

AGENDA ITEM 6

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Housing Select

10th September 2015

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| TITLE: | Update on DCC Challenge on proposed changes to Housing Related Support Services Programme |
| EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR; | Councillor Julie McCabe |
| CONTACT OFFICER: | Roger Burnett - Interim Head of Customer Services |
| WARDS INVOLVED: | Non-specific |

Appendices Attached - None

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To update members with the latest information regarding the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Challenge and proposed changes to Housing Related Support (HRS) services programme (formerly known as Supporting People funding [SP]).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That members note the report, and request that officers report back periodically as further information becomes available.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 DCC has now completed a comprehensive consultation in relation to proposals to withdraw supporting people funding for Category Two Sheltered Warden service and the proposal to reduce the funding for the Older Persons Floating Support service with effect from 31st March 2016.
- 3.2 DCC Cabinet have confirmed, following consultation, that they will continue to fund the Category Two Sheltered Warden service until 31/03/2016. However this is to enable DCC time to review both the Category Two Sheltered Warden

service and the Older Persons Floating Support Service alongside one another. A final decision on the future funding of both services was expected to be made at DCC Cabinet initially in June and then in August 2015.

- 3.4 The DCC report that was presented to cabinet in August, made no reference to the future funding of the Category Two Sheltered Warden service. It did however confirm the reduction in funding to the Older Persons Floating Support Service delivered by Carelink team. See paragraph 7.5 of this report for further details.
- 3.5 These changes will impact on the method in which the Council is able to deliver services going forward and officers are currently exploring alternative funding mechanisms. This will also help to inform the Customer Services service review process.
- 3.6 A meeting is due to take place with DCC on 23rd September to discuss the future of the Category Two Sheltered Warden service. The Council will be taking part in that discussion. In addition officers are looking at different funding streams and models. This will need to run alongside the review of sheltered accommodation.
- 3.7 DCC are establishing their own alarm monitoring solution and all DCC funded clients will be transferred in April 2016. There is a potential reduction in income to the Council of circa £62k.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report links to the corporate priority of delivering quality services in partnership with strategic partners in our communities and to meet financial challenges and provide value for money.

5. Options and Analysis

- 5.1 To continue to proactively support residents effected by these changes. In addition ensure that Councillors are kept regularly informed about future service delivery and funding options. **Recommended**
- 5.2 Do not monitor or evaluate the impact of these changes. **Not recommended**

6. Implications

- 6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)
Potential increase in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) should vulnerable clients groups have HRS services withdrawn.
- 6.2 Workforce
There may be a potential impact on the workforce dependant on the services that can be delivered. It may be that we need less of one resource and more

of another, dependant on the service design. Staff would be consulted on any potential impact in line with existing Council policies.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policies.

DCC have carried out an equality impact assessment on the proposals.

6.4 Financial Considerations

High Peak Borough Council's contract for the Older Persons Floating Support is £194,472 and for the Category Two Sheltered Warden service is £128,418.

6.5 Legal

As part of the consultation, it has been stated that contractual negotiations will take place with providers to remodel services. If this proceeds, there are two contracts with High Peak Borough Council and DCC which may be affected.

6.6 Sustainability

None

6.7 Internal and External Consultation

DCC have completed a consultation exercise in relation to these proposals which both residents and providers have had opportunity to influence. Once the outcome of both funding streams are known HPBC may have to carry out a further consultation depending on the service provision offered going forward.

6.8 Risk Assessment

The potential impact of the DCC challenge has been assessed and is regularly reviewed.

7. **Background and Detail**

7.1 DCC, Housing Related Support budget funds the following services that are primarily targeted at older people:

- Older Peoples Sheltered Housing with Warden on Site (Cat 2)
- Older People's Floating Support
- Derbyshire Handy Van Network
- Home Improvement Agency
- Community Alarm Monitoring
- Extra Care

There are proposed changes to the Older Peoples Sheltered Housing with Warden on Site (Cat 2) and the Derbyshire Handy Van Network.

