



Joint Report of the Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities and Cabinet Member for Children Services

Cabinet – 20 May 2021

Welsh Government Children & Communities Grant Delivery Plan 2021 - 2022

Purpose:	This report details the delivery and spend plan for Children & Communities Grant 21/22 outlining how services are commissioned to ensure service provision is sustainable, creates efficiencies and improves outcomes for people that use services.
Policy Framework:	WG Children & Communities Grant Guidance 2020 Local Authority Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations 2015.
Consultation:	Social Services, Access to Services, Finance, Legal, Commercial Services and Procurement Education and Health.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Cabinet note the receipt of the Welsh Government Children & Communities Grant 21/22 and approve the continuation and expansion of projects as outlined in the Delivery Plan agreed by Welsh Government.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Children and Communities Grant (CCG) together with the Housing Support Grant (HSG) form the Funding Alignment programme.

- 1.2 The vision for Funding Alignment is to provide financial flexibility that facilitates the delivery of outcomes, which can empower Local Authorities and Welsh Government to further align and improve Early Intervention and Prevention Support services together, ensuring the right support reaches the right people at the earliest opportunity. There is a clear expectation that the Children and Communities Grant and the Housing Support Grant should work in a seamless fashion, providing integrated services where appropriate.
- 1.3 Funding Alignment has five broad objectives.
- to provide greater autonomy about how services are delivered, particularly around joint planning and commissioning
 - to provide greater financial freedom and flexibility to enable local authorities to work differently
 - to enable local authorities to plan strategically and holistically
 - to enable service re-design
 - to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy
- 1.4 The outcomes we are seeking to influence reflect the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('WFG Act') well-being goals. There should be a focus on actively helping those who require help now and also the development of innovative approaches to delivery, designed to prevent people becoming more vulnerable in the future.
- 1.5 The Core purpose of the Children & Communities Grant originates from *Prosperity for All*: the National Strategy sets out the need to deliver public services in a more collaborative and integrated way. This grant is seeking 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, thereby contributing to a more equal Wales
- 1.6 The seven programmes in the Children and Communities Grant are:
- Childcare and Play (formerly called 'Out of School Childcare Grant')
 - Communities for Work Plus (CfW+)
 - Families First
 - Flying Start
 - Legacy Fund (for LA's formerly in receipt of Communities First funding)
 - Promoting Positive Engagement (PPE) for Young People at Risk of Offending
 - St David's Day Fund
- 1.7 The money allocated for the Children and Communities grant for 2021-22 must only be spent on delivering against this grant (and the seven programmes within it).

2. Delivery Plan 21-22

- 2.1 'Swansea's vision for the delivery of the Children and Communities Grant funded services is that through early identification of need and early intervention, targeted services working with a whole family approach will empower individuals and families to problem solve, build resilience and sustain change. The services will be delivered through collaborative multi-service and multi-agency working, supported by co-location, in a proactive, timely way to prevent escalation of need and to de-escalate existing need.'
- 2.2 The desired outcomes we are seeking by developing this approach are:
- Improved outcomes for children, young people and adults by working together effectively across the continuum of need
 - Timely support to families and individuals that promotes resilience, independence and engagement with their local community
 - Prevent or delay the need for more intensive interventions
 - Ensure families and individuals move up the continuum to receive the co-ordinated support necessary to meet their needs, ('step-up' arrangements)
 - Ensure appropriate 'step down' arrangements for families who are demonstrating an ability to meet their children's needs following more intensive support
 - Make best use of resources by identifying and realising the efficiencies that can be made by coordinating existing support services
 - Strengthen and realign early intervention and preventative services, to support the wellbeing of vulnerable children and families at a time of identified need
 - Provide a consistent approach across the authority that is understood by families, individuals and service providers across the continuum and includes a proportional joint assessment, performance management framework, and how the right response is provided at the right time.
- 2.3 In Swansea the use of the Children & Communities Grant supports three of the six corporate priorities of Swansea Council:
- Tackling Poverty
 - Safeguarding people from harm
 - Improving education and skills
- 2.4 Flexibility has supported joint planning and commissioning to make more effective use of the funding in pursuit of the constituent programmes' aims and objectives.
- 2.5 Five workstreams outlining preventative programme activity have been defined covering all ages and stages, including disability, involvement and community engagement as cross cutting workstreams, and including this year Tackling Poverty as the impact of the pandemic has highlighted a need for a greater focus on this area.
- 2.6 A key objective of amalgamating these programmes is for Local Authorities to respond with innovative approaches to improve

service delivery and align services responding to local needs. Our focus for 21-22 will be on Tackling Poverty and Early Years Integration as we continue our Covid 19 recovery.

