

**Epping Forest Local Supporting People Strategy 2005-2009
Six Monthly Progress Report on Key Action Plan
(As at 1 October 2005)**

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General Strategic

Re-introduce the new Supported Housing Needs Index to identify and assess applicants for supported housing.	March 2005	Epping Forest District Council	Slow Progress. The SNI software has now been received, but has not yet been implemented.
Ensure that at least 4 meetings of the Epping Forest Supporting People Core Strategy Group are held every year.	Ongoing	Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council SP Team	On Target. Two meetings have been held in the first six months.
Hold an Inclusive Forum meeting to comment on the next draft version of the Epping Forest Local Supporting People Strategy.	November 2005	Epping Forest District Council and Epping Forest Core Strategy Group	On Target. Arrangements are being made to hold the next Inclusive Forum meeting in January 2006.

Older People

Raise awareness of Jessopp Court, the step down from hospital discharge scheme to increase referrals. Monitor its usage and assess whether there is the need for an extension of the scheme.	November 2005	Joint Management Team for Older People	Abandoned. The "step down" flat received very little use by the PCT and Essex Social Care. As a result, the scheme has been discontinued by the PCT and Social Care. The flat has been passed back to EFDC.
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Complete the 20-bed extension to Cunningham House, North Weald for people with Alzheimer's Disease and dementia, with capital funding provided by the Housing Corporation.	January 2005	The Abbeyfield Society	Achieved. The scheme has been completed. However, there was a lengthy delay between completion and occupation, due to staff training
Seek funding through the Local Delivery Plan 2005/6 for a Mental Health Liaison Post to support inpatient areas, Intermediate Care, A&E Diversion and NHS Funded Nursing Care.	January 2006	EF PCT	Not Achieved. Funding was not agreed for this post
Following the transfer of the Council's sheltered housing scheme at Robert Daniels Court, Theydon Bois to Warden Housing complete a £2m extension and conversion scheme.	December 2005	Warden Housing Association	On Target. The improvement scheme is scheduled to be completed in December 2005.
Ensure the successful implementation of the Case Finding Initiative across Epping Forest to reduce unnecessary hospital admission.	June 2005	EF PCT	Achieved. Following a successful pilot, "Case Finding" and "Case Management" is now in place in each locality in Epping Forest. Five Case Managers are now in post.

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<p>Implementation of the Local Trades Scheme through the production of a list of contact details for local tradesmen that have undergone a number of safety checks.</p>	<p>April 2005</p>	<p>Epping Forest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership</p>	<p>On Target.</p> <p>The scheme exists and has been advertised locally to recruit and interest local traders to sign up to the scheme. VAEF are currently processing applications for those who have applied to join the scheme. The first traders should be on the scheme in the New Year.</p>
<p>Investigate the feasibility of converting bedsits at the Council's sheltered housing scheme at Wickfields, Chigwell into self-contained flats.</p>	<p>September 2005</p>	<p>Epping Forest District Council</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>The Feasibility Study has been completed, which has established that a conversion scheme is possible. An options appraisal has also been undertaken, which established that the most cost-effective method of delivery to EFDC was through a stock transfer to a housing association, rather than by EFDC itself.</p> <p>As a result, EFDC agreed in principle to a stock transfer to Warden Housing, with a dowry of £1.1m, subject to the support of the residents.</p> <p>An informal residents consultation exercise has been undertaken, which has established that there is overwhelming support in principle for both the proposed improvements and the stock transfer. EFDC's Cabinet will consider a report in October 2005 on the next steps.</p>

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Review the Council's Grants Policy with particular consideration to the possibility of assistance being given by means other than grants.	April 2005	Epping Forest District Council C.A.R.E.	In Progress. A consultant is currently carrying out a private sector house condition and energy efficiency survey. The results will inform a review of the Private Sector Housing Grants Policy.
Home Improvement Agency			
In the light of the vote of no confidence in the recommendations of the Everdale Report, work with the Supporting People Team on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A core specification for HIAs • Equitable distribution of Supporting People funding between Essex HIAs • Cross-boundary collaboration where appropriate. 	April 2005	Epping Forest District Council Essex County Council SP Team Other Essex HIAs Other Essex Authorities	Achieved. A Core Specification and the distribution of funding have been agreed. A standard Service Level Agreement has been produced and is currently being signed in each of the districts by ECC, the District Council and the local HIA managing agent.
Assist in the review of the Council's Grants Policy, in relation to the assistance that can be provided to HIA clients.	April 2005	Epping Forest District Council	In Progress. A consultant is currently carrying out a private sector house condition and energy efficiency survey. The results will inform a review of the Private Sector Housing Grants Policy.

