Supporting People Homelessness Group
Hawtin Park - Health and Safety Room
19th September 10pm – 12pm

Present

Kate Elmer – Housing Strategy and Review Manager
Janet Sandercock – Housing Advice Manager
Kevin Fortey – Housing Enabling Officer
Beverly Harrison – Planning Manager Children’s Services
Malcolm Topping – Supporting People Manager
Steve Roberts – Housing Allocations and Advice Manager
Chris Edmunds – LHB Development Officer
Clare Lane - Children and Young People's Framework Officer (Lead on Young People 11-25)

Apologises

St Janine Edwards – Leaving Care Manager

1. Introduction

MT gave brief introduction of the purpose of establishing the sub group, which would encompass all Supporting People issues relating to homeless and young person services and make recommendations to the Adult Joint Strategic Planning Group (AJSPG). The group would meet bi monthly.

The establishment of the group had been agreed by the AJSPG and it was the intention that this meeting should focus on identifying priorities for inclusion in the forthcoming Supporting People Operational Plan 2008/2009. (See report appendix A)

Welsh Assembly Government had confirmed that from April 2008 a phased redistribution of Supporting People funding would commence. The amount and period of phasing had not been agreed, however, it was anticipated that Caerphilly would significantly benefit from the redistribution over forthcoming years.

Homeless and Young Person projects are principally funded via Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPRG), analysis of expenditure of SPRG in eleven South Wales authorities reveal that Caerphilly has the lowest percentage of SPRG expenditure of all these authorities at 36% compared to Cardiff with the highest at 73%.

In addition, the city authorities would loose through the redistribution process and there was an expectation from both WAG and these authorities that redistributed funding would be utilised on SPRG projects to alleviate the increasing homeless pressure on urban areas.

Consultation exercises undertaken annually had identified a number of gaps in need for homeless and young people services in Caerphilly. Previous plans contained details of projects that could be developed to meet these needs should funding become available.

Identifying priorities

Each of the proposals outlined in the attached report (Appendix A) was discussed and their relative merits discussed and appraised. Priority has initially been given to three projects

Priority 1. Recommend establishment of Supported accommodation for families (12 units) utilising Social Housing Grant (SHG). Revenue cost will be approximately £200,000 and if SHG bid successful, scheme could commence operation in 2010.

The above option would release the 8 units at the existing hostel accommodation to be utilised for single persons.
**Priority 2.** *Supported Lodgings Scheme (Leaving Care)* – Agreed that recommendation should be made to establish a budget for 2008/2009 of approx £20,000 to cover contributions towards this scheme, also, the option of extension of the scheme to cover young vulnerable people and possibly single mothers should be explored.

**Priority 3** *Young persons floating support* – Recommendation to retender existing floating support scheme, increase units of support and alter specification to include out of hours and weekend cover.

Other proposals would be re-examined in light of clarification of the extent of future funding that would be available.

It was agreed that MT would draft a report for presentation to the AJSPG outlining the group’s recommendations.
## Supporting People Operational Plan 2008/2009 – Homeless and Young Person Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Supportive Accommodation – Homelessness</th>
<th>Pro’s</th>
<th>Con’s</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Supported Lodging Scheme – Leaving Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Young Persons Floating Support</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Single Young Mothers scheme</td>
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### Supported Accommodation – Homelessness

Caerphilly has only eight units of hostel accommodation, a need to develop more hostel accommodation has been identified in the Homeless action plan. It is proposed that a Social Housing Grant bid should be submitted to Welsh Assembly Government for the development of a 12 unit family hostel to be located in Caerphilly.

- High level supportive evidence
- Will reduce need for B and B and temporary accommodation
- Fits in with Homeless Action Plan and Regional commitments
- Possible site identified

- Not popular with community – deliverability issue
- No certainty of SHG bid acceptance by WAG
- Need to tender for provider

SHG bid would need to be made ASAP – commitment revenue would be probably be 2010/2011

### Supported Lodging Scheme – Leaving Care

A Supported Lodging officer has been employed by the local authority to develop the option of young people residing with families as an alternative to the existing options of supported living and floating support.

- Supported accommodation officer employed by Leaving Care
- Relatively inexpensive
- No need to tender
- Links to reducing out of county placements

- Finding suitable lodgings
- Restricted to leaving care
- Level of financial support not agreed

Commitment for 2008/2009 would be limited by number of placements

### Young Persons Floating Support

Caerphilly currently only has 15 units of floating support for young people, the high demand for this service indicates the need to expand the floating support service to cover all children identified as being in need of support by homelessness, leaving care and YOT.

