



LSEP Project

Briefing for service users

1 October 2009

Introduction

Sitra is an umbrella organisation committed to raising standards in the housing, care and support sector. We are a membership organisation and a registered charity with over 25 years experience of offering practitioners a range of affordable policy, training, information, conference and capacity building services.

Sitra has been funded by the Government to support providers and service users to be involved in the local planning and decisions made on housing support services. The work is known as the Local Strategic Engagement Project (LSEP).

Background

Since 2003 housing support services to vulnerable people have been funded by Supporting People grants from central Government to local authorities. Supporting People services are provided by charitable and private organisations and also by the local authority themselves. In April 2009 the conditions on the Supporting People grant were removed, this meant it could be spent more flexibly by local authorities. April 2010 will see another change where the money will be paid as part of a larger Area Based Grant. The body responsible for this grant is the local authority through its Local Strategic Partnership. They will need to ensure that monies they have help them meet the targets they have set to achieve the local area's Sustainable Community Strategy.

Housing related support

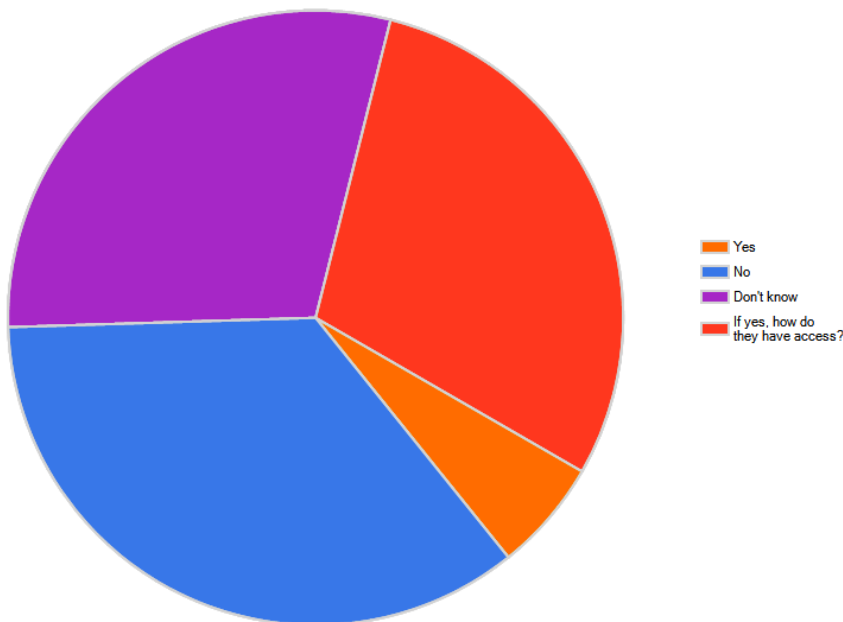
Sitra believes that housing support services improve the quality of life of vulnerable people in the community. We want to ensure that the importance of housing support services is understood and recognised by the bodies that are responsible for planning and paying for services. We want them to appreciate that money spent on support services now does stop vulnerable people having to use more expensive services later.

The Local Strategic Engagement Project

The LSEP project will run until April 2010. It has three main areas of work:

- To look at how local areas and find out who needs housing support services, how the services are planned and how they get the best provider to deliver them
- To see how providers and services users can get involved in and influence decisions about housing support
- To make sure that providers, local decision makers and service users have as much information as possible about the importance of housing support and how decisions may be made in their area.

Do HRS service users have access to statutory decision making?



Research

In July and August 2009 the LSEP carried out a survey to help us in our work. We asked whether service users had access to those that made decisions about housing support and just over a third of those who responded said yes. The majority of those who responded said no or they didn't know. This shows the project still has a lot of work to do.

Contributing to the LSEP Project

We really want to get as many views as possible including service users. We are hoping that our work with local authorities and providers will give us the opportunity to talk to service users. If you want to contact us directly we would be happy to talk to you.

To find out more or contribute to the project, please email sueb@sitra.org, mikeb@sitra.org or victoriat@sitra.org