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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b> 16
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2002</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<b>OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>DAWN DAWSON ( Ext. 5797)</b>	<b>DOC</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SUPPORTING PEOPLE REGIME</b>	<b>REF:</b> s:\cent_serv\committee reports\community services\29 aug 2002\supportingpeopleregime.doc
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: CS 01</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Members note progress in relation to the implementation of the Supporting People Regime.
- 1.2 That a seminar is arranged for Members to explore the implications for South Derbyshire of Supporting People in more detail

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To bring Members up to date in relation to the progress of the Supporting People Regime, following Housing and Environment Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2001
- 2.2 To advise Members of future actions yet to be addressed.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 At Housing and Environment Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2001, Members approved a County wide collaborative approach to pooling and using the combined Supporting People implementation grants.
- 3.2 A Core Strategy Group (CSG) has been established, comprising all the Derbyshire districts, and has met on average once per month, to discuss the strategic actions required to implement the Supporting People Regime.

- 3.3 The Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York was commissioned to undertake research to identify the housing and support needs of vulnerable persons. This research has been considered by the Core Strategy Group, and further work within local authority areas has been undertaken as the Group felt there was little analysis of the needs within each area.
- 3.4 Currently, work is being carried out at County level, to set the contracts that will be issued to each support provider. The support providers are deemed as any organisation delivering a support service. South Derbyshire District Council is a support provider in terms of its Sheltered Housing and Community Alarm services. These contracts must be in place by March 2003 in order that the monies for the service can be paid. The contracts will need to be reviewed by 2008, with the review taking account of Best Value principles in terms of cost effectiveness and the appropriateness of the service provided, and the challenge element of whether the service can be better delivered by another provider. The challenge that will face the Sheltered Housing Service, within South Derbyshire, will be ensuring that the service and accommodation remain attractive to prospective tenants.
- 3.5 Further decisions by Members will be required in terms of any local subsidy policy to be set. The charging regime refers to the Commissioning Body's decision on whether or not tenants in receipt of support services will be charged. The likely outcome is that this Body will adopt a charging regime, as the alternative is to subsidise all those who do not receive Housing Benefit, as the Supporting People Grant will be paid by the ODPM net of an assumed level of charging income, and therefore income lost by not charging for services must be borne by the local Commissioning Body partners (Local Authorities, Probation, Health etc) The local subsidy policy is a variation on the Charging Regime and determines whether or not the local authority will subsidise the charges for any tenant not entitled to Housing Benefit. The current real charge for the support element of the Sheltered Housing Service is £8.60 (3.7 refers), and this will be the weekly subsidy per non-qualifying tenant, in perpetuity, or for a length of time determined by Members, required from the General Fund.
- 3.6 It is anticipated that at October's Committee, Members will be asked to consider and endorse the countywide strategy for the Supporting people Regime. The Strategy will encompass the objectives of each local authority as defined in various strategies, such as the Housing Strategy, Corporate Plans etc. The purpose of the Strategy will be to detail the identified needs and gaps in need across Derbyshire, and the support schemes that are both in place and proposed, to deliver this support.

### **South Derbyshire**

- 3.7 The disaggregation of support costs for the Sheltered Housing and Community Alarm service has been completed. This disaggregation relates to the previous Warden Service, with the final support cost as financed through the rent pool, identified as £521,517. This gives a support cost of £8.60 per sheltered housing tenant per week. Members are asked to bear in mind that £8.60 is only the cost for the support element of the service.

The management element equates to £3.63 giving a total service cost of £12.23 per sheltered housing tenant per week, as opposed to the current charge of £6.50 per week.

- 3.8 The identified rent pool amount of £521,517, will be paid as a 'windfall' amount to the authority, i.e. it will be an additional source of funding for one year only. The money is ring fenced for certain activities around service provision and improvement. Draft guidance issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister requires Council's to consider using a proportion of this money to subsidise the implementation of the service charges for current tenants only, for the duration of their tenancy, or, progressively introduce a charge where the tenant agrees to it. In this way, those who are not entitled to Transitional Housing Benefit will not see a dramatic increase in their weekly charges. A number of options are currently being prepared, and it is anticipated that these will be brought for consideration to Community Services Committee in September. Scheme specific charges and budgets will be formulated in order to clarify the exact cost per individual scheme.
- 3.9 In relation to the housing and support needs of vulnerable persons within South Derbyshire, a number of schemes are already in place. For example:-
- New Community Warden Service, providing floating support to the elderly.
  - Foyer Scheme with Trident Housing providing housing and life skills to young persons.
  - Mental Health Support Scheme with Walbrook Housing Association, providing housing and support to those with learning disabilities.
- 3.10 There are a number of pipeline schemes also anticipated. Pipeline schemes are those which are anticipated to come into effect after April 2003. An example of such a scheme is the provision for the housing and support of women and their children fleeing domestic violence. Other schemes still in formulation are floating support for the homeless, persons on probation and those with drug and alcohol issues.
- 3.11 The presentation of the Countywide strategy will further detail the position of South Derbyshire within the County provision.
- 3.12 In conclusion, Members will receive further reports in the autumn which will require decisions in relation to the 'windfall' spend and the Subsidy Policy for new tenants.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report but Members should note that there may be significant financial implications associated with the introduction of Supporting People. These will be explored in detail at the proposed member seminar.

## **5.0 Community Implications**

- 5.1 The Supporting People Regime is tied into the Housing Strategy in relation to the provision of services that meet the needs of the community.