

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults & Vulnerable People

Cabinet - 19 January 2017

CITY & COUNTY OF SWANSEA - SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME GRANT (SPPG) - LOCAL COMMISSIONING PLAN (LCP) FOR 2017/18

Purpose:

This report seeks approval of the Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) Local Strategic Plan Priorities summary for 2017/18 contained in the Local Strategic Plan (Appendix 1).

The report also seeks approval of a set of Draft Regional Strategic Priorities for the Western Bay Regional Collaborative Committee.

Welsh Government grant conditions indicate that Local SPPG strategic priorities must receive Authority member approval prior to forwarding to the Western Bay Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC). The RCC will give regard to these in developing a Regional Strategic Plan for the Supporting People Programme. Welsh Government guidance indicates LA must agree the adoption of the Regional Strategic Priorities contained in the Regional Strategic Plan. This is then sent to Welsh Government by January 6th 2017 to enable release of local allocations.

This report also summarises the key strategic issues and challenges for commissioning with SPPG locally.

This report gives a local financial overview.

Policy Framework:

National Policy Framework
Implementation of The Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
Tackling Poverty and Welsh Government alignment with other Anti-Poverty Grants.

Local Policy Framework
The One Swansea Single Integrated Plan
Homelessness Strategic Business Plan 2015-18
The Social Services Strategic Commissioning Plans for Adults & Child & Family.

Reason for Decision:	To comply with the requirements of the Welsh Government Grant Conditions July 2013 and supplementary guidance. http://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/services-and-support/supporting-people/?lang=en
Consultation:	Finance, Legal, Access to Services and Partner Organisations.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Local Supporting People Strategic Commissioning Priorities included in the annual plan are noted and approved. 2. That the Western Bay Regional Collaborative Committee Strategic priorities are noted and agreed for inclusion in the 3 year Regional Strategic Plan.
Report Author:	Anita Evans
Finance Officer:	Chris Davies
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Phil Couch

1. Introduction

1.1 The Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) is a Welsh Government (WG) grant and sits within the WG Tackling Poverty portfolio currently. The 2016/17 SPPG allocation to Swansea was £13.8 million. The allocation is paid to commission or provide housing related support services to help prevent people becoming homeless or requiring residential/ institutional services, through the provision of 'housing related support'.

1.2 The majority of the housing related support services are provided via City & County contracts externally. At year end 31.3.2016:

56%	£7.6 m	Voluntary Sector,
22%	£3.1 m	Registered Social Landlords (RSL's)
12%	£1.7 m	Private Sector Providers.
10%	£1.4 m	City & County of Swansea Internal (Housing & Adult Mental Health)

The programme guidance aims to ensure that a minimum of 80% of SPPG is focused on front line delivering support staff.

- 1.3 The principal local commissioning partners are the LA (Social Services, Housing, Anti-Poverty, Corporate Finance and Procurement) Probation and Health. The local governance structure is the Supporting People Commissioning Group (SPCG) which meets quarterly to oversee the local commissioning activity and approve specific funding decisions and agree the annual SPPG projected spend plan.
- 1.4 WG guidance requires that these services are reviewed taking account of strategic relevance, cost effectiveness, quality assurance, grant administration and servicing the SPPG Commissioning Group. The Supporting People Team (SPT) within Social Services undertakes this responsibility on behalf of the LA.
- 1.5 There is also a regional governance structure; the Western Bay Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) is in place as prescribed by Welsh Government. It includes the same representative stakeholders within the Local Commissioning Group plus elected service provider & landlord representatives, co-opted members as agreed and Welsh Government Officials. The City & County of Swansea is currently the coordinating LA for the RCC. There is a specific grant funded post to do this.
- 1.6 The grant conditions and WG guidance requires the LA to forward local commissioning priorities annually to the Western Bay RCC. The RCC will give regard to these priorities when developing its 3 year Strategic Plan. These priorities must be formally adopted by each LA and be submitted to WG by Monday 16th January 2017 along with each LA's spend plan for the SPPG.
- 1.7 Each LA must also produce an annual projected spend plan for the grant for each year. Quarterly out turn reports must also be submitted to WG to monitor actual spend against the projected spend. Variance from the projection of more than 10% in each client group category must be agreed by the RCC. If not approved, it will be referred by the RCC to WG and the Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB). Any under spend will be clawed back by Welsh Government.
- 1.8 For the first time in 2016/17 each local Authority has been given the flexibility to vire up to 5% of Anti-Poverty Grants between the other grants. They are Supporting People Programme, Communities First, Families First and Flying Start. The amount vired will take on the characteristic of the grant programme it has been given to. For year one the governance of this process will be undertaken by the Supporting People Commissioning Group. Welsh Government has agreed a virement of 5% of the 2016/17 Communities First programme into SPPG programme.
- 1.9 This report summarises the local strategic priorities and seeks member approval of the Supporting People commissioning priority areas and the Local Strategic Commissioning Plan for 2017/18.

