

## **Supporting People**

### **Background**

#### **Overview of scheme**

1. Ending link between tenure and support arrangements **April 2003**
2. Local Authorities commission & fund support services in both specialist supported housing schemes & in peoples own homes – “floating support”
3. **People supported:**
  - Older People
  - People with learning difficulties
  - People with mental health problems or some disabilities
  - Refuge & move-on support for women fleeing domestic violence
  - Young Homeless People
  - Tenancy Support Services
4. New schemes for monitoring & review / consultation / returns to DETR
5. Partnerships between District & County Councils (Housing & Social Services) Probation & Health Services
6. Local Authorities at County or Unitary level producing Supporting People Strategies \*
  - \* Rolling 5 year strategy – annually reviewed
7. Resources based on assessments of spend & needs information gathered before April 2003
8. New commissioning body – Health – LA – Probation Service [Chief Officers]
9. Schemes and plans approved at elected member level (Cabinet or Committee)
10. Housing Corporation has a new advisory role
11. Supporting People Services should be part of a LA’s Best Value regime / processes
12. Requirement to address the particular needs of BME users

#### **Current Issues (Summer 2003)**

- A Some County Councils have been told to make savings on SP funding [pos’ 2 to 3 %]
- B Risks to RSL providers where Council’s SP Team haven’t got their act together:
  - Providing signed contracts
  - Paying fees & charges

- C Paper on Supporting People reviews due shortly from the ODPM – “Value for Money”
- D ‘Risks’ to providers will vary from scheme to scheme:
  - VFM may be questionable
  - Hard to Let scheme may have high void losses
  - Small schemes have to contain fixed costs

### **Example of LA positions**

#### East Region

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Suffolk       | - On the ball contracts signed & paid (but looking for savings)                                |
| Hertfordshire | - Some contracts signed & paid – cautious about charges savings requirement (if any) not known |
| Norfolk       | - No contracts – some payments – overall a mess  |