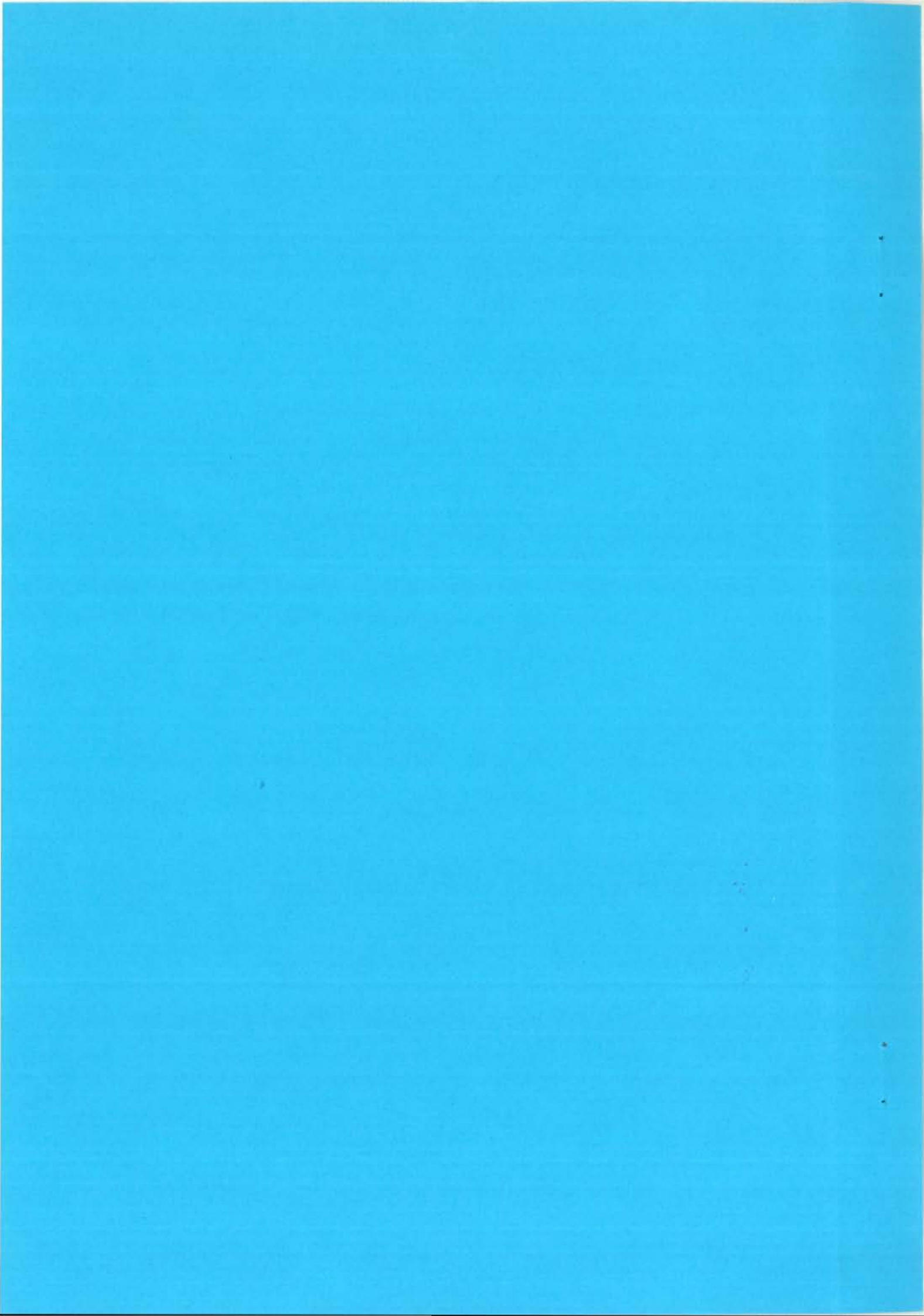


# SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN WALES

The next steps towards  
implementation.