- Experienced existing provider
- High level supportive evidence
- Simple to commission
- Extend spec to evenings and weekends

- Need to tender

Option may be to bring existing tender to end and re-tender the service –

### Single Young Mothers scheme

Tenancy breakdown by young mothers has

- High number of teenage

- Ad hoc supportive

Uncertainty on usage of
been identified by both the local authorities and Registered Social Landlords as presenting a problem within Caerphilly where there is a high proportion of single parent families. It is proposed to establish a small four person scheme that will allow young mothers to develop the skills to maintain a tenancy prior to them being offered either a secure or assured tenancy. The option of reconfiguring existing accommodation or seeking Social Housing Grant to develop the project will need to be explored.

### Pregnancies
- Possible property identified
- Possibility of negotiating with existing provider
- Links in young mums project - education

### Vulnerable Families – Floating Support
All three existing floating support providers report extensive waiting list for their support services. The extension of these services will need to be considered as part of an overall commissioning policy, which meets the requirements of Caerphilly corporate procurement procedures.

- Waiting list for existing floating support services
- Existing local providers
- Floating support relatively inexpensive and quick to commission

### Women’s Aid - Floating Support
Caerphilly Women’s Aid confirms continuing waiting list for floating support services, the successful bid for homelessness grant will assist on the development of a preventative outreach service, which will hopefully help to reduce pressure on the floating support service.

- Waiting lists experienced
- Existing service in place

### Ex Offender scheme
Caerphilly as no dedicated accommodation based or floating support service specifically for ex offenders. The need to provide support for this group is clear, the service specification and deliverability issues for such a scheme(s) remain to be defined.

- High level of supportive evidence
- No existing county services

### Evidence
- No firm figures
- Possible community opposition
- Will teenagers accept allocation to such a project
- May need to make SHG bid

### Such a scheme

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### Vulnerable Families – Floating Support

| Waiting list for existing floating support services | Possible need to tender | High level of existing support through existing 3 providers | Await results of development of outreach service |

### Women’s Aid - Floating Support

| Waiting lists experienced | Existing service in place | Recent Homeless grant for outreach service | New services being developed in Blaenau Gwent | Possible need to tender |

### Ex Offender scheme

| High level of supportive evidence | Deliverability issues | No firm proposal for model of support | Need to bid for SHG |

### Issue of support for schedule 1 offenders – Presentation from ARMS project for future meeting |
| **Prolific Offender – Floating Support (Gwent)** | • High on probation agenda  
• Caerphilly currently makes contribution | • Still in pilot stage | Other Gwent authorities would be making contribution in 2008/2009 – await outcome of pilot |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Oak plus - Shelter** | • Linkage of advice with support  
• External funding still in place 2008/2009 | • Still in pilot stage | Await outcome of pilot and procurement implications |
| **VIP - Shelter** | • Positive assessment report on pilot project | • Pilot scheme discontinued |  |
APPENDIX A

AGENDA ITEM NO.

HSCWB Sub Group – Homeless and Young People

SUBJECT: Summary of new/remodelled projects identified in Caerphilly Supporting People Operational Plan 2008/2009 relating to Homeless and Young Peoples support projects

REPORT BY: Malcolm Topping – Supporting People Project Manager

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present a summary of new/remodelled projects identified in the Supporting People Operational Plan 2008/2009 to the HSCWB Sub Group – Homeless and Young People.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The Supporting People programme was introduced throughout the UK in April 2003. The aim of the programme is to enable people to remain in more independent living situations, avoiding institutional care such as hospitals or, at the extreme, prison or a life on the streets. Equally it aims to help people in institutional care to move to a more independent and stable home in the community.

2.2 The definition of ‘accommodation related support’ revolves around the provision of advice and guidance that allows individuals to maintain or gain greater independence. It can be seen, as a complimentary service to the provision of ‘care’, which concentrates on individuals physical needs to maintain independence.

2.3 Each year, local authorities are expected to submit a Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) to Welsh Assembly Government. The plan provides information on current supply of accommodation-related support within the Caerphilly county borough and also identifies future support needs for each vulnerable group. The plan will identify the need for new services to meet identified gaps in needs or the requirement to re-model existing services to cope with changing needs. It is anticipated that at some future date the SPOP will be incorporated within the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) as part of the WAG plan rationalisation agenda.