- 7.2 The services that directly affect High Peak are the Older Persons Floating Support & the Older Peoples Sheltered Housing with Warden on Site (Cat 2).
- 7.3 The Older Peoples Floating Support service is delivered to 630 older people across the High Peak. Carelink provide a housing related support service to those who are over 55, to support clients to develop and maintain independence. These services support a variety of needs, including people with dementia. The service is tenure neutral and assists clients to maintain their accommodation and offers preventative support to a wide range of vulnerable clients across the High Peak.
- 7.4 DCC undertook a range of formal consultations between 5th January and 20th March 2015 around proposals to reduce the number of clients supported across Derbyshire.
- 7.5 DCC Cabinet agreed at the August meeting to reduce the funding of floating support for older people. High Peak Borough Council currently support 630 clients and it is anticipated that this number will reduce to 564. The financial impact for the Council is likely to be £20,320. It should also be noted that the Council support an additional 1,200 clients who self fund.
- 7.6 The proposal to withdraw Supporting People Category Two service could potentially effect 188 of our 291 sheltered housing tenants.
- 7.7 DCC undertook a range of consultation from 5th September to 18th November 2014 around proposals to withdraw supporting people funding Category Two Sheltered Warden service with effect from 31st March 2015. The withdrawal of such funding was a cause of concern for many affected residents. As such a member of staff was seconded for a short period to visit each of these and discuss income maximisation to mitigate the potential hardship this might cause.
- 7.8 In light of the consultation with tenants and extensive representation by officers, DCC had confirmed that they would extend the current funding arrangements for the Category Two Sheltered Warden service until 31/03/2016.
- 7.9 The future of this funding was due to be determined by DCC Cabinet initially in June 2015 but this was moved to August 2015. The paper that went to Cabinet in August 2015, made no reference to the future funding of the Category Two Sheltered Warden service. It was agreed at a recent providers meeting, with DCC, that a separate meeting would be convened to consider the future of the Category Two service. The meeting will be chaired by DCC and is planned for 23rd September 2015. However it was made clear, by DCC, that there will be no additional funding available beyond 31/03/2016.
- 7.8 Housing Benefit cannot currently fund the support element of the service charge levied. If this funding is to be withdrawn the 188 tenants who receive Supporting people may need to fund the shortfall independently. For many on minimum income this would be in the region of 10% of their weekly income and therefore unaffordable. This would then impact on the Council's ability to deliver the same service to those 103 residents who currently "self – fund".

- 7.9 As a result officers are currently investigating methods of mitigating the risk of this potential lost income, potential risk to operational services, sheltered housing becoming more difficult to let and a downturn in customer satisfaction. In addition, the methods in which wider support services are delivered is also to be examined to ensure that the Council is maximising the potential income that can be generated through the Housing Benefit system. This will also need to be considered alongside the review of the Council's sheltered housing stock as previously discussed by the Older Persons Accommodation Working Group of this committee.
- 7.10 DCC is establishing its own alarm monitoring solution within Derbyshire. At the present time those clients who are in receipt of supporting people currently have their alarms monitored by ourselves via specialist contractor (Welbeing). DCC are stating that their alarm monitoring solution will be up and running by April 2016. DCC will require all DCC funded clients to be transferred over to their solution. The full impact of this is still uncertain, however it is anticipated that there will be a potential loss of income to the Council of circa £62k per annum. Alternative models and income generation methods are currently being considered in order to mitigate.

Roger Burnett
Interim Head of Customer Services

Web Links and Background Papers

DCC Cabinet Report – “Outcome of consultation on proposed changes to the Older people's housing options service and the older People's sheltered housing with warden (and alarm) Services.

Location

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/2015-02-10%20Housing%20with%20Warden%20and%20Alarm_tcm44-260048.pdf

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Outcome of Consultation on proposed changes to the Housing related support (HRS) programme.