SEPTEMBER 2001





Cynullid Cenedlaethol Cymru  
The National Assembly for Wales  
Pwyllwr Genedlaethol Cymru, Ffrainc  
Cardiff, Cymru  
CF10 1AG

Enw: Mr / Ms / Mrs  
Enw'r Gŵyl:

Lleoliad / Ddiwrnod: 21 Hydref 2007

Dear Sir/Ms/Ms

"Supporting People in Wales: The next steps towards implementation."

I enclose a copy of the National Assembly's information and guidance paper, "Supporting people in Wales: The next steps towards implementation."

The paper details the long-term arrangements for Supporting People in Wales and details the decisions made following the consultation "Supporting People - The Funding arrangements and implementation in Wales". The paper also provides guidance on implementation actions to be undertaken under the Local Health and Social Care Partnership and sets out a timetable for further action, consultation and publication.

Due to the need to disseminate the findings of this paper as promptly as possible it is initially being distributed in its current English only format. A full translation of the paper will be distributed as soon, as is possible.

This paper is a guidance paper and as such we are requesting views on any





**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
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Eich cyf / Your ref  
Ein cyf / Our ref

Dyddiad / Date 21 Medi 2001

Annwyl Gyfaill

**“Cefnogi Pobl yng Nghymru: Y camau nesaf ar gyfer ei weithredu.”**

Amgaeaf gopi o bapur gwybodaeth a chyfarwyddyd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, “Cefnogi Pobl yng Nghymru: Y camau nesaf ar gyfer ei weithredu.”

Eglura'r papur y trefniadau hir dymor ar gyfer Cefnogi Pobl yng Nghymru ac mae'n manylu ar benderfyniadau a wnaed yn dilyn yr ymgynghoriad “Cefnogi Pobl – y trefniadau ariannu a gweithredu yng Nghymru.” Mae'r papur hefyd yn ganllaw ar gyfer y camau gweithredu sydd i'w cymryd cyn Ebrill 2003 ac mae'n nodi amserlen ar gyfer datblygu polisïau ac ymgynghori pellach.

Oherwydd yr angen i ledaenu'r wybodaeth yn y papur hwn mor gyflym â phosibl, caiff ei ddosbarthu i ddechrau yn ei fformat uniaith Saesneg presennol. Dosberthir cyfieithiad llawn o'r papur cyn gynted â phosibl.

Canllaw yw'r papur hwn ac nid ydym yn ceisio safbwyntiau ar unrhyw ran o gynnwys y papur. Mae'r amserlen sydd wedi'i chynnwys yn y papur yn nodi'r broses ar gyfer nifer o bapurau ymgynghori manwl a fydd yn cael eu dosbarthu ar ôl y papur hwn.

Yn gywir

**JOHN BADER**  
Cyfarwyddwr  
Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Dai



## Introduction

Supporting people is a new policy and funding framework for delivering accommodation based support to vulnerable people, in different types of accommodation and across all tenures. It puts on a secure and legal footing the funding that has been delivered in an ad hoc way through housing benefit as well as replacing a complicated tangle of other funding streams and overlapping management structures. It is being proceeded by a Transitional Housing Benefit Scheme (THBS), operating until April 2003 when the new system will be introduced throughout the UK.

This paper follows the consultation paper "Supporting People – The funding arrangements and implementation in Wales". The purpose is to detail the decisions that have been made following that consultation and its responses and provide guidance for relevant agencies. For this reason the paper is made up of two parts. The first 'decisions' section details the Assembly's position in regard to:

1. The funding streams
2. The extent of Supporting People
3. Continuation funding
4. Project review
5. The role of local authorities
6. The accreditation scheme
7. Best Value
8. Consultation mechanisms and
9. The transfer of Supporting people Revenue Grant

The 'guidance' section includes information on the next stage of preparation by relevant bodies:

10. Mapping existing supply and planned provision
11. Needs assessment
12. Cross-boundary liaison
13. Capital Funding
14. Commissioning and purchasing
15. Reviewing existing provision
16. Revenue funding
17. Strategic planning and
18. The level playing field.

The paper includes a timetable for implementation actions to be undertaken by the Assembly and other relevant bodies.





