



Report of the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities

Cabinet – 14 December 2017

Legacy Fund

Purpose:	This report sets out the proposed allocation of Legacy Funding for approval.
Policy Framework:	Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 Welsh Government Legacy Fund Principles
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that the proposals for the Legacy Fund contained within the report are approved in principle, subject to further guidance from Welsh Government.
Report Authors:	Rachel Moxey / Amy Hawkins
Finance Officer:	Chris Davies
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officers:	Ann Williams / Sherill Hopkins

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Welsh Government's Communities First Programme is being phased-out across Wales during 2017/18. In Swansea, the Communities First Programme will be phased-out by December 31st 2017 and Communities for Work Plus (new name for the Employability Grant) will be implemented from January 1st 2018.
- 1.2. The Welsh Government have also established a £6m Legacy Fund Grant, to be distributed across current Communities First Local Authorities from April 2018. An indicative allocation for Swansea of £537,067 per annum for the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 was given in the 2017/18 Communities First Award letter. This is a 73% reduction compared to the previous Communities First budget.

- 1.3. The Legacy Fund grant is to maintain the most effective aspects of the Communities First Programme to support the development of resilient communities.
- 1.4. A letter from Welsh Government was received in September 2017 outlining the principles of the Legacy Fund. While further detailed guidance has not yet been published, the key principles of the fund are summarised below:
 - To maintain the most effective aspects of the Communities First Programme to support the development of resilient communities.
 - To work in the most deprived areas and local authorities need to determine the expected coverage based on evidence of need.
 - All activities should be developed in line with the five ways of working of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
 - Local Authorities decide how the Fund is delivered, whether directly, by a grant scheme, or a contract with a third party to deliver the projects/activities.

2. Legacy Fund Proposals

- 2.1. It is proposed to use the fund in the following ways:
- 2.2. To tackle child poverty and mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences through the continuation of existing Communities First Third Party Funding arrangements.
- 2.3. To support the development of Stronger Communities through the most effective interventions with a focus on employment within the context of early intervention and prevention.

3. Third Party Funding Arrangements

- 3.1. Bonymaen Kids Play Initiative (BKPI) have been funded £30,910 this and last financial year to provide a free after school homework club and school holiday provision that supports the community.
- 3.2. Due to participating in the after school club and school holiday provision, 74% of the children and young people reported that they have a better understanding of the importance of school. 89% of the children and young people confirmed that they know where to get help if they have a problem at school. 91% rated the support as good or excellent.
- 3.3. Faith in Families have been funded £259,639 this and last financial year to support children, young people and out-of-work parents through five programmes. These are delivered from centres in Bonymaen, Clase, Penplas and more recently St. Teilos in Portmead.
- 3.4. Reported outcomes include parents stating that they have a better understanding of parenting and that they read more regularly with their

child. Children have reported they have a better understanding of the importance of school and that they have participated in a personal and social development opportunity. Through the Healthy Attitudes programme, 47% of parents are reporting that they felt better about their mental well-being in 16/17 and 65% in the first six months this year, 50% felt more confident in cooking a fresh meal and 46% reported that they ate fresh fruit or veg daily in 16/17. Of the 15 work placements in 2016/17, three participants have entered employment. Through the Adult Life Skills programme in 16/17, 38 participants gained a qualification and 10 have this year.

3.5. The Third Party funded organisations worked with the below number of participants during 2016/17 and the first six months of 2017/18.

Provider	Programmes	Participants:	
		16/17	17/18 (*6 mths)
BKPI	Homework Club	135	99
Faith In Families	Work placements and training in childcare	15	5
Faith in Families	Parenting support (High Scope Play Group)	668	250
Faith In Families	After School/Holiday Club	300	315
Faith In Families	Improving Adult Life Skills/Experience, Empowerment and Education	76	35
Faith In Families	Healthy Attitudes	201	230

3.6. Both Faith in Families and Bonymaen Kids Play Initiative are dependent on the funding that they have been receiving from Communities First to varying degrees. The loss of funding would, at minimum, see a reduction to the services that these organisations provide in the communities and could potentially mean that they do not have sufficient funds to maintain community facilities or their continued existence as organisations.