2.4 The Adult Joint Strategic Planning Group (AJSPG) determines the future strategic direction of the supporting people programme, however, it is envisaged that the recommendations from the client oriented sub groups (See appendix A) will inform their decisions in respect of identifying priorities for future Supporting People funding resources. Previous plans were more comprehensive in terms of setting the programme in context and providing background information on Caerphilly and evidencing general information on levels of deprivation. This year’s plan contains more evidence relating to identified gaps in support needs. Copies of the four previous plans are available on the Caerphilly Supporting People website. 
www.caerphilly.gov.uk/supportingpeople

2.5 Due to the uncertainty in the funding position of Supporting People, no priorities have been identified in respect of support schemes in previous plans, however, there are indications
that over the next few years there will be an increase in funding to both Caerphilly and South East Wales. A list of new and remodelled schemes proposed for inclusion in the 2008/2009 Supporting People Operational Plan are shown in appendix B

3. **LINKS TO STRATEGY**

3.1 The Supporting People Operational Plan will link to the following Strategic Plans.

* Community Plan
  * Local Housing Strategy including the Homeless Strategy
  * Community Safety Strategy
  * Children’s Joint Services Plan and MAP
* Health Social Care and Well Being Strategy

4. **THE REPORT**

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<th>exhaustive)</th>
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4.1 Welsh Assembly Government has placed a responsibility on local authorities to produce an annual Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) that meets the following requirements:

‘To establish a Plan that sets out the priorities for Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPRG) and evidences unmet need for Supporting People Grant (SPG) using up to date information on demographic issues and levels of need.’

‘To link this Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) to the aims and objectives for supported accommodation set out in the five year Homelessness Strategy’

4.2 The original purpose of the SPOP was to meet the above requirements and also act as a bidding document for any additional funding that would be provided through Welsh Assembly Government. The plan would indicate the overall strategic objectives of the Supporting People Planning Group and would contain a separate section with objectives for each distinct vulnerable group.

4.3 Whilst four plans have been submitted to Welsh Assembly Government, the programme has suffered from a series of budget freezes and cuts, however, it is envisaged that Caerphilly’s annual grant allocation will increase from April 2008 due to the introduction of a needs based formula by Welsh Assembly Government for the future allocation of supporting people funding.

4.4 The following schemes have been identified within the Homelessness, YOT and Young Peoples Partnership action plans as needing to be developed to meet the support needs of people with homeless issues. Specifications for many of the scheme outlined below are in the early stages of development and the funding as indicated in Appendix B is only indicative at this point and would be affected by both a procurement process and Welsh Assembly Government SPRG tariff levels.

**Supported Accommodation – Homelessness**

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A Supported Lodging officer has been employed by the local authority to develop the option of young people residing with families as an alternative to the existing options of supported living and floating support.

**Young Persons Floating Support**

Caerphilly currently only has 15 units of floating support for young people, the high demand for this service indicates the need to expand the floating support service to cover all children identified as being in need of support by homelessness, leaving care and YOT.

**Single Young Mothers scheme**

Tenancy breakdown by young mothers has been identified by both the local authorities and Registered Social Landlords as presenting a problem within Caerphilly where there is an high proportion of single parent families. It is proposed to establish a small four person scheme that will allow young mothers to develop the skills to maintain a tenancy prior to them being offered either a secure or assured tenancy. The option of reconfiguring existing accommodation or seeking Social Housing Grant to develop the project will need to be explored.

**Vulnerable Families – Floating Support**

All three existing floating support providers report extensive waiting list for their support services. The extension of these services will need to be considered as part of an overall commissioning policy which meets the requirements of Caerphilly corporate procurement procedures.

**Women’s Aid - Floating support**

Caerphilly Women’s Aid confirms continuing waiting list for floating support services, the successful bid for homelessness grant will assist on the development of a preventative outreach service, which will hopefully help to reduce pressure on the floating support service.

**Ex Offender scheme**

Caerphilly as no dedicated accommodation based or floating support service specifically for ex offenders. The need to provide support for this group is clear, the service specification and deliverability issues for such a scheme(s) remain to be defined.

**Prolific Offender – Floating Support (Gwent)**

Caerphilly in cooperation with other Gwent Local Authorities, Gwent Probation, Youth Offending Teams and Trothwy Cyf are developing a floating support service that targets prolific offenders and offers intensive support. Caerphilly currently funds only a single unit on this scheme and needs to consider increasing its financial commitment.

