

FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	January 2015
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Service Area	Supporting people
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	28 th January 2015

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

LOCAL COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR SUPPORTING PEOPLE 2015 - 18

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To update Council on the development of the Merthyr Tydfil Local Commissioning Plan for Supporting People 2015 -18 (the Plan which is attached as an appendix) and to seek approval for the Plan's submission to the Welsh Government.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Supporting People Programme provides Housing Related Support services to vulnerable people. The support provided enables people to live as independently as possible through a range of services that help improve their quality of life and promote greater independence within the community. The programme has played a significant part in reducing admittance to institutionalised care, has reduced homelessness and has provided essential support to people who are transitioning to independent living.
- 1.2 The Programme is a working partnership between Local Government, Service Users, Health, Probation and Support Agencies and is overseen by the Supporting People Planning Group (SPPG) which has the responsibility of developing local services in line with National Guidance and local need and overseeing the production of the Local Commissioning Plan. The Programme has continued to deliver a system of planning, commissioning, review and monitoring of housing related support services.

- 1.3 The Local Commissioning Plan informs the development of the Regional Commissioning Plan (RCP) which is submitted to the Cwm Taf Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC). Merthyr Tydfil is the lead authority for the region and as such has the responsibility for compiling the RCP based on the Local Commissioning Plans passed by both Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough council's.
- 1.4 The Supporting People Programme Grant funding stream for Supporting People can be used to complement existing statutory support services, interface with services delivered by health and/or Social Care and provide more short term intervention and assistance within temporary accommodation such as hostels, refuges and temporary supported housing.
- 1.5 The Supporting People programme has not been immune to the National Austerity measures. An announcement was made in November 2014 that outlined a cut in the Supporting People allocation for Merthyr Tydfil of £122,449.78.

2.0 LOCAL COMMISSIONING PLAN 2015-2018

- 2.1 The Local Commissioning Plan (LCP) is a document, which outlines the strategic direction and details how this will be achieved at an operational level in relation to homeless and vulnerable people with Housing Related Support needs. It is intended to function as a Supporting People revenue resource planning tool and is utilised to plan and outline activity for the financial year ahead.
- 2.2 In order to reflect local needs, the information and data utilised in the LCP is obtained through need identification information (needs mapping exercise and supply map information) and information from other needs mapping mechanisms.
- 2.3 Through the creation of the Cwm Taf Regional Collaborative Committee, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has linked with a range of stakeholders in RCT in order to build up a local and regional picture of cross boundary needs and priorities which will inform future regional developments.
- 2.4 Merthyr Tydfil Supporting People Planning Group commissioned a strategic relevance review of all services which identified a number of recommendations and priorities for investment. A copy of the strategic relevance review can be accessed via the background papers link.
- 2.5 The Supporting People Planning Group has agreed the following Primary Aims for the year 2015-2016:
 - To complete the work of distributing SP resources in line with proposed budgets and cuts over the period 2015-2018;
 - To continue to implement the new regional structure introduced following the review of Supporting People and its recommendations;
 - To implement the recommendations of the strategic relevance review;
 - To identify opportunities for regional commissioning;

2.6 In order to meet the required budget deficit the following cuts have been agreed by the Supporting People Planning Group:

- Reduction in capacity of the Sustain Project;
- Removal of the temporary increase for the Women's Domestic Abuse floating support scheme;
- Decommissioning of the temporarily funded Community Wellbeing Coaches;
- Removal of the temporary increase for the Mental Health floating support scheme;
- Reduction in capacity of the low level mental health floating support scheme;
- Decommissioning of the Disability Floating Support scheme (due to high levels of voids);
- Removal of the temporary funding for the strategic relevance review;
- Reduction in capacity for the Older People's floating support service;
- A 1% cut across the remaining services.

2.7 The schemes that have been selected for reduction in capacity have been selected in order to minimize the risks to vulnerable individuals by reducing capacity in place of decommissioning. Where schemes are being decommissioned this is due to high levels of voids and lack of engagement (in the case of the Disability Floating Support scheme) and those schemes which are being funded through other means (Community Wellbeing Coaches). Temporary funding has also been removed from services but this funding was only agreed on a temporary basis and providers were not expecting this funding to continue.

2.8 In order to support the recommendations from the strategic relevance review the Supporting People Planning Group has agreed to fund the following priority areas:

- Substance misuse floating Support
- Shared Accommodation floating support
- Learning Disability step down support
- Ex-offenders prison in reach floating support

2.9 For more detailed information a copy of the Local Commissioning Plan can be accessed via the background papers link.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The ongoing support for Supporting People schemes identified in the LCP is contingent upon funding being made available in the form of Supporting People Programme Grant by Welsh Government.

3.2 There are no direct financial implications related to this report as the Supporting People programme is funded entirely from the Welsh Government.

4.0 SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY

- 4.1 The Single Integrated Plan & Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed and the proposals positively impact on most aspects of the Corporate Plan and Single Integrated Plan, including people in Merthyr Tydfil having the opportunity and aspiration to learn and develop their skills to maximise their potential; people in Merthyr Tydfil benefiting from a strong, sustainable and diverse economy; and People, who live and work in Merthyr Tydfil are supported to enjoy a healthier and better quality of life.
- 4.2 There will however be a reduction in service which has been mitigated wherever possible by reducing spaces in place of decommissioning. Where decommissioning has occurred this is a result of high level of voids and funding being received from other areas.

5.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full EqIA Report is required. Both forms can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

5.1.1 The positive impacts are an increase in services for vulnerable individuals.

5.1.2 The negative impacts are decommissioning of certain schemes due to voids and removal of temporary funding and a reduction in spaces in certain services however this has been agreed in order to minimise impact through the avoidance of decommissioning wherever possible.

5.1.3 Current proposals to address the issues are to continue to implement the strategic relevance review of all services across Supporting People to identify areas for further investment and disinvestment including a focus on meeting the requirements of the Aylward review around Older People's services.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION that

- 6.1 the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2015-18 be approved.

PHIL HODGSON
INTERIM STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<i>Title of Document(s)</i>	<i>Document(s) Date</i>	<i>Document Location</i>
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – Local Commissioning Plan 2015-2018	December 2014	Community Services Directorate - Supporting People Team
Strategic Review for Merthyr Tydfil Supporting People Planning Group	March 2014	Community Services Directorate - Supporting People Team
Supporting People Guidance	August 2012	Community Services Directorate - Supporting People Team
Independent Review of the Supporting People Programme in Wales: Final Report	November 2010	Community Services Directorate - Supporting People Team
Previous Cabinet/Council/Information Reports	2002 – to date	Community Services Directorate - Supporting People Team

Consultation has been undertaken with Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.