



FULL COUNCIL - INFORMATION REPORT

Date Written	24 January 2020 **
Report Author	Suzanne Stephens
Service Area	Housing & Supporting People
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	February 2020

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan Annual Update 2020-21

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Council on the development of the Merthyr Tydfil Local Commissioning Plan for Supporting People 2020/21 (the Plan) and to seek approval for the Plan's submission to the Welsh Government.

1.2 The key aspects of the plan are:

1.2.1 Proposals to continue with commissioned services mostly in line with 2019/20, including the retendering of all generic floating support services and directing any underspends to the priority lead needs areas to commission additional/new services based on needs identified.

1.2.2 Proposals to commission services for clients with:

- Multiple complex needs who are rough sleeping or of No Fixed Abode
- General needs to prevent homelessness

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 The Housing Support Grant encompasses three former grants: Supporting People Grant, Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement.

3.2 The Supporting People Programme (which will be referred to as the Housing Support Programme from 1st April 2020) 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.

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 The Local Commissioning Plan informs the development of the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) which is submitted to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC). Merthyr Tydfil is the lead authority for the region and as such has the responsibility for compiling the RSP based on the Local Commissioning Plans passed by both Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend County Borough Councils.
- 3.5 The Supporting People funding element of the Housing Support Grant 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.
- 3.6 The Housing Support Grant has been protected from cuts for the financial year 2020/21 with the indicative allocation remaining at £2,184,089. New guidance for the Housing Support Grant will be issued by Welsh Government on 11th February 2020, which will take effect from 1st April 2020.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 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 Housing Support revenue resource planning tool and is utilised to plan and outline activity for the financial year ahead.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Through the creation of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Collaborative Committee, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has linked with a range of stakeholders in RCT and Bridgend in order to build up a local and regional picture of cross boundary needs and priorities which will inform future regional developments.

4.4 The Supporting People Planning Group has agreed the following Primary Aims for the year 2020/21:

- To complete the work of distributing SP resources over the period 2020/21 including exploring options for investment in new schemes where gaps in provision are identified.
- To continue to implement the new regional structure introduced following the review of Supporting People and its recommendations.
- To implement efficiency savings through the use of best practice across Supporting People and exploring and identifying regional commissioning opportunities

4.5 In order to support funding to meet gaps in need and service provision the Supporting People Planning Group has agreed to fund the following priority areas:

- People with Mental Health Issues
- Women Experiencing Domestic Abuse
- Homeless/Needs Support to prevent Homelessness

4.6 The Local Commissioning Plan's implementation will be monitored by the Supporting People Planning Group and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Collaborative Committee. The Supporting People team will continue to evaluate services and needs data to make recommendations on commissioning to meet needs across the County Borough.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	1 of 4	0 of 4	3 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10
4. Biodiversity	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
<p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p>The main positive impact is that services continue to receive appropriate funding to meet the recognised need in support of the housing related needs of vulnerable groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with Mental Health Issues • Older People • Young People 			

Alyn Owen
Deputy Chief Executive

Cllr Geraint Thomas
Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Public Protection

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan Annual Update 2020/21	24 January 2020	O Drive – Social Services – MAASH-SP Docs – LCP 2020-21
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

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