4. To support the development of Stronger Communities with a focus on Employment

4.1 We are recommending that we utilise the Legacy Fund to support the following priorities:

- Single Employment Support Offer
- Welfare Benefits
- Digital Inclusion
- Financial Inclusion
- Employment Skills routes linked to growth sectors

4.2 Single Employability Offer

A coordinated approach of Employment Support programmes incorporating Communities for Work, Communities for Work Plus and other initiatives under the single employability support offer “Swansea Working” will support the client experience and maximise outcomes. Swansea Working will deliver a holistic, person centred approach to engagement and employability and skills support. A Swansea Working Coordinator will develop this process and create or reinforce employment routes for local people to high demand and growth business sectors.

4.3 Welfare Benefits

We will build on the success of the Communities First Financial Inclusion Programme which included one to one support for adults to identify issues with existing benefit claims and where there were incidents of under-claiming. A Welfare Benefit Support Officer will support residents to mitigate the impacts of welfare reform through direct support with residents and working closely with partner organisations and the Welfare Rights team.

4.4 Digital Inclusion

We will build on the success of the Digital Inclusion access to services project which used digital technology to support people to access the facilities and services they needed. This will include support for people to develop the necessary digital skills to reduce digital exclusion. There will be specific support for people to develop the necessary skills for claiming and claim management of Universal Credit, to use digital skills to make their money go further and to develop the skills to search for and apply for jobs online.

4.5 Financial Inclusion

We will build on the success of the Communities First Financial Inclusion Programme which included support for adults to identify issues relating to financial capability and supporting them to identify solutions. This included working with individuals to complete budgeting plans, addressing any over-spend issues and raising awareness of practical activities to reduce household expenditure. The programme also supported clients to access foodbanks. We propose that a Financial Inclusion Support Officer will provide support for people to manage their own debt and maximise household income, reducing the effects of the poverty premium.

4.6 The above three priorities directly support the Swansea employability offer by reducing the barriers participants may face to enable them to successfully engage with employability support and employment. The officers will work directly with the public through the customer contact centre, the Community Employment Hubs and through bookable appointments. The officers will also target households where the multiple impact of welfare reforms is high.

4.7 Employment Skills routes linked to growth sectors

We will build on the Communities First Adult Community Learning project which supported accredited employment related training for residents co-ordinated through the Swansea Learning Partnership. The Legacy Funding will be used to deliver employment related training and Essential Skills support across the delivery area in addition to sector specific training pathways linked to local employment growth sectors.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Legacy Fund proposed budget allocation

Legacy Fund	2018/19	2019/20
Third Party Delivery Partners	£261,494	£145,275
Single Employability Offer	£68,428	£69,042
Welfare Benefits	£57,508	£58,013
Digital Inclusion	£57,508	£58,013
Financial Inclusion	£57,508	£58,013
Employment Skills	£34,621	£35,000
Year 2 unallocated	£0	£113,711
TOTAL	£537,067	£537,067
Legacy Fund Allocation	£537,067	£537,067

5.2 The funding proposed for the Third Party Delivery Partners; Faith in Families and Bonymaen Kids Play Initiative will be a reduction of 10% of their 2017/18 allocation in 2018/19. The funding proposed in 2019/20 is a 50% cut in funding from their 2017/18 allocation, this is due to the reduction in the funding from Welsh Government.

5.3 The Third Party funding is subject to a sustainability review and the development of a business plan and funding strategy developed with the support of Swansea Council and SCVS.

5.4 All the proposed initiatives will have identified outcomes with a clear plan on how performance is going to be monitored against the intended outcomes.

5.5 Finance and grant compliance support for the Legacy Fund will be provided by the European and External Funding Team.

5.6 The Legacy Fund proposal is in principle, subject to the full fund guidance, which is yet to be received from Welsh Government.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Council will need to consider in detail the full terms and conditions of the grant funding together with any guidance issued by the Welsh Government. Further advice will then be required from legal and procurement officers to determine the options for directly awarding further contracts to Faith in Families and BKPI; to comply with state aid rules and to identify any risks to the Council. It is understood that dependent on circumstances, legal advice may also be sought as to the potential risks to the Council of the option of awarding contracts prior to receipt of formal confirmation from the Welsh Government.
- 6.2 The Council will need to ensure that appropriate contractual documentation is in place with all grant recipients to ensure that the Council's interests are protected.

7. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 7.1 The equalities impact assessment screening has been approved.
- 7.2 A full EIA report has been drafted (and is attached as an appendix) but has not yet undergone quality assurance. The draft will be updated following this process and will also need to be re-visited once we have the full Welsh Government guidance available. The potential impacts need to be carefully considered and mitigated.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: EIA