1.10 The regional priorities were developed using the equivalent data from the three areas by consensus by the members of the RCC. They reflect issues which each area has also identified locally.

2.0 What the Supporting People Programme Grant funds

2.1 The grant funds services to help prevent people becoming homeless or requiring residential/ institutional services, through the provision of 'housing related support'. Housing related support enables people to develop or maintain the skills and confidence necessary to maximise their ability to live independently, by enabling them to perform tasks which, if not performed adequately, would lead to a breakdown in the individual's right or ability to continue living in that home.

2.2 The SPPG programme has housing, and preventing homelessness or people living in inappropriate institutional settings, at its core. Support can be offered to anyone eligible, regardless of the tenure. The emphasis of the programme is "doing with" as opposed to doing for and building their personal resilience.

2.3 There are limitations on grant use. The programme cannot fund hands on personal care or undertake domestic services. Individuals must be over 16 years and must be legally responsible for their accommodation.

2.4 There are a range of service models currently funded by the programme which can be broadly grouped by the following services models:

- Direct Access Homeless Hostels & Domestic Abuse Refuges
- Temporary Supported Housing
- Permanent Supported Housing
- Floating Support
- Sheltered Housing
- Other

2.5 There is a National Supporting People Outcomes Framework for the programme. Mandatory returns are made to Welsh Government every 6 months. The returns are made by collating individual support plan reviews using a distance travelled tool.

3.0 Financial context for commissioning services using SPPG

3.1 The Welsh Government announced its draft budget on the 20th October. To date, there has been no national cut to the programme. The protection of the grant has been linked to an effective lobby by the provider sector and the findings of the data linking feasibility study report. <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/supporting-people-data-linking-feasibility-study/?skip=1&lang=en> showing a strong positive association of utilisation patterns of health services and outcomes for individuals who used SPPG funded services. It is unclear as yet whether there will be any top slicing and the draft has yet to receive ministerial approval.

3.1.2 The Supporting People National Advisory Board (SPNAB) circulated a paper at the end of September 2016 which suggested that any funding reduction for LA's should be made by a flat rate cut to each LA without any adjustment for distribution. The following shows percentages and equivalent possible cash reductions for 2017/18. Confirmation on local allocations awaited.

20%	£2.763 million	5%	£691,000
15%	£2.073 million	2.5%	£345,500
10%	£1.382 million	1%	£138,000
7.5%	£1.036 million		

3.1.3 The paper also recommends that a new distribution formula is developed for implementation in 2018/19. The background to this call by some Local Authorities relates to the relative success of the initial capture exercise which established the Supporting People grant levels across Wales in 2003. Swansea was relatively effective at undertaking the initial capture exercise but this was not consistent across all LA's in Wales. Welsh Government have been engaged since that time with WLGA and the Provider sector on developing a new distribution formula.

3.1.4 An interim formula was used for 3 years in which Swansea received a modest gain. Previous formula options put forward by London Economics Wales did not favour Swansea and estimated impacts were at worst a 25% reduction for Swansea. However, some of the elements of the interim formula are no longer relevant in light of Welfare Reform e.g. phasing out of DLA and changes in performance indicators in response to legislation changes e.g. Homelessness PI's. There is a cross sector national working group charged with developing a new formula for implementation in 2018/19.

3.1.5 Cymorth Cymru a lobbying organisation are again leading a campaign "Keep on Supporting People" targeted at Welsh Government to protect the budget nationally. Providers are also lobbying by writing to Local Authority Elected Members.

3.1.6 To date previous SPPG allocation reductions have been implemented without any individuals losing their service through cost reduction exercises. It is evident as a result of implementing the previous reductions for 2015/16 that this approach would be unlikely going forward.

