



Joint Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Community Health Services and Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy and Service Transformation

Cabinet – 20 May 2021

Welsh Government Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2021 - 2022

Purpose:	This report details the delivery and spend plan for Housing Support 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 Housing Support 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 and Housing.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Cabinet note the receipt of the Welsh Government Housing Support Grant and approve the continuation and expansion of projects as outlined in the Delivery Plan agreed by Welsh Government.
Report Authors:	Jane Whitmore/Peter Field
Finance Officer:	Chris Davies
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

1.1 The Housing Support Grant (HSG) together with the Children and Communities Grant (CCG) 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 As a result of the funding alignment three former grant programmes the Supporting People; Homeless Prevention and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement were combined to form the new Housing Support Grant with a new single practice guidance published in February 2020.
- 1.4 The vision for the grant is to secure “A Wales where nobody is homeless and everyone has a safe home where they can flourish and live a fulfilled, active and independent life”.
- 1.5 The aim of the grant can be summarised as:
- To support working together to prevent homelessness and where it cannot be prevented ensuring it is rare, brief and un-repeated.
 - To tackle the root cause of homelessness and work to enable people to stay in their own homes longer.
 - To work in partnership with colleagues in Housing & Homelessness to commission services using the Housing support grant that makes a significant contribution to the implementation of Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, which is focused on homelessness prevention.
 - To prevent homelessness and support people to have the capability, independence, skills and confidence to access and/or maintain a stable and suitable home.
(Housing Support Practice Guidance: February 2020)
- 1.6 HSG 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, services can be of a fixed nature or float between service users homes. The emphasis of the programme is “doing with” as opposed to doing for and building their personal resilience.

2. Delivery Plan 21-22

- 2.1 An initial indicative allocation of HSG of £18.49 Million for 21/22 was received in January 2021. This represented an uplift of £4.4 Million, a 31% increase from the previous year’s allocation. Welsh Government has given specific guidance on what the new allocation should be spent on to transform Homeless Prevention and Housing Support Services.
- 2.2 Listed in no priority order are the criteria agreed by the local HSG commissioning group to prioritise the proposed new expenditure for 21/22 for which has been approved by WG.

- a) Sustaining existing services, bolstering pay and conditions, improving recruitment, retention and training of front line staff.
- b) Sustaining legacy Phase 1 and Phase 2 revenue services funded in 20/21 to address the impact of the additional Covid Duties (suspension of non-priority need and use of night shelters) and associated pressures.
- c) Delivery of a transformation shift to a Housing Led/Rapid Rehousing Approach as set out in the Homeless Action Group Reports 1, 2 & 3.
- d) Increasing capacity/addressing previously unmet need.
- e) Delivering Psychological/Trauma informed services addressing root causes of complex homelessness with an outreach multidisciplinary approach for general health, mental health, sexual health, and substance misuse.
- f) Early intervention and prevention in the local communities.
- g) Eligible and strategically relevant homeless prevention services previously funded outside the HSG due to lack of HSG availability previously.
- h) Eligible and strategically relevant temporary funded services outside of HSG from external sources which would otherwise be discontinued.

2.3 A Proposed Spend Plan template for 21/22 outlining spend proposals was agreed by the commissioning group and submitted to WG for its scrutiny and approval at the end of February.

2.4 Following feedback from WG a final spend plan template **Appendix 1** was submitted to WG giving a more detailed narrative to the spend plan proposals.

2.5 The Council has now received approval of these proposals with a letter confirming the allocation of HSG for 21/22.

3. Themes and Funding Allocation

3.1 This table below outlines the high level allocation to each theme as specified as eligible funding in the WG Housing Support Grant guidance.

3.2 Please note that the table refers to only the HSG commitment to these thematic areas and the Council and other partners will also be providing other sources of funding.

3.3 High level spend plan is outlined below;

High Level Spend Plan for Housing Support Grant 21-22	
Theme	Total
VAWDASV Services	£ 1,150,086.00
People with Learning Disabilities	£ 3,196,341.00
People with Mental Health Issues	£ 3,490,092.71

People with Substance Misuse Issues (Drugs)	£ 611,225.84
People with Physical and/or Sensory disabilities	£ 162,370.00
Young People with Support Needs (16-24)	£ 2,573,023.04
Families with support needs	£ 866,216.00
Single People with support needs	£ 1,637,113.22
People over 55 years of age with support needs	£ 1,474,430.83
Generic Floating Support to prevent Homelessness	£ 1,755,238.66
Other: <i>Includes various uplifts across programme and bolstering provision as and when need arises</i>	£ 1,573,097.22
TOTAL	£18,489,233.52

- 3.4 85% of the grant is externally commissioned to 29 different providers and 15% of the grant is internally commissioned to Adult Services, Child & Family Services, Tackling Poverty Services and Housing

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.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Housing Support Grant allocation from Welsh Government for Swansea Council for 2021/22 is £18,489,233.52.
- 6.2 This is a 4.4 Million increase in funding into this area for Swansea, and is as a result of the additional £40m being allocated to the total Housing Support Grant budget in Welsh Government.
- 6.3 This additional funding will help maintain the services established in 20/21 as part of the Covid response and respond to local need and priorities in 21/22.
- 6.4 The table in section 3 shows a high level spend plan for the HSG programme for 21/22 and the Welsh Government Grant Offer letter can be found under **Appendix 3**.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 WG Housing Support Grant Spend Plan 21-22
Appendix 2 Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form
Appendix 3 Welsh Government Grant Offer Letter 21 - 22