## DECISIONS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION

### **1. The funding streams**

It was apparent from consultation responses that the nature of the funding streams to be applied in Wales was a matter of some confusion amongst interested parties. It has therefore been decided to produce a rationalised definition for the funding streams to ensure clarity. This section also includes the Assembly decision in regard to funding for projects related to Community Care.

#### **1.1 Sheltered accommodation for the elderly**

Supporting People funding in regard to sheltered housing for the elderly will be transferred to local authorities as part of their revenue settlement. This fund will pay for support services that will be ineligible for Housing Benefit after April 2003.

Sheltered housing is that housing in which a support service is made available and is designed or intended for older people. Where older people are accommodated in schemes designed for another purpose, it is this purpose, which will define the appropriate funding stream. The National Assembly does not intend to disaggregate funding for individual older people in such projects or include it in the transfer.

As a result Local Authorities will be responsible for all aspects of the funding of support services in sheltered housing, including both the Local Authority and RSL sectors, as well as any private sector provision for this group.

#### **1.2 Community Care**

The consultation paper asked questions about the payment of elements of SHRG relating to Community Care. The National Assembly has decided that, given the extent to which these activities are funded under the Community Care Act, the funding and administration of these activities should form part of the transfer to Local Authorities as part of their revenue settlement. This will allow an integrated funding and administration to be constructed for these schemes.

In order to avoid confusion it is expected that the definition of Community Care projects can apply to existing projects to be administered by local authorities, and projects to be developed in the future. The National Assembly intends to apply a definition, which will also be set out within the Care Standards Act.

The new term within the Act is care home, which is defined as "any premises which provide, together with nursing or personal care for any person who is or has been ill (including mental illness), or

disabled or infirm, or who has a past or present dependence on drugs or alcohol." Personal care is further defined in this context as "assistance with bodily functions where such assistance is required. This may include, for instance, assistance with bathing, dressing and eating for people who are unable to do this without help." If a project were to provide support of this kind as part of its service then it would be providing 'care' and as such its funding stream would be that part of the Supporting People budget which will be administered by Local Authorities.

The National Assembly intends to use registration under the Act to serve as qualification under Supporting People. However, as regulations to support the Act are still at the drafting stage, final decisions on this cannot be made until the precise application of the Act is clear. Assuming that registration criteria do not, in practice, produce anomalies any project which is required to register as a care home or provides a service which requires registration as a domiciliary care agency would access funding from this Supporting People Community Care fund.

Although desirable, it is not essential to transfer funding for these projects on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003, This can follow at an appropriate date. The National Assembly is keen to ensure that the transfer of funding for schemes of this type does not diminish the model of provision that has been successfully developed. Therefore agreements will be negotiated with local authorities to specify the use of funding. Transfer of funds will therefore occur on an authority by authority basis at the point at which suitable agreements are in place.

### **1.3 Supported Housing**

All forms of housing with support, which are not intended solely for the elderly or include care within the service, are to be regarded as 'Supported Housing'. That is services provided to vulnerable people, within the setting of their own accommodation, which are designed to develop the skills and confidence necessary to live independently without support or to maintain independent living with ongoing support. This form of provision includes a range of projects, which are funded from a variety of sources. Many are currently recipients of SHRG, some will be funded through transitional housing benefit solely, others will receive funding from other elements which are to be included in Supporting People budgets, such as Probation Accommodation Grant and s180 funding.

Registered Social Landlords and their partners will make some provision; other provision will be made by Local Authorities or the private sector.

All of the funding for schemes of this type will be unified within a single grant scheme. Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPRG) will form the

entirety of Supporting People funding in regard to this form of provision. SPRG will be administered by Transitional Assembly until such time as it is transferred. (See section 9)

SPRG will be a tariff based grant scheme with a variety of specifications to reflect the range of supported housing provision. The Transitional Assembly will conduct monitoring and evaluation in relation to the grant scheme. SPRG will be payable to the support provider on a project basis. The support provider need not be the landlord of the property in which support is being provided. SPRG is payable to local authorities on a project basis where the authority is the provider of support.

