

## INTRODUCTION TO VULNERABLE GROUPS

### 6.13 Supporting People Framework <sup>1</sup>

'Supporting People' is a new policy and funding framework for delivering accommodation based support to vulnerable people, in different types of accommodation and across all tenures. It puts on a secure and legal footing the funding that has been delivered in an ad hoc way through housing benefit, as well as replacing a complicated tangle of other funding streams and overlapping management structures. It is being preceded by a 'Transitional Housing Benefit Scheme', operating until April 2003 when the new system will be introduced throughout the UK.

The 'Supporting People Programme' is a strategic partnership between the local authority, the NHS and Probation. It will improve the quality of life for vulnerable people by providing a range of housing related support, helping people to live independently in the community. Where disabled people have a need for accommodation-based support in order to develop the skills and confidence to maintain their own accommodation, 'Supporting People' will enable the provision of high quality and flexible services to meet that need.

The legislation will help Adult Services promote independence as opposed to institutional solutions. Support services in sheltered housing are commonly provided by wardens and the provision of an alarm system. Currently the funding for these services is dealt with by central government. From April 2003, local authorities will receive a Supporting People Grant for the cost of sheltered housing schemes and projects, which receive both Supported Housing Revenue Grant and Community Care funding. This is subject to negotiations with the Welsh Assembly Government and the existence of a rolling Supporting People Operational Plan within the local authority. Funding for all supported housing will be transferred from the Welsh Assembly Government to the Council in 2006, resulting in major new responsibilities for local government in this area.

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<sup>1</sup> Cardiff Council (2002): Social Care Plan 2002 - 2007