

Report to: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL
CARE AND HEALTH

Date: 19 JUNE 2006

Report of: DIRECTOR OF ADULT SERVICES

Contact: Andrew Kilpatrick
Ext 7204

**Bolton
Council**

Report No.

TITLE OF REPORT:

SUPPORTING PEOPLE – AUDIT COMMISSION INSPECTION

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive Member is asked to note the report and approve the implementation of the recommendations.

DECISION:

Signed: _____
Leader / Executive Member Monitoring Officer

Date: _____

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The Supporting People programme in Bolton was inspected by a team from the Audit Commission between the 27 February and 3 March 2006.

The report describes their findings and reflects a very positive outcome for the Administering Authority (Council).

The Audit Commission have assessed Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council as providing an 'excellent', three-star service that has excellent prospects for improvement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

See attached report

- 1.1 Supporting People is the government's long-term policy to enable local authorities to plan, commission and provide housing related support services which help vulnerable people live independently. The programme was introduced in April 2003 following two years of ODPM funded local preparation.
- 1.2 The aim of the Supporting People programme is to deliver a strategic, integrated policy and funding framework, delivered locally in response to identified local needs, to replace the previous complex and uncoordinated arrangements for providing housing related support services for vulnerable people.
- 1.3 The Supporting People programme brought together nine previous funding streams including Transitional Housing Benefit (THB), which paid for the support costs associated with housing during the implementation phase; the Housing Corporation's Supported Housing Management Grant (SHMG) and Probation Accommodation Grant Scheme (PAGS) into a single pot to be administered by the 150 administering local authorities.
- 1.4 Administering local authorities (Bolton Council) have worked in partnership to agree our Supporting People 5 year commissioning strategy and delivery mechanisms for housing related support services with housing, adult services, health and the probation service. Negotiation and consultation takes place with all housing and support service providers, other statutory service providers, the private sector and voluntary organisations to plan and commission support services to meet identified needs.

2. SUPPORTING PEOPLE INSPECTION – BOLTON

- 2.1 Within the Audit Commission, the Housing Inspectorate inspects and monitors the performance of a number of bodies and services. These include local authority housing departments, local authorities administering Supporting People programmes, arms length management organisations and housing associations. The key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) set out the main issues to be considered when forming a judgement on the quality of services.
- 2.2 The inspection of the Supporting People programme in Bolton took place between 27th February and 3 March 2006.

3. SCORE

The Audit Commission have assessed Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council as providing an 'excellent', three-star service that has excellent prospects for improvement. Their judgements are based on the evidence obtained during the inspection and are outlined within the attached full report. It should be noted that the programme is administered by the Council and implemented by the partnership between ourselves, the PCT and the Greater Manchester Probation Service.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Member is asked to:

- Note the inspection report
- Approve the implementation of the action plan in response to the recommendations and incorporate any subsequent learning from the inspection.