



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services

### External Funding Panel – 3 July 2019

# Welsh Government Homelessness Prevention Grant Innovation Funding for Training Flats for Care Leavers 2019/20

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Purpose:</b>                    | To advise the panel of the award of funding in relation to the Homelessness Prevention Grant which is an Innovation Funded grant and has been applied for by City and County of Swansea in partnership with Barnardos. |
| <b>Policy Framework:</b>           | Social Service and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014<br>Homelessness Act 2002<br>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017<br>Hidden Ambitions report 2015<br>Hidden Ambition one year later 2016                                      |
| <b>Consultation:</b>               | Access to Services, Finance, Legal, housing and third sector partners  |
| <b>Recommendation(s):</b>          | It is recommended that the Panel note the implications contained in this report and retrospectively approves the acceptance of the Grant.  |
| <b>Report Authors:</b>             | Jay McCabe/Jane Whitmore   |
| <b>Finance Officer:</b>            | Chris Davies   |
| <b>Legal Officer:</b>              | Deb Smith  |
| <b>Access to Services Officer:</b> | Rhian Millar   |

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the award of grant funding to support the implementation of training flat provisions.
- 1.2 The purpose of this funding is to provide an outreach programme delivered to 100 young people aged 15+ while they are still living in their

home, foster care or residential placement in order to prevent youth homelessness.

In addition, this funding will cover intensive 1:1 support to 55 young people who are looked-after-children aged 16+ at risk of placement breakdown.

The final element of this funding will provide a 4-12 week 'transition training flat experience' comprising of 5 units of accommodation for young people aged 16+ with intensive floating support. The aim is for 26 people to participate in the training flat experience over the 12 months period of funding.

Welsh Government will be commissioning an independent evaluation for all projects funded through the Youth Homelessness Innovation Fund. As such, an additional requirement of the funding will be to partake in this evaluation.

## **2. The Grant**

- 2.1 Welsh Government awarded this grant on the basis of a joint partnership application with a third sector partner. The offer to the partnership is for £232,702 and is to be paid out within the 2019/20 financial year.
- 2.2 The purpose of the funding is to help Swansea's approach to the reduction of homelessness whilst promoting independence for young people who are looked after and/or care leavers. This activity will be undertaken in 2019-20.
- 2.3 The Cabinet Member has been informed and consulted. Due to the short timescales for acceptance imposed by Welsh Government, this report is provided to Members for their information.

## **3. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 3.1 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.

- 3.2 There are no direct equality or engagement implications associated with this report. An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been completed in consideration as to how the grant funding will be used

(Appendix A). However, if the grant is accepted the project will need a full EIA to understand the equalities impact on the delivery of this project.

A co-productive approach will be taken which will involve service users and wider consultation and engagement opportunities for those directly affected.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 This funding will bring additionality to this area of the council's work in supporting looked after young people and care leavers.
- 4.2 The funding relates to the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and must be claimed in full by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Welsh Government granted the funding in June 2019.

#### **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Generally the terms attached to Grant Funding are legally binding and the grant should be used in accordance with those terms.

#### **Background Papers:**

Grant Offer Letter dated June 6<sup>th</sup> 2019.

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - EIA Screening