Support providers will be able to offer support to a householder in any tenure. Support recipients will be limited to those who hold an occupancy agreement or are an owner-occupier. This does not preclude 'pre-tenancy' support where somebody will be moving to accommodation that will be supported and the grant specifications allow support of this nature.

Detailed specifications for Supporting People Revenue Grant will be developed. These specifications will be designed to describe services provided to vulnerable people, within the setting of their own accommodation, which is designed to develop the skills and confidence necessary to live independently without support or to maintain independent living with ongoing support. SPRG will not fund services, which do not meet this purpose.

## 7. The transfer of Supporting People

The transfer of Supporting People funds to local authorities for sheltered accommodation for the elderly will consist of those elements of Transitional Housing Benefit identified as being paid in regard to support costs, i.e. warden and alarm services, in sheltered housing projects. The size of the transfer to authorities will reflect the level of spend in individual authorities prior to implementation in April 2003.

The transfer of Supporting People funds to local authorities for Community Care projects will consist of all relevant parts of Supported Housing Revenue Grant (SHRG) and relevant Transitional Housing Benefit paid to identified projects. The size of the transfer to authorities will be based on the level of spend, on these projects, within individual authorities prior to implementation in April 2003.

Supporting People funds will represent the Transitional Assembly's only revenue funding stream for Supported Housing services. Projects will continue to receive funding from other sources, for example 'top-up' funds from local authorities. Organisations will also be eligible to receive other funds for related

services from the Transitional Assembly, for example for housing advice and access projects.

The budget for Supporting People Revenue Grant will consist of a number of parts of grants paid by the Assembly. In addition SPRG will include Transitional Housing Benefit paid in respect of relevant projects as well as Probation Accommodation Grant.

SPRG will include SHRG paid to relevant projects. At present there are a number of other grant schemes which fund supported housing services. The Jobseekers Act 1995 scheme and the Section 180 (Housing Act 1985) scheme. The former pays only for supported housing services and will be transferred to the Supporting People budget. The Section 30 scheme will subsequently cease. Section 180 pays for a number of services including supported housing, but also funds other services, including advice and core funding, and other uses. Those elements which fund supported housing will be incorporated into the Supporting People programme, whilst the remainder will continue within a revised Section 180 grant scheme.

All elements of these funds will become part of the Assembly administered scheme, and as such will be payable as part of Supporting People Revenue Grant. A review will be undertaken to define the specification for SPRG and will ensure that the range of supported housing services, provided it can be funded by the new grant scheme. Existing recipients of these grants will continue to receive an integrated payment until such time as a project has taken place. At this point all Assembly funding, for the project, will be payable according to the appropriate SPRG tariff.

## **2.1 Summary**

Supporting People funding for sheltered accommodation elderly persons will include relevant elements of Transitional Housing Benefit (THB). These funds will be transferred to local authorities.

Supporting People funding for projects, which provide personal care will include relevant parts of Supported Housing Revenue Grant (SHRG), and THB. These funds will be transferred to local authorities.

Supporting People funding for projects which are supported housing will include:

- Relevant parts of SHRG
- Relevant parts of THB
- Relevant parts of section 180
- Section 30 funds
- Probation Accommodation Grant

These funds will be administered by the Transitional Assembly as Supporting People Revenue Grant until a transfer takes place (see section 9).





## **6. Accreditation scheme**

In order to enable the payment of SPRG direct to support providers the National Assembly intends to introduce an accreditation scheme for providers. This scheme will have the purpose of providing assurance about the provider by establishing regulatory requirements for;

- openness and probity
- physical standards of accommodation
- financial management
- equality of opportunity
- relationship to service users
- access to the service
- the supported housing service and
- monitoring and evaluation

Only accredited bodies will be eligible to receive SPRG, however accredited bodies will be able to engage a third party to discharge elements of their responsibilities on their behalf. This would mirror existing arrangements between RSLs and managing agents. The accredited body would be required to undertake regular monitoring and review of the provider body's performance. The accredited body must also be capable of terminating the contract and ensuring continuation of the service with minimum disruption to the user where the provider is failing.