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To consider ways of attracting client contributions to the Handyperson Service.	April 2005	Epping Forest District Council C.A.R.E. Advisory Panel	<p>In Progress.</p> <p>The C.A.R.E. Advisory Panel have considered this matter and a further report will be presented to the Panel in October. Consideration is also being given to a request for increased funding for the Service in 2005/2006.</p>
Particularly in the light of the uncertainty over funding for C.A.R.E after March 2005, maximise existing funding and consider ways of attracting additional funding in order to meet market demand.	April 2005	Epping Forest District Council Essex County Council Supporting People Epping Forest PCT	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>The new Service Level Agreement provides assurance of funding for 3 years with a further period of 2 years subject to a successful service review.</p> <p>The C.A.R.E. Advisory Panel is currently considering how contributions might be attracted to the Handyperson Service. Consideration is also being given to a request for increased funding for the Handyperson Service in 2005/2006.</p>
Mental Health			
Improve the discharge arrangements for people in hospital due to mental illness.	April 2005	North Essex Mental Health Partnership Trust and Epping Forest PCT	<p>Delayed.</p> <p>There are not the bed spaces or homes available with 24hour specialist care to place people in once they have left hospital. This is resulting in delays in people being discharged.</p>

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Review the future use of the residential rehabilitation and longer-term care unit at Regent Road, Epping following its closure. Hold a public consultation before any decision is made.	June 2005	North Essex Mental Health Partnership Trust	No Progress. There has been no decision made regarding the future use of the unit at Regent Road.
Support TeenAIM to improve mental health awareness amongst young people through schools and Youth Clubs etc.	April 2005	North Essex Mental Health Partnership Trust and Epping Forest PCT	Ongoing. TeenAIM are currently running mental health awareness workshops and drops at a variety of venues, including schools. Information is available on the AIM website, as well as a leaflet and newsletters promoting mental health awareness amongst young people.
Increase the level of involvement that users have in the planning of services and service delivery. Continue to support SAFE, Epping Forest Advocacy Service to help achieve this aim.	April 2005	North Essex Mental Health Partnership Trust and Epping Forest PCT	Ongoing. NEMHPT and EF PCT continue to support SAFE.
Await news from Supporting People regarding the expression of interest for the expansion of the floating support service from 12 to 18 units and the additional part-time floating support worker.	July 2005	Cygnet Housing Association And Essex County Council SP Team	No Progress. The Essex SP Commissioning Body has not invited bids for new/expanded services. The Essex SP Development Fund for 2006/7 will be utilised for the Value Improvement Project for floating support.

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<p>Continue to increase and improve mental health services for older people through joined up working between the Community Mental Health Team for Older People, the Primary Health Service (PCT) and Social Care Teams.</p>	<p>June 2005</p>	<p>Community Mental Health Team for Older People, Epping Forest PCT and Social Care Teams</p>	<p>In Progress</p> <p>Work is ongoing to improve integration and a seamless service delivery. For example, the CMHT are working closely with the generic wards at St Margaret's Hospital and the community mental health nurses are working closely with both residential and nursing homes with regards to supporting the staff and service user.</p>
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Learning Disabilities

<p>Commence the construction of six, eco-friendly, self-contained flats and the provision of 24-hour support for people with learning disabilities on District Council-owned land at Cripsey Avenue, Ongar, with capital funding allocated by the Housing Corporation.</p>	<p>January 2005</p>	<p>East Living</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>Construction was commenced in May 2005, with completion due in May 2006. Commencement was delayed for a significant period, due to the slow response by Thames Water to divert a sewer under the site, which only they are authorised to do.</p>
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Physical Disabilities			
<p>In the light of the reduction in the ODPM contribution towards Disabled Facilities Grants, reconsider the priorities in the Council's Grants Policy.</p>	<p>April 2005</p>	<p>Epping Forest District Council</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Notification has been received from the ODPM of an additional £15,000 SCG allocation for 2005/2006. However, an increase in the number of DFG applications being submitted means that this matter will still need consideration.</p> <p>A consultant is currently carrying out a private sector house condition and energy efficiency survey. The results will inform a review of the Private Sector Housing Grants Policy.</p>
<p>Provide a wheelchair accessible flat and four mobility flats as part of the Robert Daniels Court sheltered housing scheme's Improvement Scheme.</p>	<p>December 2005</p>	<p>Warden Housing</p>	<p>On Target.</p> <p>These five flats are scheduled to be completed in December 2005.</p>
<p>Seek capital funding from the Housing Corporation to commence the construction of 8 self-contained flats for people with physical disabilities, on partly owned by the District Council at Mason Way, Waltham Abbey.</p>	<p>October 2005</p>	<p>Ability Housing Association</p>	<p>Delayed.</p> <p>The highway rights placed on the land, which were causing problems and delays, have been removed. Ability Housing Association have been attempting to purchase</p>