4.5 The importance of linking the SPOP to other strategic documents is recognised and Supporting Peoples is a constituent part and partner in the Health Social Care and Well Being Partnership, and its working groups e.g. Adult Joint Strategic Planning Group. The latest SPOP compliments the strategic objectives identified in both the Heath, Social Care and Well Being Plan and Homelessness Strategy”

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Supporting People Programme is responsible for approximately £6.1 million of supporting people grants within Caerphilly. The budget is to a large extent committed to existing projects. The Supporting People Operational Plan offers the opportunity to identify new/remodelled projects that Caerphilly Adult Joint Strategic Planning Group and it’s sub groups would prioritise should future Supporting People funding become available.
5.2 Initial indications are that Supporting People Grant to Caerphilly will increase in 2008/2009, this follows a decision by WAG to begin a process of redistributing supporting people grants on a needs based formula to be agreed in the Autumn of 2007

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Supporting People Operational Plan remains a useful document in reviewing and restating the strategic objectives of supporting people within Caerphilly CB, and as a document for identifying schemes which would assist in meeting gaps in need identified through the various needs mapping processes being undertaken.

6.2 The pressure on supporting people budgets has inevitably lessened the impact of the plan as a bidding document and supporting people needs to closely examine its existing funding priorities to ensure they meet the current strategic objectives. Initial reviews are being undertaken of all supporting people funded schemes to ensure that they are strategically relevant, provide good quality support and deliver value for money.

6.3 Supporting people will need to ensure that the benefit of the programme is widely understood, in terms of its preventative nature which aims at crisis prevention and reduces the need for vulnerable people being referred to statutory agencies.

6.4 The Local Housing Strategy submitted to WAG in June 2007, included a section on Supporting People and initial indications are that at some point in the future the SPOP will be fully incorporated into the Local Housing Strategy.

6.5 The commencement of the redistribution of supporting people grants in Wales in 2008/2009 could offer the opportunity for Caerphilly to expand aspects of the programme to meet the support needs of vulnerable people within the community

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The following recommendations are made:

- The HSCWB Homeless and Young Person Sub Group note those new/remodelled schemes identified within this report.
- The HSCWB Homeless and Young Person Sub Group may want to recommend prioritising of any future additional funding for a particular project.
- The HSCWB Homeless and Young Person Sub Group note the potential for the increase in Supporting People Grant to Caerphilly in 2008/2009

8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To ensure that Caerphilly County Borough Council fulfils it’s commitments to Welsh Assembly Government with the production of a Supporting People Operational Plan that maximises partnership working

Author: Malcolm Topping – Supporting People Manager
Consultees:

Background Papers:

Final Guidance on The arrangements for the implementation and administration of Supporting People in Wales - Welsh Assembly Government

Appendices:

Appendix A - Flowchart for Governance of Caerphilly Supporting People Programme
APPENDIX A

Flowchart for Governance of Caerphilly Supporting People Programme

HSCWB Partnership

Adult Joint Strategic Planning Group

Young Peoples Partnership

AJSPG – Sub Group
Older People and Physical Disability

AJSPG – Sub Group – Learning Disability

AJSPG – Sub Group – Mental Health

AJSPG – Sub Group – Homelessness (Includes young people and vulnerable families)

Adult and Children Services DMT's

Directorate Management Group

Resources and Performance DMT

Supporting People
## Appendix B

### SPOP SCHEME SUMMARY 2008/2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Funding type</th>
<th>Name of project</th>
<th>Type of project</th>
<th>No of units</th>
<th>Client Group</th>
<th>Estimated Annual Revenue costs</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Providers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPRG</td>
<td>Family Supported Accommodation</td>
<td>24 hour supported accommodation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>192,000</td>
<td>Scheme links to remodelling of existing 8 unit hostel in Newbridge</td>
<td>Local Authority – 24 hr supported accommodation tariff rate</td>
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<td>Supported accommodation</td>
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<td>Young person</td>
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<td>Scheme under development</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
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<td>SPRG</td>
<td>Young Person Floating support scheme</td>
<td>Floating support</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Young person</td>
<td>46,000</td>
<td>Existing floating support service provided by Llamau</td>
<td>TBA – Floating support tariff rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRG</td>
<td>Young single mothers project</td>
<td>Supported accommodation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Potentially homeless</td>
<td>30,000-40,000</td>
<td>Possible location identified in Aberbargoed</td>
<td>TBA – cost dependant on negotiation or tender</td>
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<td>SPRG</td>
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<td>Floating support</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Potentially homeless</td>
<td>40,000-50,000</td>
<td>Three existing providers of this service</td>
<td>TBA – cost dependant on negotiation or tender</td>
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<td>Caerphilly Women’s Aid project</td>
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<td>Caerphilly Women’s Aid – cost dependant on negotiation or tender</td>
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<td>SPRG</td>
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<td>Scheme currently operating on pilot basis</td>
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