Accreditation will be open to all organisations which meet the standards required. Details of the accreditation criteria and process will be developed as part of the ongoing policy development process, and consideration will be given to fast-tracking of bodies, such as RSLs or local authorities, which may be subject to existing regulation.

Those bodies which achieve accreditation will be known as Registered Support Providers (RSPs).

## **7. Best Value**

In recognition of the need to prepare for 'Supporting People', RSLs will not be required to include their supporting housing activities within their Best Value programmes, until April 2004. When establishing review programmes RSLs should ensure that they include the delivery of other functions, such as repairs and maintenance, within the supported housing setting. However, they are encouraged to include the supported housing function within their programmes before April 2004, if they feel able to do so.

From April 2004 all Registered Support Providers will be expected to apply Best Value principles to their services. The National Assembly is issuing guidance in regard to best value and will produce further specific guidance within future publications.





“Supporting people, The Funding Arrangements and Implementation in Wales” it stated that:

“It is essential that the arrangements not only achieve a smooth transition but also provide sustainable funding which encourages the expansion of supported housing and innovation in the future and achieves best value.”  
Additionally “The WLGA’s main concern is to ensure that existing tenants are protected.”

The National Assembly will apply the following principles to negotiation with local government prior to the transfer taking place and upon which it is conditioned.

Local authority administration should ensure that schemes are offered a reasonable guarantee of a term of funding and that termination decisions will be taken openly and within the context of local strategic plans.

Local authorities provide a clear commitment to a level of local service delivery.

Local authorities should be able to demonstrate a clear and logical structure for the administration of the grant scheme including service standards, commissioning and payment arrangements.

Local authorities should be able to demonstrate the capacity to administer the grant scheme locally.

Local authorities should have demonstrated their capacity for strategic planning in this context.



## GUIDANCE

This section sets out actions that need to be undertaken in preparation for implementation. The main audience for the guidance are local authorities. However, the guidance also includes information that will be useful to provider bodies. More detailed guidance will be issued in due course.

### **10. Mapping Existing Supply and Planned Provision**

Some local authorities may already have comprehensively documented the housing support services available in their area. Others will have only partial documentation, reflecting the incremental growth of support services within the voluntary sector over the years. All authorities should now become familiar with the existing provision of housing support in their area. This will include specialist, purpose built housing and flexible support services, where support is delivered to occupants in general needs housing. Mapping existing supply is essential to ensuring a smooth transition to the new arrangements in April 2003

Local authorities should include in their mapping all housing support services funded by Transitional Housing Benefit, Supported Housing Revenue Grant, s30 Resettlement grant, s180 grant and Probation Accommodation Grant. Local authorities will also need to discuss, with partners, plans, which may lead to reduction or expansion of support services. As well as gathering this information, it would be helpful if authorities ensure that Supporting People staff involved in strategic development or commissioning visit projects and meet providers in the period prior to 2003.

In order to enable the completion of strategic plans, the supply mapping exercise should be completed by **March 2002**. Naturally, mapping data should be regularly updated to reflect closures, addition of new services and changes in client groups or levels of support.

#### **10.1 Data Protection and Exchange of Information**

The full range of Supporting People information includes:

- Supply mapping and individual needs assessment;
- Details of current provision and contracts;
- Personal information;
- Review and monitoring information; and
- The process of regular reporting and strategy development.

Legal advice on the Data Protection aspects of information obtained by housing benefit claimants is that there is a limited amount of information that may be transferred to a Supporting People team. This is being considered further by the National Assembly and the DTIC. The information that can currently be transferred is:

- Summary information about total expenditure, and



Provide the means to ensure that all client groups are systematically and reliably covered by each local needs assessment;  
Provide the means to assess needs in all types of geographical area, including rural areas where needs are often dispersed or hidden;  
Provide scope for neighbouring authorities to share and aggregate information about local needs so as to improve the understanding of the picture in the wider area.  
Provide an opportunity to consider the diversity of service users, including equality issues.