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			<p>the remainder of the site from Wimpey Homes, but without success.</p> <p>Ability HA is therefore seeking to develop the site in two phases, with the first phase of 4/5 bungalows on the Council's land. Ability HA are seeking funding from the Housing Corporation in the next Bidding Round.</p>
<p>Subject to capital funding being provided by the Housing Corporation for the physical disabilities scheme at Mason Way, Waltham Abbey, liaise with the Essex Supporting People Team to re-configure the residential support provided at Lakeside Close, Chigwell to floating support across the two schemes.</p>	<p>April 2006</p>	<p>Ability Housing Association and Essex County Council SP Team</p>	<p>Not due yet.</p> <p>This will be subject to the outcome of the bid to the Housing Corporation for Mason Way, which will not be known until January/February 2006.</p>
Single Homelessness			
<p>Review the availability of ODPM funding for the two temporary Homelessness Prevention Officer posts, to consider whether one or both posts can continue.</p>	<p>February 2005</p>	<p>Epping Forest District Council</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>ODPM funding has been secured for 2005/6, and EFDC has agreed to provide the additional top-up funding to extend the service to at least April 2006.</p>

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<p>Review whether additional properties to the existing 10 properties should be leased under the Epping Forest New START Scheme, to accommodate homeless people, including single applicants.</p>	<p>April 2005</p>	<p>East Homes</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>EFDC has agreed to extend the Scheme by 10 properties, to 20 properties, and to submit an associated bid to the ODPM for funding.</p> <p>The scheme has also been renamed “Fresh START”, due to a new, completely separate, Government scheme being launched, called New Start.</p>
<p>If the planning application is approved for the development of the two former Hostel Managers’ flats at Leader Lodge, North Weald, investigate the best from of procuring the development needs to be investigated.</p>	<p>September 2005</p>	<p>Epping Forest District Council</p>	<p>Delayed.</p> <p>An outline planning permission was submitted in August 2004, proposing ten self-contained flats. However, the Head of Planning and Economic Development had concerns about the effect of a lime tree on the site.</p> <p>Following lengthy discussions between the Heads of Housing and Planning & Economic Development, agreement on a way forward was reached, involving the relocation of the proposed access to the site, enabling the retention of the lime tree, located on the proposed access.</p> <p>However, informal consultation with Essex County Council has resulted in the Highway Authority considering the proposal 'unacceptable on safety grounds'. This is due to their view that the junction with Hurricane Way will become busier because of the proposed residential</p>

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			<p>development on the Parade Ground (even though the main vehicular access to this development is located elsewhere). This applies even if the new access road is relocated as close as possible to the lime tree. In their view, the scheme is acceptable only as originally proposed, at the opposite end of the site.</p> <p>EFDC's Plans Sub-Committee will therefore need to either agree to the removal of the lime tree, take a different view than the Highways Authority on the location of the access, or refuse the planning application.</p> <p>There are currently around 20 households in bed and breakfast accommodation.</p>
Investigate the feasibility and cost of additional chalets at Norway House	September 2005	Epping Forest District Council	<p>No Progress.</p> <p>It is not intended to investigate this, until the outcome of the planning application for the development of Leader Lodge is known.</p>
Continue providing the Kings Church Brentwood Furniture Exchange service to the Waltham Abbey residents, from the Brentwood headquarters using the Town Mead Depot site for storage. Seek funding from CRED to expand this service.	April 2005	Lighthouse Furniture Project and Epping Forest District Council VAEF	<p>In Progress.</p> <p>The Lighthouse Furniture Project is now a registered social company and was successful with the CRED bid submitted on behalf of the Epping Forest and Brentwood District's. The scheme is now fully operational in Brentwood from a new base and is in negotiations with EFDC on the lease for the Town Mead depot in Waltham</p>

