

# Supporting People Information Briefing

August 2018

## Introduction

Welcome to the latest information briefing which aims to help inform our delivery partner organisations on developments within the Supporting People Programme.

## Outcomes Monitoring Reporting

Prior to going live in April 2018, an [Outcomes monitoring guidance document](#) was issued to providers along with a link to a video tutorial. Combined, this guidance focussed on how outcome indicators should be completed, as well as the technical aspect of submitting outcomes information through SPOCC.net.

The [outcomes video tutorial](#) has now had over 670 views. We hope you have found this useful.

## Quality Monitoring Pilot

As part of the SP Business Improvement Project objective, to review the Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) tool, the SP Team have developed a new Quality Monitoring Tool (QMT).

We sought expressions of interest (31 July - 14 August 2018) from providers interested in being involved in piloting the QMT and would like to thank organisations who made submissions.

A maximum of three organisations will be selected from each of the thematic groups:

Homelessness, Younger People, Older People and Disability . Organisations will be required to attend an introduction workshop, to participate in testing through performance visits, feedback to Supporting People on the refined QMT and contribute to the implementation of a revised QMT to the provider sector.

Following the initial pilot testing any necessary adjustments will be made to the Quality Tool with further engagement to be undertaken with the provider sector planned for January 2018.

## Standardised Regional Payment Rates (SRPR)

Deloitte are currently reviewing responses to the SRPR consultation exercise, with a view to compiling a report to be circulated to key stakeholders to request further feedback. This phase will give organisations operating across more than one Primary Client Group (PCG) the opportunity to provide feedback on all associated PCG groupings.

We would like to thank organisations that have taken the opportunity to contribute to date, while welcoming your continued contribution, and that of all Supporting People funded organisations, to represent service, organisation and PCG level specificities.

## New Supporting People Commissioning Structures

In line with Recommendation 9 of the Department for Social Development, now the Department for Communities (DfC) review of SP, a new committee called the Strategic Advisory Board (SAB), was set up in February 2018 to oversee strategic decision making in relation to the administration of SP programme.

The SAB is made up of representatives from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Health and Social Care Board (HSBC), and Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), with observer status for the sponsor Departments, DfC, Department for Health (DoH), Department for Justice (DoJ). The provider sector are also represented as observers by the Committee Representing Independent Supporting People Providers (CRISPP).

The SAB oversees for 4 thematic groups:- Homelessness, Older People, Younger People and Disability.

Thematic Groups are now operational, and have a regional overview tasked with identifying, assessing and prioritising the housing support needs of a range of vulnerable client groups through the interpretation of available evidence.

Going forward, the SAB will advise the Thematic Groups on strategic direction, and the Thematic Groups will put forward plans for the SAB's consideration. Ultimately, the SAB will advise the NIHE Board, which will agree the strategic plans that are established in the context of policy direction from the three sponsor Departments.

## Innovation Fund

The creation of the 'Innovation Fund' is being progressed by DfC, with the fund anticipated to be operational April 2019. Further information will be shared as the process is developed.

Expressions of interest were sought from providers to take part SP Innovation Fund Focus Group being led by Business Consultancy Service (BCS) on behalf of DfC.

The focus group will explore several key themes around how providers can be supported in delivery of the Supporting People programme.

## Termination of Funding Framework

Following Recommendation 4 of the DfC review of SP, a draft Termination of Funding Framework is being developed. This framework will provide a structure in which decisions are made in relation to the withdrawal of SP grant funding from providers of SP services.

Work in respect of the draft framework is nearing completion and consultation with the sector is planned for Autumn 2018, with the aim of having the framework in place by end of March 2019.

## Strategic Planning

An Interim Supporting People Strategy is being developed for 2019/20, with the aim of highlighting Supporting People priorities.

This will be followed by a three year strategy in due course.

## Universal Credit

We emailed SP Providers, in April 2018, with details on how Universal Credit may impact your service users and the actions which may need to be taken.

The continued rollout of universal credit can be viewed at: [When Universal Credit starts](#)

If service users have any questions regarding an award of Housing Benefit they should contact:

Housing Benefit (03448 920 902). Advice on welfare changes can be sought by visiting or contacting: [Welfare Changes Helpline](#)

[Housing Rights](#)

[Debt Advice \(Citizens Advice\)](#)

## Upcoming Engagements

Topic of Engagement	Anticipated start date
Standardised Regional Payment Rates (SRPR)	Oct 2018
Termination of Funding Framework	Late Oct/Nov2018
Interim SP Strategy	Late Oct/Nov2018
Innovation Fund	Late Oct/Nov2018
Quality Monitoring Tool (QMT)	Jan2018

\*please note these dates maybe subject to change

Further details will follow, regarding each individual engagement.

## SP Profile

We would like to thank organisations who have informed SP about their upcoming events and remind all organisations to advise us of any future events, including events that will involve representatives from the DfC or other parts of NIHE.

In line with SP funding agreements, we require all Providers to use the SP logo in publicity materials, including reports and job advertisements to ensure appropriate recognition of the SP programme in all publicity events.

A High Resolution SP Logo can be downloaded by following the link: [SP Logo](#)

## Contact

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