3.2 Strategic Context for Commissioning with SPPG

3.2.1 Welsh Government guidance is strengthening and emphasising the role of the SPPG programme as a resource for delivering on key LA homeless prevention duties within the new Housing Wales Act introduced in 2015. This is specifically in relation to new homelessness

prevention duties and the requirement to assess housing related support needs.

- 3.2.3 The Supporting People Grant programme sits within the Welsh Government Minister Carl Sargeants portfolio with the other tackling poverty grants such as Communities First, Families First and Flying Start. Until recently Welsh Government was advocating Supporting People have closer links with these grants however it is now unclear what the position is, following the recent announcement by the Minister to discontinue the Community First Programme.
- 3.2.4 There have been significant welfare reform announcements by the Department of Work and Pension in relation to accommodation costs and specifically supported housing. Further information on elements devolved to Welsh Government in relation to fixed supported housing are awaited. There is a national consultation underway by the DWP on the future funding of Supported Housing. Whilst the majority is in relation to England an element in relation to temporary accommodation has national context. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supported-accommodation-review>
- 3.2.5 The Local Service Board (LSB) has identified the following priorities for the City and County of Swansea as an area:
- Children have a good start in life
 - People learn successfully
 - Young people and adults have good jobs
 - People have a decent standard of living
 - People are healthy, safe and independent
 - People have good places to live and work.

As can be seen the SPPG national outcomes framework is compatible with most of these priorities with service working one to one on their specific needs and identified outcomes.

- 3.2.6 The City & County of Swansea Local Authority has agreed the following priorities in the 2015/17 Corporate Plan. <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/corporateimprovementplan>
“This plan does not include everything that we do but focuses on what is most important for Swansea:

- *Safeguarding vulnerable people*
- *Improving pupil attainment*
- *Creating a vibrant and viable city and economy*
- *Tackling poverty*
- *Building sustainable communities”*

The SPPG programme outcome areas link closely to the above. However, the most relevant may be considered as:

- Safeguarding vulnerable people

- Tackling Poverty
- Building Sustainable Communities

3.2.7 The Adult Social Care Strategy Promoting Safer Independence for Older People and Vulnerable adults aims to reduce the number of adults receiving institutional forms of care, and supported care planning within 3 – 5 years.

1. To safely reduce or prevent the need for citizens to require formal adult services intervention or “supported care” planning
2. Safely reduce the period of time citizens may expect to spend in receiving “supported care planning”
3. Ensure that services for Swansea citizens are sustainable and continue to safeguard and promote independence of the most vulnerable

3.2.8 The LA Homeless strategy priorities based on the annual review of homelessness and the Homelessness Strategic Business Plan 2015-18 are priorities are:

- Reducing and preventing all homelessness by tackling the causes as well as solution focused working for households who are homeless.
- Increasing the capacity of the private rented sector ensuring that accommodation is well managed, affordable and of a high quality
Dealing with the ongoing and future impact of welfare reform
- Continuing responses to rough sleeping (including the Housing First Model and individual budgets work as well as meeting the day to day needs of those without a roof)
- Reducing and eliminating the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation (‘B and B’)
- Improving outcomes for Looked After Children
- Developing short and long term support options for people with complex needs including older people with substance and alcohol misuse
- Develop creative support packages for people within shared housing
- Explore options to support homeless prison leavers in finding and maintaining somewhere to live
Continue to develop and improve customer focused referral pathways into supported housing across the city

3.2.9 The LA’s Tackling Poverty Forum has identified the following three areas as a priority for action for tackling poverty.

- Early years – child development
- Apprenticeships and employment support
- Identifying people at risk/already vulnerable and support them intensively to address their issues and needs) particularly mental health issues, debt and finance)

4.0. Establishing new SPPG commissioning priorities

4.1 Reviewing the above drivers the recommended new City & County of Swansea priorities for commissioning housing related support services using Supporting People Programme Grant are:

4.2 Tackling Poverty for those at risk of Homelessness

All the supporting people programme services are a key element in delivering the Anti-poverty agenda. It provides a skilled workforce delivering advice and practical housing related support around welfare benefits, debt reduction and developing budgeting skills. They also give advice and practical assistance and signposting around getting work ready. This support is specifically focused on those who are vulnerable and vulnerably housed and most at risk of, or who are, homeless and supporting them to access and sustain accommodation.

