Housing Board, 14 August 2020

Lisa’s questions on Housing Related Support Document, and answers

Previously sent out strategy and feedback form, opportunity for Housing Board to provide any feedback today. Lisa went over the Questions on feedback form and the Board discussed:

1. **Do people agree with the vision set out on page 2 of the draft?**
No comments from board.
2. **Anything in there that is incorrect or does not sound right?**
Changing from housing benefit to universal credit for supported housing residents. Depending on if it meets the definition within the HB regulations. Lisa will look at that.
3. **Commissioning principles and commissioning approach (circulated previously). Pages 15 and 16 of the draft?**

Jon agrees, annual review and annual delivery plan is reasonable, principles around it is important, how we (housing authorities, and other partners, framework around commissioning under what was SP) as a partnership are involved in the process, how partners get involved, detail behind that in terms of how it happens in reality is the essential part. Partners will only be interested in joint commissioning if they have a say in how it meets their needs and how we jointly commission those types of services.

Dan - point to be made around unintended consequences of increases the costs of public sector organisations, to reflect that and do a sense check, by making efficiencies it might increase resource in other organisations. Jon added, be clear in strategy about this, not cost shunting (and if are honest dialogue how that is being done together).

Dan – referenced in strategy around the vision, the whole approach to housing related support is as an investor. In terms of, the whole report to housing related support is in effect investor saving, but budget reduction is counterproductive, I will be making that general point on the feedback form.

1. **Priorities outlined in pages 16 and 17 are homelessness focused, are these the right priorities at this time and should we be looking at anything else?**
Jon – Is good from housing authority perspective. However, might need to mention that there has been a Conscious decision by county to mainstream some of the services that were previously housing related supported defined services (learning disabilities is an example).
Nigel - worth saying this is based on the current arrangements for dealing with other types of supported housing remaining as currently structured and funded. List on page 17 on successfully delivering new service models. Important to ensure that services are secure and viable for providers to provide the security for people using the services. That services are viable for providers to operate. Important strongly focussed on needs but there is a growing debate in housing that the focus on needs can sound top down and patronising. Not the needs as clients see themselves. More emphasis on what clients need themselves not necessarily what we think they need. Co-production is needed.

Lisa added that they are reinstating a Member Reference Group, which is a healthy group of 10 volunteers from children’s and young people’s committees. To make sure we are informing Members, and to get information earlier than committee. Lisa to provide a list of who is on the Members groups. Due to go to committee October.