



Minutes of the meeting of the Supporting People Commissioning Body held on 20 February 2007 at 9.30am.

Present: K Page (Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services) (Chair), P Wharfe (Director of Housing Services), D Moore (Head of Commissioning and Customer Care), J Hainstock (Senior Joint Commissioning Manager), T Chapman (Supporting People Co-ordinator), H Ricketts (Supporting People Development Officer), I Agbemenyale (Senior Accountant (Supporting People)) and J Sloan (Committee Manager).

Apologies: P Williams (National Probation Service)

SPCB29 INFLATIONARY UPLIFT FOR 2007-08

The Commissioning Body received a report on the award of inflationary uplift to service providers for 2007/08.

The Commissioning Body noted the six options of three financial caps, with and without inflation, and the recommendation that inflation could be awarded on the following basis.

- (a) Rated D against QAF core standards;
- (b) that were being remodelled;
- (c) where future contract value were under negotiation;
- (d) where the hourly rate for support exceeds £25
- (e) those services who had underspent on their budget

The Commissioning Body was informed that it was not a contractual obligation to provide inflationary uplifts to service provider budgets and in light of budget restriction, decided it should not be awarded to services.

The Commissioning Body expressed concern that a lack of transparent and detailed service provider budget reports hindered effective budget management by the Supporting People Team. It was noted that effective management and transparency of the Tenancy Support service resulted in a high value for money service that could be used as a benchmark for other providers.

The Commissioning Body discussed high cost services and suggested that Councillor I Henderson and the Leaders Group

were briefed on possible implications of a review of in-house service provision.

RECOMMENDED –

1. That a report on high cost services be provided at a future meeting.
2. That Councillor I Henderson and the Leaders Group be briefed on possible implications to a review of in-house service provision.
3. That letters be sent to all service providers notifying them that would be no inflationary uplift for 2007/8.

SPCB30

FINANCIAL CAP FOR 2007/08

The Commissioning Body received a report on the options for Financial Capping for 2007/08 and considered six possible options forecasts based on three capping levels.

The Commissioning Body was informed that a financial cap on the cost per supported person was required to prevent overspend on the 2008/09 forecast. It was noted that any overspend would have to be covered by the Council.

The Commissioning Body considered financial capping to be limited and suggested that work be undertaken to investigate alternative budget controls. It was noted that any efficiencies identified could not be implemented in time to affect the 2007/08 budget.

RECOMMENDED –

1. That a budget cap of £400 with no inflation increases be adopted.
2. That a report on individual service capping incorporating the 'Wellbeing Agenda', Learning Disability costs and provider reviews be submitted to a future meeting.

SPCB31

INITIAL PRIORITIES FOR ACHIEVING SAVINGS BY 2008/09

The Commissioning Body discussed possible savings for individual services. It was suggested that an action plan that charted possible actions and timescales be produced.

SPCB32

AWARD OF STEADY STATE CONTRACTS

The Commissioning Body received an update on the Steady State Contract.

The Commissioning Body was informed that service providers needed to be moved from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister interim contracts to Milton Keynes Council steady state contracts

but that three year contracts were not appropriate at this time due to the continuing financial uncertainty.

It was noted that the Supporting People Inspectors favoured a move from interim contracts to steady state contracts.

SPCB33

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Probation service had notified the Chair of the Commissioning Body that funding was available nationally for the development of local services to support ex-offenders.

The Commissioning Body expressed concern at the missed opportunity to apply for Home Office funding as the notification came after the closing date for applications.

SPCB34

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RECOMMENDED –

That the following future meeting dates at 12.30pm be agreed;

- a) Monday 12 March 2007
- b) Monday 23 April 2007

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11.20pm