



## Supporting People East Region Group Newsletter Autumn 2007

### **Accreditation – Regional Review Panels**

A new Regional Accreditation process commenced in June 2006. If an organisation operates in more than one administering authority, one SP team now accredits them on behalf of the region.

A regional review panel meets quarterly to check for consistency of approach across the region and to consider appeals. The next panel is being held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and will be followed by a training/refresher session for officers who administer the process locally. Please can those of you involved in the process send Sarah Nivison information on the areas that you would like additional help and/or guidance on.

### **Benchmarking**

A Value for Money working group have been working on a regional benchmarking exercise. The benchmarked costs are kept by Sarah Nivison. The client groups still to be benchmarked are;

- Learning Difficulties
- Mental Health
- Physical Disabilities Services
- Floating Support Services

### **Cross Authority Work**

A Cross Authority Workshop was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007 to share the main findings of the working groups looking into the housing related support needs of:

- Gypsies and Travellers
- Offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk of offending
- People affected by domestic violence

These groups have now disbanded but a representative will continue to attend regional meetings for each client group and feedback to SPERG.

Each authority agreed to send policy/best practice examples for these groups to be held in a regional library/directory. Please can you send/email any documents you think would be useful to Sarah Nivison.

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### **Housing Corporation Bid Round 2008-11**

SPERG in partnership with the Housing Corporation and the Housing sub-regions has developed a regionally agreed Prioritisation Matrix that is being used for the 2008-11 Investment Bid Round.

The Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme Prospectus has recently been released. Key dates;

4 September 2007	Publication of Prospectus and launch of bid round.
2 November 2007	Close of bidding.
January 2008	Presentation of draft regional programmes to Regional Assemblies
1 April 2008	Commencement of NAHP 2008-11.

The prospectus does not set out a recommended percentage of funding for the Supported Housing theme in the East.

### **Centre of Excellence/VIP projects in the region.**

#### **Developing a Commissioning toolkit**

This is a pilot residential training event which it is hoped will equip Supporting People team members with the skills and practical working tools required to commission, procure and contract services effectively and deliver their strategic commissioning priorities both individually, across the region and with their other strategic commissioning partners.

The 2-day training blocks will be held 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

#### **Contract Rationalisation**

Work on a RCE project endorsed by SPERG is looking at contract rationalisation and the joint contracting of services with Adult Social Care. It is hoped that integrated contracting arrangements with Social Care and PCTs will reduce the level of bureaucracy experienced by providers and ensure that more joined-up planning and service solutions are developed to meet the outcomes specified in the LAA.

## **Supporting People East Region Strategy**

SPERG are in the process of writing a Supporting People East Region Strategy outlining what it sees as the strategic aims of SP in the region. It is hoped that it will increase profile of SP in the region, provide a common framework and approach to capital funding, aid discussion around funding with EERA, EEDA, CLG, identify joint initiatives, highlight the benefits of the programme to partners and the programmes importance in the social exclusion agenda. This document will have an action plan which will inform the future work of SPERG.

The Strategy will be set out using the same Chapters as the National SP Strategy with the addition of number 5.

1. Keeping people that need services at the heart of the programme
2. Enhancing partnership with the Third Sector
3. Delivering in the new local government landscape
4. Increasing efficiency & reducing bureaucracy
5. Investment & Prioritisation

A joint CSIP/SPERG event 'Supporting People- Delivering Health & Well Being' on the 21<sup>st</sup> November will launch the strategy. A number of road shows will be held in the region to promote SP and the Regional Strategy to partners. It is hoped that the strategy will be out for consultation from December to February. Work on the Action Plan is expected to start in April 2008.

**Comprehensive Spending Review announcement is due around the 8<sup>th</sup> October!**

## **How you can get involved!**

**I need volunteers to help design/edit the next newsletter (due spring 2008). Please can you let me know if you are interested?**

**Please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information on any of the themes in this newsletter or would like me to attend one of your team meetings to update you on the work of SPERG or if you want to update me on the work in your own team.**

### **Contact details;**

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Local SP team contact details for the East Region can be found on the Regional Contacts database using the following link. (This is updated 6 monthly.)

[http://www.spkweb.org.uk/Regional\\_SP/East\\_of\\_England/](http://www.spkweb.org.uk/Regional_SP/East_of_England/)

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