- 2.7 Due to Covid, we have seen a profound far reaching impact on individuals and communities. Households have seen their incomes fall, living costs have increased, unemployment has increased and personal and household debt has increased. In addition to an increased adverse impact on individual's health and well-being.
- 2.8 We have had a Tackling Poverty Strategy and associated actions over a number of years, but due to the significant impact of Covid this is being refreshed and refocused to address existing and emerging needs. This refreshed approach priorities and associated areas of focus will be co-produced with partners and those with lived experience.
- 2.9 As set out in the *National Strategy Prosperity for All*, we want: "Children from all backgrounds to have the best start in life. Our aim is that everyone will have the opportunity to reach their full potential and maximise their chances of leading a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling adulthood, enabling them to participate fully in communities, the workplace, and contribute to the future economic success of Wales.
- 2.10 Due to the significant impact of Covid on Early Years through our Early Years Integration partnership work will be driving forward the development of joined up and responsive Early Years' services across all sectors to ensure needs are being met in the best possible way. This new approach will be taken forward with partners and co-produced to ensure we understand what matters to those receiving services.
- 2.11 The full delivery plan can be found at **Appendix 1** and covers detailed sections including;
- Community Engagement
 - Equalities
 - Partnership Work
 - Working with the 3rd Sector
 - Governance
 - Integration between programmes

3. Themes and Funding Allocation

- 3.1 This table below outlines the high level funding allocation to each theme identified within the delivery plan
- 3.2 High level spend plan outlined below. Please note this is for the CCG funded only and relevant to each of the 7 grant programmes included. Other funding comes from different grant sources in to these areas also.

Workstream	Themes	Sub Total	TOTAL
Early Years and Family Support	Health Services	£ 1,749,385	
	Childcare	£ 3,415,972	
	Speech & Language	£ 151,711	
	Early Help	£ 815,572	
			£ 6,132,640
Children and Family Support	Family Centres	£ 730,200	
	Early Help	£ 1,230,150	
	Emotional Health & Wellbeing	£ 125,000	
	Play and Leisure	£ 75,212	
			£ 2,160,562
Adolescents and Family Support	Promoting Positive Engagement	£ 321,974	
	Early Help	£ 645,150	
			£ 967,124
Young Adults and Family Support	Care and Care Leavers	£ 83,873	
	Employability	£ 180,281	
			£ 264,154
Adults	Employability	£ 806,875	
			£ 806,875
Disability	Disability Support	£ 323,000	
			£ 323,000
Community Involvement	Engagement	£ 144,467	
			£ 144,467
Tackling Poverty	Poverty	£ 169,386	
			£ 169,386
Central Costs	Co-ordination	£ 271,088	
			£ 271,088

TOTAL

£ 11,239,296

- 3.3 55% of the grant is externally commissioned to 3rd sector providers, schools and health
- 3.4 45% of the grant is internally commissioned to Child & Family Services, Tackling Poverty Services and Education.

4. Integrated Impact Assessments

- 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.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development.

Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

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

- 4.2 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that there are no foreseeable negative impacts as a result of the increased funding; that services to people with protected characteristics may increase; that the proposals are compatible with corporate priorities and WBFGA obligations. Therefore a full IIA report is not required:
- Please refer to **Appendix 2** Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form as a background paper

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The procurement of social care and housing-related support services is governed by the Public Contract Regulations (PCR) 2015, therefore any proposed modifications to existing contracts must comply with Regulation 72 of the PCR 2015 and with the terms of the signed Agreement.
- 5.2 Where a proposed expansion of the utilisation of grant monies is proposed and is outside the scope of any current Agreement the Council shall utilise other provisions which are contained within PCR 2015 and the Councils Contract Procedure Rules to ensure the effective delivery of the services required.
- 5.3 The PCR 2015 recognise the special characteristics of social services and related services and the limited cross border interest in these services, and the regulations reflect the importance of cultural context and sensitivity.
- 5.4 All contracts held under the Children & Communities Grant Programme are procured and commissioned in line with these regulations

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Children & Communities Grant allocation from Welsh Government for Swansea Council for 2021/22 is **£11,239,296**

- 6.2 This is a slight increase in funding into this area for Swansea £73,444 additional has been given for Flying Start Outreach provision.
- 6.3 The table in section 3 shows a high level spend plan for the CCG programme for 21/22 and the Welsh Government Grant Offer letter can be found under **Appendix 3**.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Children & Communities Grant Delivery Plan 21 - 22
Appendix 2 Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form
Appendix 3 Welsh Government Grant Offer Letter 21 - 22