- Delivering crisis and responsive services earlier to prevent homelessness and fulfil LA duties under the new Housing Act.
- Supporting key pilots from the Transitional Homeless Grant
- Supporting the delivery of a Private Rented Sector Access Service and the offer to private landlords and their tenants of good quality affordable accommodation with support which assists in enabling the LA to discharge its duties.
- Prevention of Domestic Abuse as a cause of homelessness
- Developing new ways of meeting the housing and support needs of the most vulnerable ex-offenders in light of the new legislation.
- Meeting the challenges of the more complex nature of homeless and rough sleeping individuals.
- Eliminate the use of B & B as temporary accommodation and supporting alternative temporary accommodation models.
- Meeting the challenge to commission sustainable supported accommodation due to the impacts of the welfare reform for those under 35 e.g. development of support in shared housing and affordable supported housing

4.3 Families with Children and Young People

This reflects the aim that children have a good start in life. The delivery of housing related support to parents to assist in creating a stable home and preventing homelessness is key to delivering that start. The Homeless Prevention, Anti-Poverty and Safeguarding vulnerable people priorities complement and combine to achieve this aim:

- Respond to findings of the family Support Commissioning Review
- Continue to support a range of service models which prevent Domestic Abuse as a cause of homelessness for families.
- Eliminate the use of B & B as temporary accommodation for young people prioritising 16 & 17 year olds.

- Implement an integrated assessment/referral for accommodation and support through a Gateway within the 16 plus service.
- Continue the B & B Prevention Pilot
- Explore new local models to support young parents.

4.4 Vulnerable People with Support Needs

This links homeless priorities around ensuring the most vulnerable have access to limited temporary, supported accommodation and housing related floating support resources and the remodelling for the Adult Social Care advice, information, assessment and to reduce safely the time people can expect adult social care supported care planning.

- Housing related support services will complement and integrate with the Swansea Adult Social Care service remodelling around prevention, early intervention, intake and wellbeing services.
- To respond to the recommendations of the Adult Services Commissioning Reviews for Mental Health ('MH'), Learning Disability & Physical Disability.
- To respond to the findings of the Outcomes Commissioning Project for Learning Disabilities.
- Develop a sustainable supported living model for those in need of longer term support.
- Explore a range of alternative models of delivery e.g. Local Area Co-ordination, support on demand, group work and direct payment approaches.

4.5 There are general cross cutting priorities for all the above areas which are:

- Early identification and prioritisation of the most vulnerable people at risk/already vulnerable to homelessness or requiring a more institutionalised form of accommodation and/or support.
- To make available support in the most appropriate and sustainable manner to address service users' urgent housing issues and needs and to build and maintain their resilience and level of independent living.
- To ensure that the most vulnerable have access to the supply of temporary supported, supported & housing related floating support resources through an appropriate gateway.
- To ensure that the approach to delivering housing related support should not deskill but promote an asset based approach to progression and building personal and family resilience.
- To develop integrated approaches for those with multiple and complex needs e.g. Mental Health & Substance Misuse

2017-18 Strategic Commissioning Priorities for Supporting People Programme

Priority Area	Issue	Activity	Outcome/Review
Prevention of Homelessness from within the Private Sector	The most prevalent cause of homelessness is loss of private rented accommodation	<p>Providing focused support to tenants in the private rented sector by provision of support in :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Authority Social Lettings Service • The LA Tenancy support Unit • Support the exploration and piloting of private sector shared supported housing within the Welfare reform restrictions for under those under 35 years of age. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of homelessness are reduced from the private sector tenancies •
Preventing Homelessness of victims of Domestic Abuse	Domestic Abuse as a cause of Homelessness is still one of the main reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the findings of the Family Support review. • Continue to support a range of service models to support victims of Domestic Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness as a result of Domestic Abuse is reduced. • Victims of domestic abuse are supported to flee and supported to access and maintain sustainable accommodation.
Preventing Homelessness of Families with children	Adverse childhood experience such as homeless for any reason can have long term impacts on health and wellbeing as an adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the development of supported living options for single young parents with babies • Continue to prioritise support for families with dependent children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless of families with dependent children is prevented. • Vulnerable Young Families are supported to establish sustainable homes.
Eliminating	Use of Bed & Breakfast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the B & B Prevention Pilot for Young 	The City & County of Swansea