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			Abbey as the base for this District. They have begun take referrals from this District through the Brentwood base.
Complete a further feasibility project into the need for a foyer in the District, providing accommodation and employment for young people.	March 2005	Epping Forest Foyer Project and YMCA	<p>Slow Progress.</p> <p>The Epping Forest Foyer Project (a voluntary organisation) has been working with the YMCA. However, disappointingly, the YMCA have not progressed any proposals. The Foyer Project now opened up discussions with East Thames Housing Group.</p> <p>There are a number of problems with the principle of providing a foyer, not least the need for capital and revenue funding from the Housing Corporation and Supporting People Team, which is unlikely to be forthcoming.</p> <p>However, the Foyer Project and the Head of Housing Services are discussing potential (limited) sites.</p>
People with Drug and Alcohol Problems			
Commence the provision of three residential schemes for people with drug and alcohol problems across the County, to which clients from Epping Forest will have access.	April 2006	Essex County Council and Mosaic	<p>No Progress.</p> <p>Planning permission has not been granted. There has not been any further action identified to take the schemes forward.</p>

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Await news from Supporting People regarding the expression of interest for the expansion of the floating support service from 12 to 18 units and the additional part-time floating support worker.	July 2005	Cygnet Housing Association And Essex County Council SP Team	No Progress. The Essex SP Commissioning Body has not invited bids for new/expanded services. The Development Fund will be utilised for the Value Improvement Project for floating support.
Ex-Offenders			
Update the Epping Forest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Strategy following the Epping Forest Crime and Disorder Unit recommendations	April 2005	Epping Forest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	Achieved. The strategy was published in April 2005. Supported by the Epping Forest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
Develop target measurement and risk measurement systems in relation to the provision of accommodation for ex-offenders	April 2005	Probation Service - Essex	[Awaiting Progress Report from Probation Service – Essex]

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Women at Risk Of Domestic Violence

<p>Complete the construction of five self-contained flats and the provision of on-site support for women at risk of domestic violence on District Council-owned land at Cripsey Avenue, Ongar, with capital funding allocated by the Housing Corporation's Safer Communities Fund.</p>	<p align="center">February 2005</p>	<p align="center">East Living</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>The refuge was completed at the end of February 2005, with all flats let to Council nominees from within the District.</p>
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Teenage Parents

<p>Investigate with Brentwood Borough Council and Uttlesford District Council the possible introduction of a cross-boundary young parent scheme, comprising 8-10 self contained flats with access to some communal facilities, together with associated support. Seek capital funding from the Housing Corporation and revenue funding from Essex Social Care and the Essex Commissioning Body.</p>	<p align="center">September 2005</p>	<p>Epping Forest District Council, Essex Social Services, Essex County Council SP Team, Epping Forest PCT, Estuary Housing Association.</p>	<p>In Progress.</p> <p>The Project Team has selected Colchester Quakers Housing Association to manage the scheme, and provide the support, and Mosaic Homes to undertake the development.</p> <p>Essex Supporting People Team have confirmed that it will guarantee the required supporting people revenue funding, if the Housing Corporation provide the required capital funding.</p> <p>Mosaic Homes are submitting a bid for capital funding to the Housing Corporation for conventional funding, as well</p>
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			<p>as from the Corporation's Special Project's Fund. Capital funding from Essex County Council is also being sought.</p> <p>The Project Team have agreed, in principle, that the scheme should be built within the Epping Forest District, with Ongar and Epping identified as the first and second preferences respectively.</p>
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Investigate the feasibility of the development 6 children's centres in Epping Forest.	June 2005	Essex County Council and Sure Start	<p>In Progress.</p> <p>Feasibility is still being investigated. The children's centres will either serve the area directly around them or provide outreach services. Exiting buildings are being explored to deliver the services, as there is not the capital for new builds.</p>
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Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups

Work in partnership with the Essex Housing Officers Group, to formulate and progress an action plan for the Essex Equality and Diversity Project, through a specially appointed Action Team.	June 2005	Essex Housing Officers Group	<p>On Target.</p> <p>An Action Plan has been formulated. The Essex Housing Officers Group has also agreed to fund the first year of a two year appointment of a Housing Equalities and Diversity Development Officer. Interviews were held in October and a candidate was appointed.</p>
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Service Monitoring and Reviews

<p>Catch up on the Service Reviews that have been suspended for Year 2 Quarter 3 due to accreditation problems and the delay of the Value For Money tool.</p>	<p>February 2005</p>	<p>Essex County Council SP Team</p>	<p>In Progress. Over half of all the service reviews are completed. The other half are either awaiting contract issues to be resolved or validation visits to be carried out. All service reviews must be completed by March 2006.</p>
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