Different authorities and areas will of course have different needs profiles and supply profiles. The guidance will need to take into account a range of sources of information such as local authorities, Local Health Alliance/Groups, support providers such as Registered Social Landlords and other voluntary sector organisations. Local authorities will be expected to use the guidance on needs assessment as the basis for their own local assessment exercises. Local authorities can supplement the basic guidance, and tailor it to reflect more fully the needs and supply factors in their own area, for example the dispersed and often hidden nature of need in rural areas. The national Assembly will examine how such local variation helps to develop the national guidance over time. The core objective, however, will focus on ensuring that all local authorities identify the needs profile of the groups who form part of the Supporting People programme, and do not mistakenly overestimate or underestimate these needs. As long as this objective is met, there is scope for local variation.

Some local authorities already have support needs assessments systems in place, and they should not be changed at this time. The experience of these systems will be valuable in feeding into the testing of the needs assessment framework, as will the views of other statutory agencies, partners and providers.

## **Actions**

By September 2002 local authorities should have:

- Assessed current knowledge of support needs and identified information sources
- Identified the options locally for achieving a comprehensive assessment of need
- Carried out full survey of need or updated existing information
- Identified the level of unmet needs to feed into the 2003 Comprehensive Spending Review.

## Cross-Boundary

Once local authorities have carried out needs assessment in their own areas, there is a need for further cross-authority planning. For some of the client groups, either:

The need within the local authority boundary will be so small that it will not be viable to operate a support service based on those numbers.

The need within the local authority boundary will be large enough to justify a locally run support service, but there will be good reasons for individual cases why it should be delivered outside the local authority boundary.

The need within the local authority boundary will be large enough to justify a locally run support service, but much of the demand is from people who are transient such as rough sleepers and some young single homeless people.

In each case, a cross-authority response will be necessary to address the needs that are being presented. These needs can be met in part through co-ordinated planning between a number of local authorities. This may involve both responding to what may be immediate needs of users and providing a strategic framework of agreements or protocols that are acceptable to the local authorities involved.

In the shorter term there is a need to replace flexible cross authority access arrangements with a set of individual local authority protocols. Local authorities will therefore need to:

- Distinguish Supporting People funding for their own residents from resources devoted to cross authority services. This will initially be based on existing funding for the relevant client groups, and Supporting People Revenue Grant will identify cross authority grant based on existing provision and future plans;
- Operate an access policy that reflects cross authority provision; and
- Work together in cross-authority groups to agree these access arrangements and the protocols around them and to jointly commission services to meet cross authority needs. In many cases this will build on existing joint working arrangements.

The local authority where the project is located will take responsibility for grant bids. All local authorities will have a role in ensuring local authorities are designated to deliver these services and that the arrangements are working satisfactorily. Supporting People Revenue Grant approval will recognise the cross authority nature of these projects.

In developing its Supporting People plan, each authority will be required to set out how it is planning to meet cross authority needs. The National Assembly for Wales will monitor the standard of Supporting People strategies, including cross-authority planning, and may require an authority to revise its plan if it fails to consider the need for cross-authority responses.







and local authorities. The review will be on a project by project basis and will decide whether the provision should be continued, altered or provided by someone else. The process for reviews will be established prior to April 2002. The principles are:

- There will be a requirement to carry out reviews of existing provision within the first three years of the new programme (2003-2006). Thereafter, all provision will be reviewed on a regular basis.
- There will be a presumption in favour of continuing to support existing provision where it meets local strategic needs.
- The reviews are intended to identify areas for change and areas for continuing support. It is not the intention of the Supporting People programme to undermine existing good quality provision or to provide it on a less secure or less financially viable footing than it was previously. The aim is to develop monitoring, contracting, and payment structures that allow for a more stable and secure sector to be built up. It is therefore important to balance the need for continuity and stability with the need for quality and good value. However, the identification of needs may well require a change gear time and providers must be aware of this, at both strategic and project level.
- One of the key opportunities of the new programme is to broaden the range of local service markets, so that people requiring support have more choice over where they live and the way support is provided. This is central to changing a more standardised response to individuals' needs and preferences, and ensuring that our services achieve best value in applying resources.
- Providing the full level of support is currently identified in line with the traditional Housing Benefit Scheme. Authorities should have the capability to develop a range of innovative and flexible support services in addition to making improvements to existing provision.