establishments the use of bed & breakfast as temporary accommodation	accommodation is not desirable and has been only used as a last resort.	<p>People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore increasing the range of “supported lodging” model including shared supported lodgings for young people. • Review existing alternative for ongoing suitability. 	has a range of suitable alternatives to the use of B & B for temporary accommodation.
Provision of support for complex and multiple support needs	A smaller number of individuals that the LA have duties towards have need which are challenging and complex and require alternative approaches to support. (This can be one or a combination of Mental Health and Substance Misuse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider adopt the elements of effective prevention pilots from Transitional funding. • Improve coordination and collaborative working with specialist statutory and non-statutory service • Develop bespoke packages for these groups. 	Packages of support are available to prevent homelessness for more challenging and complex individuals.
Prison Leavers	Under the new legislation there is no automatic duty to accommodate. However prison leavers are still one of the main group presenting as homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide the Ex-offenders support integrated within Housing Options Service. • Support the implementation and operation of the National Prison Pathway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for prison discharge is improved and as a result fewer prisoners present as homeless. • There is a positive impact on levels of re-offending as a result of homeless
Develop further the early intervention, prevention services	Legislative changes focus on early intervention and prevention in Homelessness and the Social Service & wellbeing Act to reduce crisis and dependence.	<p>Explore and identify further opportunities for early intervention and prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider pre-tenancy support and training options • Continue to support the rapid response service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier opportunities for prevention work are identified and undertaken. • Homeless is reduced. • The level and intensity of support required is reduced. • Less people present in

<p>Prioritising support to those most in need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Accommodation /Living needs to be allocated to those most in need • Floating Support services should be prioritised to those most in need. • Welsh Government directive to move to tenure neutral services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement an Accommodation & Support Gateway into the 16 + Service. • Development of a single portable assessment • Review the arrangements for the Mental Health OASIS Gateway • Opportunities for building efficiency and resilience in the single access point gateway process are explored • Continue to implement the Aylward recommendation on tenure neutral allocation of support to those most in need affecting Sheltered and other remaining floating support services. 	<p style="text-align: center;">crisis requiring support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 16 plus service has clear method and process for prioritising referrals for supported accommodation and floating support capacity for Young People. • A person does not experience multiple assessment and referrals for supported accommodation.
<p>Progression and building resilience in the supported living models</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many legacy service models in place. • Required to comply with EU and Corporate procurement directives 	<p>Develop and implement a procurement strategy to address the service requirements outcomes for individuals identified in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the impact of welfare reform policy intensions i.e. LHA on social rented sector and supported housing to inform future commissioning. • New Homeless prevention service models. • Respond to the findings of the Outcomes Commissioning Review (Right Sizing Right Pricing) for Learning Disabilities • Action the relevant coproduced recommendations from the Learning Disability/Mental Health Commissioning reviews. • Actions relevant recommendations from the Family Support continuum Review • Action the recommendation from the review of Young person s supported housing review by the 16 Plus Gateway Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are supported to recognise and build on their assets • People are supported towards living a life free from services. • Effective and efficient service are procured.

<p>Supporting People Programme Grant Administration and Compliance</p>	<p>Ensure ongoing LA compliance with associated grant conditions and operating guidance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory Financial Spend Plan returns • Mandatory Outcomes returns • Mandatory audit returns • Mandatory cyclical Service Evaluation and Monitoring. • Undertaking collaborative and inclusive commissioning processes • Compliance with RCC • Coordination of SPPG Regional Collaborative Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People achieve their personal outcomes • Effective efficient services are delivered • The LA is compliant • There is effective regional working
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	Western Bay Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC)
Priority	Issues
Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)	<p>Domestic Abuse linking in to regional work Positive Pathway to Adulthood Prison Leavers: Overview of the implementation of the National Prison Pathway Eliminating B&B, Strategies and good practice for 16-17 year olds Complex Needs i.e. Co-occurring mental health and substance misuse Challenging behaviour, Improving collaboration with specialist MH and Substance misuse services</p>
Homelessness Prevention Innovation	<p>Local Housing Allowance Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-21 – Policy intention that 18-21 year olds will not qualify for housing benefit costs. • Under 35's – LHA applied to social rented housing. LHA is below current rent levels • Older Persons – sheltered housing is affected by the LHA. • Supported Housing – LHA rates will apply but an amount equivalent to the difference will be devolved to WG to determine how it is to be used. This gives the RCC the opportunity to inform and influence <p>Temporary Accommodation</p> <p>Transitional Funding - Implications and impact of reductions and ending Pilots and innovation evaluation Prison Leavers -Overview of the implementation of the National Prison Pathway</p> <p>Eliminating B&B, Strategies and good practice for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-25 year olds • Families <p>Complex Needs i.e. Co-occurring mental health and substance misuse Challenging behaviour</p>

