



## Provider Representative Nominees for the Supporting People Core Strategy Group

### Supporting Statements

06/04/06

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#### **Michelle Barned** **Penrose Housing Association**

Penrose Housing Association manages 261 units of support across 11 London boroughs. Our accommodation based, floating support and forensic mental health services are delivered to male and female ex offenders.

I am the Service Manager responsible for the north London area. I have worked in general needs housing for five years and supported housing for 11 years. I feel I could contribute to the core strategy group in the following ways:

- Having worked with a range of supported housing client groups (single homeless, young mothers, ex offenders, substance misuse, domestic violence) I feel able to understand and represent numerous provider and service user views and interests.
  - I have considerable and current experience of negotiating service specifications with SP teams.
  - I can contribute good practice ideas gathered from my involvement/knowledge in provider forums across five London boroughs.
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#### **Mitesh Dhanak** **Precious Homes**

Precious Homes is an established provider of registered residential and supported housing projects in North London. The company was set up in 1994 and operates primarily in Haringey and Islington providing support and accommodation to adults with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour. We are one of the largest providers of supported housing accommodation in both boroughs (for our client group) and the vast majority of our accommodation is supported housing; we therefore have considerable experience in the field. We have also undergone a challenging review in 2004 and had to configure the personnel and culture within the company to ensure we raised the standards.

I believe the above experience will hold in good stead to represent providers and particularly private sector providers (who we believe are not so well represented currently).



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#### **Liz Rutherford** **Single Homeless Project**

Single Homeless Project (SHP) provides housing and support services for vulnerable homeless people and those at risk of homelessness. We operate in nine London boroughs and act as a managing agent to 12 housing associations. Last year 2000 people used our services.

In Islington our SP funded services include a hostel for people with mental health problems, supported housing for single homeless people and floating support for council and housing association tenants.

I have a detailed knowledge of Supporting People and have been closely involved in its development and implementation in a number of the boroughs where SHP has services. Unfortunately the post-implementation period has not delivered the 'steady state' that had been anticipated and instead, the future of the programme and the funding remain uncertain.

Provider involvement with the programme is therefore more important than ever. I think the breadth of my experience of a number of boroughs combined with the range of services we manage in Islington puts me in a good position to participate, represent and contribute to the CSG.

The role of provider representative is challenging – not only because of the context I have described above, but also because you need to represent the views and concerns of all providers, not just those of your own organisation.

If elected I will work with other provider representatives to ensure the voice of all providers is heard and that we are able to have a positive influence over the future development of SP in Islington.

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#### **Mary Cribbin** **Irish Centre Housing**

I am Supported Housing Manager at Bethany House, one of Irish Centre Housing's direct access hostels for 94 single homeless women. Irish Centre Housing is a BME led Housing Association working with homeless and marginalised people in London and Hertfordshire.

I started work at Bethany House in 2003 and have led the scheme through the implementation and review of supporting people, having established a good working relationship with local providers and commissioners.



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If elected as a provider representative, I will represent the views of all providers at CSG. I would ensure two way communication between the provider forum and CSG. I am particularly keen to ensure that the views of small and BME providers are represented and feed into the strategic development of SP within Islington.

I have a long track record of working at a strategic level, and representing local views, having been a London Borough of Brent councillor since 1982. I have held the position of lead member for social services and am currently lead member for planning.