

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults and Vulnerable People and
Director of People, the Head of Finance and the Head of Legal
Services

Where scheme exceeds £150,000 but not £1,000,000

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults and Vulnerable People

External Funding Panel – 5 October 2016

ENABLE CAPITAL GRANT

Purpose:	To approve the Enable Capital grant from the Welsh Government and include the expenditure in the capital programme for 2016/17.
Policy Framework:	Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014.
Reason for Decision:	To comply with Financial Procedure Rule No.7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals) - to commit and authorise schemes as per the Capital Programme or to include new schemes in the Capital Programme.
Consultation:	Finance, Legal and Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	To comply with Financial Procedure Rule No 7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals) to commit and authorise schemes onto the capital programme
Report Author:	Rachel Evans / Alex Williams
Finance Officer:	Jayne James / Jeff Dong
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Phil Couch

1.0 Introduction

Welsh Government Policy is driving an agenda which aims to support as many individuals as possible to live fulfilled lives within their communities in the place they regard as home. However, In order to achieve this objective homes have to be in a good state of repair, be energy efficient and be devoid of hazards.

The recent Welsh Government Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee's report (2016) recommends utilising housing related grants to assist in the quick and effective targeting of mid-level adaptations for older people.

Swansea Housing Department has a long standing and extensive grant programme (DFG Disabled Facility Grant) which supports major adaptations to properties. It also administers an effective Mini Adaptations Grants (MAG) for works up to £2,000.

The ENABLE grant of £280,349 will give additional flexibility and resource, to expand the structures already proven with DFG s and MAGs, importantly to include all housing tenures.

This approach was tested by Care and Repair in 2014/2015 using £437,000 of Intermediate Care Funds and was labelled the "Healthy Home Grant" (HHG). It proved to be a very effective means of accessing resource that previously hadn't been available to a group of individuals to support them to remain independent at home.

In one year over 900 jobs were completed, 43% of the clients helped were aged 75-84 and over 550 of the jobs completed were to prevent a fall in or outside the home.

It also supported earlier hospital discharge where small housing related works were delaying that process.

2.0 Proposed Works

The total grant allowance of £280,349 will be allocated to Care and Repair with a mandate to continue with the Healthy Home Grant scheme which was positively evaluated after the ICF allocation of 2014/15.

The practical work at an individual level will include:

- Mid-level adaptations, with priority for works that assist hospital discharge, prevent falls in the home or provide targeted support for older people.
- Mid-level intervention and adaptations to the homes of older people aged over 60 who are living in their own home or privately rented accommodation.

Examples of the work that will be completed under these headings are broad ranging but include; walk in showers, stair lifts, renewing boilers and deep cleaning properties. Undertaking gas safety works and addressing any other issues identified in the Housing Health & Safety Rating System will also be a priority.

Added Value

Clients referred to Care and Repair will also have access to the Casework Team. Caseworkers are qualified Trusted Assessors and are also Energy Awareness trained. As well as completing a full 'Healthy Home Check', they undertake a holistic assessment which covers a range of areas such as reviewing benefit entitlements, accessing various grants and sign posting on to other organisations where appropriate.

3.0 Objective of Scheme

The principal overarching aim of the grant allocation will be to continue to support Health Boards and Local Authorities to:

- reduce unnecessary hospital delays
- reduce where possible the incidence of falls in older people
- undertake works in the homes of older people which will support them to remain safely in their environment

450 individuals will receive a Healthy Home Check service before the end of March 2017 and any identified housing related works will be undertaken.

4.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

The recent Welsh Government Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee's report recommends financing for Independent Living Grants to assist in the quick and effective targeting of mid-level adaptations for older people.

Numerous national and local engagement events with older people have resulted in a clear message and overwhelming desire to live in their own home (where ever that may be) for as long as possible.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The total cost of the scheme amounts to £280,349 and will be fully funded by WG capital grant, with 50% of the grant to be claimed by 30 September 2016 and the remaining 50% to be claimed by 31 March 2017. No financial contribution is required from CCS. There are no revenue implications of running the scheme. Details are set out in Appendix A.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The Authority must abide by the general and special grant conditions set out by WG.

7.0 IT/Systems Implications

7.1 None

8.0 Property Implications

8.1 None

Background Papers: None.

Appendix: Appendix A – Financial Implications