



STRATEGIC REVIEW – LATEST NEWS Edition 3 September 2011

Welcome to the third of our updates on the Strategic Review of the Supporting People programme.

I would like to start by thanking all service providers, service users and our stakeholders for their input into the strategic review to date. You will be aware by now that the next round of Business Development Groups have been postponed. We will advise you of the new dates very shortly.

In the meantime just a recap in terms of where we are at the moment:

Through the BDGs in August and September providers were asked the following questions:-

“If you had to prioritise five out of all the listed options, which five would you choose, and why?” “Are there any other options you would like to be considered as part of the Strategic Review?” in your view what would be the advantages/disadvantages and impacts of taking those decisions forward.

The proposals put forward are as follows:

DISABILITIES BDG:

1. 50% reduction in refugee services.
2. Decommissioning of some SPAs.
3. Single Service provisions are either protected from reductions or take a lesser reduction (Gypsies & Travellers, Substance Misuse).
4. No further cuts to the Older People sector as this sector has not had the opportunity to expand via the open market; contracts were negotiated on existing historic values; community alarm rates have been capped.
5. Service Reconfiguration, with the caveat that the Eligibility Criteria is looked at and possibly relaxed.

OLDER PEOPLE BDG:

1. No further cuts to the Older People sector as this sector has not had the opportunity to expand via the open market; contracts were negotiated on existing historic values; community alarm rates have been capped.
2. Service Users pay towards costs.
3. Decommissioning of some/all SPAs. However, as there is no Older Persons SPA the group felt they would need further information.
4. Targeting of under-utilised services.

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5. Remodelling of SPAs.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION BDG:

1. Targeting of under-utilised services.
2. Service Reconfiguration.
3. Decommissioning of some/amalgamation/restructure of SPAs.
4. 50% reduction in refugee services – phased transition.
5. Across the board cuts.

The use of volunteers was also proposed. Stakeholder feedback has also strongly supported lesser reductions to services and client groups which impact upon statutory homelessness duty, in particular domestic violence refuges, young people and Homeless Families.

The equality impact information continues to be populated in the template attached with this newsletter and I would ask that service providers continue to feed into this as it remains a live document. If you have any points/comments that you would like to be added to the template please send them in to the email address below.

This information will at a later stage be transferred into the new Equality Analysis template which is due to be released by the Corporate Equalities team very shortly.

Next Steps

Over the last couple of weeks we have been busy working on the cost modelling for all of the proposals listed above so that we can ensure that we will be able to achieve the required saving of £12.8 million by 2013/14. Throughout the consultations, we have explained that the options being proposed may not achieve all of the required reductions. Therefore, an element of across the board reductions may also need to be considered by the Supporting People Project Board.

Once we have confirmation of the draft approach to budget reductions from Project Board, we will communicate this through the BDG meetings.

At the last round of meetings we asked each BDG (or sector) to nominate a Sector Champion. The role of the sector champion is to lead the call for evidence from the service providers once the draft approach has been communicated. This information will inform the on-going Equality Analysis as part of the Strategic Review.

The Supporting People team will provide the Sector Champion Leads with a template to capture the information. The SP team would urge all organisations to participate in the call for evidence.

Citizens Panel members will formulate a final questionnaire for service users asking them for their views, comments and any concerns in relation to the draft proposals being considered by Project Board. Again, this information will feed into the overall Equality Analysis.

The Service User questionnaire will follow the same format as last time. We will only be looking for **one** return from each organisation which collates and summarises the

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findings of the consultations that they have undertaken with their service user communities (advocates and carers where appropriate).

Notice to Review the Contract

As mentioned at previous BDGs, we have been advised by our Legal Team that we should issue a Notice to review your contract. The purpose of the Notice is to ensure that due process is being following with regard to your SP contract. This will not indicate that any decision has been made in relation to your contract, but gives notice that we give you thirty days notice to review the contract price and capacity of your contract.

If you wish to add comment to any of the issues contained in this update, or have further suggestions or initiatives please communicate them to me directly at: kalvinder.kohli@birmingham.gov.uk