#### 25.1 Reviewing sheltered housing and other provision for older people

The inclusion of sheltered housing in the Supporting People programme brings significant benefits. Older people increasingly have more choice about their housing and personal services, and this is a

sheltered accommodation or outside community until they were elsewhere.

While Supporting People is a potential catalyst for changes in provision and service delivery, it is essential to keep the rights of sheltered housing tenants to the forefront. Residents move into sheltered housing on the understanding that they can remain there as long as they choose, and for the majority this is reflected in the terms of their tenancy. Tenancies in sheltered housing are provided with clearly defined rights in relation to any proposed change in level of service, or changes affecting the continuing enjoyment of their homes. This must be fully recognised in any strategic planning or project level planning. Proposing changes in the sheltered housing sector is very different from proposing changes in many other parts of the supported housing sector, for this reason.

The review process is therefore not a substitute for a wider review of the appropriateness of housing and support options for older people in the local authority area. Such a wide-ranging review is a much larger task, and is beyond the scope of Supporting People.

The Supporting People reviews of sheltered housing would examine:

- The level of support provided, its cost and quality;
- How best to continue providing the support service to existing tenants, particularly the continuing contract with the service provider (and in cases where the service was particularly poor, give consideration to a radical change in service provision including if necessary a different service provider); and
- How to introduce flexibility and improvements to the service. This may, for example, include changing the arrangements for tenants. An existing provider may be asked to provide a wider range of services to the wider community and only provide support to new tenants at the point they particularly need it, rather than automatically to all new tenants. It may equally include moving to a non-resident warden service.

It would not involve decisions to withdraw funding from the service, since that may result in closing the sheltered development. This can be done only within the constraints of a more fundamental review of the development, probably within a wider review of general sheltered provision and provision of services for older people. Such reviews require a different approach and a different range of processes.

## **15.2 Community alarms**

There is also an issue about community alarms. These systems are sometimes used to allow older people to summon help in emergencies, either within or external to sheltered developments (often both). They are increasingly also used to provide emergency services to other people with a particular need, for example people at risk of racial

attack, and also are becoming technically more sophisticated as part of a more general and wider communications system to allow residents to request a range of services.

The National Assembly is considering the options for the inclusion of these alarms within the Supporting People programme.

### 3.3 Objectives

Reviews should be carried out against a set of service aims for each client group. In considering the continuing need for a service, or in commissioning new services, attention should be paid to:

Strategic relevance: Is the service relevant to the Supporting People strategy? An existing service, or proposed new service, can help achieve strategic priorities. This may mean a move away from shared housing to independent housing with support, or it may involve developing specialist housing, both in terms of the support provided and the type of building, for instance extra care schemes. In considering this issue local authorities need to consider the potential for remodelling the service, including the cost of de-commissioning existing services.

Assessment of need: Local authorities must take into account the assessment together with demand for the service. Evidence could be obtained about occupancy rates, waiting lists and the numbers of referrals turned away.

Location: For existing services, provision which is far from shops or other services will be likely to be less popular with users. For new provision both the location or geographical coverage of the service in relation to other support and care services, and the overall spatial distribution of services throughout the authority will be important. This will also be an issue in considering planning consent.

Performance: Account should be taken of the performance of the service provider. Through the contractual arrangements performance information should be obtained from the provider, as well as from other bodies. Guidance on performance information will be provided when standards for care and support have been developed by the National Care Standards Committee.

Quality and effectiveness: The consultation paper Quality and Monitoring sets out proposals for the monitoring process which local authorities should put in place to assess the quality of housing support services.

Value for money: Consideration must be given to the value for money of the service, both in terms of the cost to Supporting People budgets and overall cost. Value for money does not necessarily mean the cheapest service and reviews will also have to assess the quality and effectiveness of the service in meeting needs as part of

the process of assessing costs. Comparisons of costs between similar types of services will be essential. Account must also be taken of the value to service users of small specialist providers, who may have higher costs than large national providers. Cost comparisons should be done on a transparently fair and equal basis.

