Cornwall Probation Services and a PCT representative. Provider representatives do not sit on the HSSP at the moment, but this is under review following a recent independent Supporting People 'Health Check' of our performance to date in administering the Programme.

The HSSP has helped the Supporting People Team to develop the Strategy. It has overseen its development by adopting a project management approach to its role; forming five **Stakeholder Project Groups**: Older People Sectorial Project Group, Homelessness Sectorial Project Group, Learning Disabled Sectorial Project Group, Mental Health Sectorial Project Group and a provider led Value for Money Project Group. Membership of the Stakeholder Project Groups is varied, but includes key HSSP members, client-specific stakeholder representatives, and in some instances providers and service users.

The Stakeholder Project Groups have developed strategic vision statements for housing-related support services, together with key priorities for remodelling, commissioning or decommissioning current and new housing support services during the five year Strategy, that:

- complement and deliver key priorities contained within linked strategies across Devon and its neighbouring administering authorities
- are based upon a detailed needs and supply gap analysis
- are supported by additional qualitative research undertaken in a variety of ways including provider focus groups (sheltered housing, domestic violence) and discussion with specialist stakeholders and projects such as the South West Integration Project (Swing) for short term and prolific offenders.
- are supported by user and provider consultation.

Service User Consultation takes place through the Older People 'senior voice' Network, the Devon Youth Forum, the Learning Disability 'Service User Representative Forum (SURF), etc. We will continue to commission specialist service user consultation for hard-to-reach groups, such as the recent Homelessness user consultation exercise undertaken by Shelter.

Providers have been involved in developing the strategy through involvement in sectorial service reviews, and client specific workshops (young people, older people, domestic violence, learning disability, offenders). The Devon Supporting People partnership has supported providers to form three 'specialist' provider forums that are run by the providers themselves independently of the Supporting People team. SITRA, funded by the administering authority, has helped to create a 'Small Provider Forum', a 'RSL & Voluntary Sector Provider Forum' and a 'Sheltered Housing Provider Forum'. Agendas and issues are set by the providers themselves, with Supporting People team members attending by invite only.

The HSSP has considered and steered the development of these strategic priorities at its meetings in accordance with the overarching remit of the **Devon Joint Commissioning Body**, and has made recommendations for decision and approval to this Body. The Joint Commissioning Body has been meeting since December 2001 and its membership comprises the Chief Executive (or their nominated representative) and an Elected / Board Member for each statutory partner agency across Devon.

A formal period of consultation of the draft Strategy took place over January and February 2005, resulting in over 20 responses, including each of the provider forums. All respondents views were considered and the draft Strategy amended as appropriate to reflect the comments received.

Formal Approval of the Strategy has been via the Executive / Committee of each Local Authority in the County, the Boards of the Primary Care Trusts and the Devon and Cornwall Probation Service.