



## Report of the Director of Social Services

External Funding Panel – 6 February 2019

### Welsh Government Children & Communities Grant

<b>Purpose:</b>	To approve the funding the for the Welsh Government Children and Communities Grant
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Social Services and Wellbeing Act Wales (2014) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal, Child & Family Services, Poverty & Prevention, Housing
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) Approve the changes to the grant funding of seven existing Grants  2) Accept the offer letter of one new combined Children & Communities Grant
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jane Whitmore
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Chris Davies
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Catherine Window

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In recent year many local authorities have suggested that the way Welsh Government's grant funding structures for certain programmes can sometimes restrict the way they would like to deliver services for vulnerable people to meet the needs at a local level.
- 1.2 Local authorities have asked the Welsh Government for greater flexibility to be able to maximise the potential of the funding available to plan for and deliver improved services to meet the needs of people in their areas more effectively.

- 1.3 Over the course of 2018-19 Welsh Government have been testing a new way of working (flexible funding) in collaboration with seven 'pathfinder' local authorities and one Public Services Board.
- 1.4 An interim evaluation of flexible funding demonstrated the potential for improved outcomes arising from better planning and delivery of more integrated services and would allow for the planning, commissioning and delivery of services which reflect the complexity of people's lives and the inter-relationships between their support needs.

## **2. The Programmes**

- 2.1 The 10 existing Grant Programmes identified as part of the new way of working and flexible funding are Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, St David's Day Fund, Communities for Work Plus, Childcare and Play, Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention, Rent Smart Wales Enforcement
- 2.2 In Swansea, combined funding for these 10 programmes equate to approximately 25 Million on an annual basis.
- 2.3 After careful consideration of the evaluation and listening to stakeholders, Ministers decided the 10 individual programmes set out above would form two new grants streams; one housing-related grant and one non-housing related grant.
- 2.4 This two grant approach is intended to deliver on the key principles of the 10 programmes, whilst providing greater freedom and flexibility to local authorities to use their local knowledge and information to design and manage services to meet the needs of people in their areas
- 2.5 Welsh Government have set clear expectations that the two grants should work in a seamless fashion, providing integrated services where appropriate. The work to produce and develop these new arrangements will be guided by this principle and by the objective of streamlining processes wherever possible.

## **3. The New Approach**

- 3.1 From April 2019 the two grants in operation will be a **Children and Communities Grant (CCG)** and a **Housing Support Grant (HSG)**.
- 3.2 This report outlines the changes to the existing grant programmes as they are combined into one **Children and Communities Grant (CCG)**.
- 3.3 The **Children and Communities Grant (CCG)** will seek to address the support needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities through a range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms. It will seek to mitigate or remove disadvantage to

vulnerable people to enable them to have the same life chances as others, and therefore contribute to a more equal Wales.

- 3.4 The seven programmes in the **Children and Communities Grant** are:
- Flying Start
  - Families First
  - Legacy Fund
  - Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People
  - St David's Day Fund
  - Communities for Work Plus
  - Childcare and Play
- 3.5 The money allocated for the Children and Communities Grant must only be spent on delivering against the key principles and requirements of the programmes within these grants.
- 3.6 It is important to note the delivery against the key principles of the programmes within the new CCG is not changed by this new approach. Delivery of programmes such as Flying Start will continue, their objectives, core requirements, activities and branding do not disappear.
- 3.7 The guidance provided for the CCG will be issued shortly and explains what is expected in the delivery of each programme.
- 3.8 However, within each new grant, local authorities have 100% flexibility to allocate and manage grant funding across the programmes as set out above.
- 3.9 These arrangements will remain in place for the remainder of this Assembly term and will apply to all local authorities in Wales.
- 3.10 We have been working across the Directorate to ensure we have robust systems in place for the delivery of these programmes to meet the needs of our population in a joined up and strategic way, within the terms and conditions of the new grant arrangements.
- 3.11 Flexibility within this grant has supported joint planning and commissioning to make more effective use of the funding in pursuit of the constituent programmes' aims and objectives.
- 3.12 The Welsh Government is working collaboratively with local authorities and stakeholders to ensure that this change is led and managed well.
- 3.13 This new approach will bring about a stepped change in the way in which local authorities and Welsh Government work with each other. It also brings about internal changes within each organisations governance and operation arrangements.

#### 4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.2 An EIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome is that a full EIA report was not required as these arrangements are around back office functions and there is no direct change to services provided to the public as a result.

4.4 However, throughout the transition year a full EIA report will need to be completed if services to client groups change as a result of needs, planning and commissioning decisions.

#### 5. Financial Implications

5.1 An indicative grant offer letter has been received from Welsh Government for the Children and Communities Grant (CCG) for a maximum of £10,920,444 for 2019-20.

5.2 This amount has slightly increased from 2018-19 as it includes Swansea's allocation of the additional £1m across Wales has been allocated to the St David's Day Fund to support care leavers.

5.3 The table below outlines the composition of the CCG for 2019-20 compared to the allocation in 2018- 19.

<b>Programme Area</b>	<b>Allocation 18/19</b>	<b>Allocation 19/20</b>
Flying Start	£5,986,567	£5,986,567
Families First	£3,000,718	£3,000,718
Legacy Fund	£537,067	£537,067
Childcare and Play (formerly OSCG)	£164,712	£164,712
St David's Day Fund	£76,565	£160,438
Communities for Work Plus (formerly Employability)	£1,070,942	£1,070,942
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£10,836,571</b>	<b>£10,920,444</b>

5.4 The allocation for the Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People at Risk of Offending Grant remains at the same level of £326,800 but is currently distributed by Bridgend as part of the Western Bay Youth Justice arrangement. This will be brought into the CCG in due course.

**6. Legal Implications**

6.1 All terms and conditions attached to WG Communities and Children Grant (CCG) are complied with and that the Council's Financial Procedure Rules Regarding Grant Applications and Acceptances are followed, if successful.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Appendix:**

Appendix A - EIA Screening