



FULL COUNCIL - INFORMATION REPORT

Date Written	26 th May 2021
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Service Area	Housing Support Grant
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	14 th July 2021

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan - Annual Update 2021-2022

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Council on the development of the Merthyr Tydfil Delivery Plan for Housing Support Grant (formerly the Supporting People Programme) 2021-22. Please note that all LA HSG plans are currently in draft form with amended proposed plans due to be submitted by the end of quarter 1. This is due to the recent increase in HSG funding which necessitated additional time for LA's to make provisions for the commissioning of new services and support schemes.

1.2 The key aspects of the plan are:

1.2.1 Proposals to continue with commissioned services mostly in line with 2020-21 and 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 (NFA).
- General needs to prevent homelessness.
- The inclusion of Covid-related support services which directly respond to local needs arising from the Covid pandemic. These were commissioned during 2019-20 but after the Local Commissioning Plan was presented to Council in February 2020.

Please refer to section 4 of the Draft HSG delivery plan (Commissioning Plan) for 2021-22 which is available via the background papers link.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Housing Support Grant encompasses three former grants: Supporting People Grant, Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement.
- 2.2 The Housing Support Grant 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.
- 2.3 The Programme is a working partnership between Local Government, Service Users, Health, Probation and Support Agencies and is overseen by the HSG Planning Group 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.
- 2.4 The Local Commissioning Plan informs the development of the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) which is submitted to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG). 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 Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend County Borough Councils.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 The Housing Support Grant award for Merthyr Tydfil has been increased by £689,193.13 for 2021-2022, increasing the previous award of £2,184,089.00 to **£2,873,282.13**. New guidance for the Housing Support Grant was issued by Welsh Government in March 2021, which took effect from April 2021.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The Local Commissioning Plan (LCP) sits within the draft Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan (Section 4), 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.
- 3.2 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.

- 3.3 Through the creation of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Housing Collaborative Group, 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.
- 3.4 The Housing Support Grant Planning Group (previously Supporting People Planning Group – SPPG) has agreed the following Primary Aims for the year 2021-22:
- To complete the work of distributing HSG 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 across Cwm Taf Morgannwg, exploring opportunities to benefit from collaborative regional working and commissioning where it makes sense to do so.
 - To implement efficiency savings through the use of best practice across Housing Support Grant.
- 3.5 In order to support funding to meet gaps in need and service provision the HSG 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.
- 3.6 The Local Commissioning Plan's implementation will be monitored by the HSG Planning Group and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Collaborative Committee. The HSG team will continue to evaluate services and needs data to make recommendations on commissioning to meet needs across the County Borough and the wider Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The ongoing support for HSG schemes identified in the Local Commissioning Plan is contingent upon funding being made available in the form of HSG Grant by Welsh Government.
- 4.2 There are no direct financial implications related to this report as the HSG programme is funded entirely from a Welsh Government grant.

5.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 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 (including Welsh Language)	4 of 10	0 of 10	6 of 10
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	5 of 6	0 of 6	1 of 6
5. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required
	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal	Yes		No
	1 of 1		0 of 1
7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
Summary			
The main positive impacts are:	People in Merthyr Tydfil are supported to avoid or alleviate homelessness. They are supported to sustain safe and appropriate homes in which they may flourish. Capacity and resilience are increased, reducing the use of 'blue-light' services and improving levels of wellbeing.		
The main negative impacts are:	None		

ALYN OWEN
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR TONY ROGERS
CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Housing Support Grant Local Commissioning Plan Annual Update 2020/21 (which can be found in Section 4 of the Draft HSG delivery plan for 2021-22	May 2021	O Drive (Housing) / Housing Support Grant 21-22+ / Draft HSG delivery Plan 2021-22
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.