	<p>Improving collaboration with specialist MH and Substance Misuse services. Good practice in engaging and improving outcomes</p>
<p>Making Links to Health, Well Being and Social Care Partnership Board</p>	<p>Address recommendation of the Mental Health and Learning Disability Commissioning Board Overview, good practice and innovation of 24hr services Management costs – overview and good practice in central management costs.</p> <p>Improving Population Needs Assessment Review and identify gaps in information and make recommendations</p>

5.0 Broadly what will the services we procure be like?

- 5.1 At present there is an options appraisal exercise underway to address compliance with relevant procurement legislation and local rules and grant conditions, improve the sustainability of service provision and deliver new service models where necessary.
- 5.2 The LA has begun engagement with the Joint Homelessness and Supporting People Collaborative forum on a blank page approach to procuring services within the SPPG allocation addressing the LA agreed priorities.
- 5.3 Where the client group expertise overlaps there will be a joint approach with the Adult Services and Child & Family Service Commissioning reviews linking in with client group specific approaches to commissioning and procurement. This will also involve linkages to the ABMU Learning Disability and Mental Health Commissioning Board and wider Western Bay work.
- 5.4 **Some of the emerging commissioning themes are:**
- The Authority will commission services within the envelope of SPPG projected grant allocations and with a focus on efficiency and effectiveness support more people.
 - The concept of permanent support at the same intensity will be replaced by one of being able to demonstrate support which is “enabling maximum possible control, involvement and understanding” for the individual as set out in the national SP Outcomes Framework. Services will be expected to evidence how individuals are progressing at any point in time.
 - Support will be person centred and use an asset based approach to build the individual’s and/or the family’s resilience and ability to live as independently as possible and move to their maximum level control, involvement and understanding.
 - There will be support to develop a less risk averse culture for those perceived as needing long term services progressing towards a life without or reduced service support.
 - There will be an Authority wide approach to funding decisions assessing the impact on services.
 - The Authority will commission services which can be flexible to respond to changes in commissioning priorities, the external context and changes to the SPPG grant allocations and conditions.
 - The Authority will implement a co-productive approach to commissioning with people who need services.
 - When commissioning, the Authority will be mindful of further welfare reforms which may affect the affordability to individuals in need of fixed supported housing provision and the sustainability of the model in general.
 - All services will link to a central referral and access point which identifies the most vulnerable individuals in need of housing related support.

6.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

- 6.1 Supporting People Programme Grant services are designed to support individuals who have 'protected characteristics' and the services seek to address many of the challenges experienced by groups referred to in the equality legislation.
- 6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment screening exercise has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment will be necessary and opened once the financial settlement is known. On the announcement of the SPPG allocation for Swansea Individual and full screening will be undertaken on the detailed procurement plan. The resulting commissioning/decommissioning recommendations will be presented to the Supporting People Commissioning Group for decision.
- 6.3 The Supporting People Programme Commissioning Group will make final commissioning/decommissioning decisions on whether a reduction is appropriate to go ahead or not based on the Equality Impact Assessment and public consultation process.
- 6.4 Monitoring of presenting needs information, service utilisation and outcomes as well as regular contract liaison meetings with individual providers will monitor any impact relating to the above.
- 6.5 The Strategic Priorities identified have been reached following review of a range of data identifying need. It includes engagement with individuals who use services via the Service User Involvement Framework for Supporting People Programme and Homelessness Services in Swansea. Other Stakeholders such as service providers are engaged via the Supporting People Programme Grant Collaborative Forum and the wider Homelessness and Social Care planning forums. These priorities will be given regard to in the development of the Supporting People Regional Strategic Plan.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The report advises on the Welsh Government Draft budget announcement of a national stand still budget for Supporting People Grant funding level. The local allocations are unlikely to be confirmed until January 2017.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 The report advises on possible future legal implications of implementing the medium term procurement plan and budget reductions in the shorter term which may involve decommissioning of services and the consequent termination of current contracts. The Council must comply with WG grant conditions and the procurement plan must comply with the Councils Contract Procedure Rules and EU procurement law. All

future contracts will need to be fit for purpose with the flexibility to respond to changes in the levels of WG funding. There will be a further report setting out detail proposals at the appropriate time.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A Supporting People Programme Grant Strategic Commissioning Plan.