At the end of the review process there will need to be a lead-in time where a new service is commissioned or an existing service is to be remodelled. However:

Where a new service is to be delivered this should be done as soon as possible;

Where remodelling is done the process should be appropriate to the changes required (for instance it may not be necessary to undertake a technical appraisal of the building if only minor structural changes are needed);

Where changes to an existing service, or the commissioning of a new service, results in the closure of a building the closure process should take account of service user views.

Within the provisions for strategic and project reviews of sheltered provision we intend to make explicit reference to the right of sheltered tenants to the secure continuation of their tenancies.

Changes to services and provision must be carefully considered so they reflect the rights of sheltered tenants in their tenancy.

Other groups of supported housing tenants will receive similar provision to sheltered housing in that their housing can be expected to be their permanent home. This would apply, for example, to some provision for people with learning disabilities or mental health problems. Any review of the provision must recognise that these residents can legitimately expect a continuing level of service in a secure environment, and not to have to move to other accommodation unless it is clearly in their own interests.

It will be necessary to develop the processes necessary to carry out the project reviews in time to start the first reviews in April 2003.

#### **ons**

By October 2002 local authorities should have:

Developed a set of service aims for each client group

Developed a framework for cost comparison

Set up a framework for reviewing projects

Set up a framework for working with service providers.

Carried out a survey of sheltered housing providers to establish the types of services provided

## **16. Revenue Funding**

In planning the provision and funding of services, there will be opportunities to use other revenue resources as an alternative to, or in combination with, the Supporting People grant. Co-ordination with capital funding is dealt with in the section on Capital Funding. There will be opportunities for both local authorities and the voluntary sector to seek to use their funding as a lever to secure matched funding or contributions from others. The stimulation of a competitive market in support services, where some partners come with additional funding, can have considerable advantages. It also means ensuring that funding for support services continues to be provided by a range of the partners involved in the Supporting People process, particularly Health and Social Work agencies. However, local authorities need to avoid unnecessary risk in developing schemes which rely on short term external funding that can run out and not be renewed (e.g. when the targeted client group or provision loses its public profile and external organisations become less interested in continuation funding).

## **17. Strategic Planning**

Concurrent with planning the decision-making and administrative structures for the implementation of Supporting People in April 2003, local authorities will need to consider their long-term strategy for providing and funding support services after that date. Both the supply mapping and needs assessment exercises undertaken prior to the implementation of the programme will inform this strategy. However it will be recognised that some of the current supply has developed purely pragmatically in a way dependent on the availability of funds, providers and sites. Authorities will wish to develop strategies to ensure that provision continues to be relevant and adequate to need.

It is anticipated that authorities will develop a Supporting People Strategy as an element within the new Homeless Persons Strategy. It is essential however to form links between all planning processes including broader housing and care strategies.

The National Assembly will issue guidance on the timing and content of the Supporting People Strategy within later guidance. Local authorities should set up a Strategic Planning Team. The first strategic plan covering a five-year period (2003-2008) should be completed in final draft by October 2002. This plan should generate funding requirements for 2003-2004 and subsequent years. To facilitate this process the Strategic Planning Team should be identified by November 2001.

### **17.1 Scrutiny of Plans**

The National Assembly will review each Supporting People Strategy and related funding implications. Where plans fail to demonstrate they have been compiled within an appropriate methodology, it may require the local authority to revise the strategy or take other remedial action.



streams for service provision tenders are transparent and auditable. This will allow a considered decision to be made.







Establish task and finish groups	November 2001
LA guidance	March 2002
SPRG review	January 2002
Task and finish groups to report	June 2002
Detailed guidance	September 2002
<u>Administration</u>	
Establish accreditation criteria	May 2002
Accredit providers	December 2002 to February 2003
Collect data from HB depts etc on funding	October 2002
Receive funding data	December 2002
Establish scheme funding	January/February
Begin payments	April 2003
Establish review methodology	December 2002
Begin scheme reviews	April 2003
Complete scheme reviews	March 2006



