

## Report of the Chief Social Services Officer

External Funding Panel – 6 September 2017

### WELSH GOVERNMENT SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE GRANT

<b>Summary</b>	
<b>Purpose:</b>	To seek approval to accept the Social Care Workforce Development Grant
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Social Service and Well-Being Act 2014
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance, Adult Social Services
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	That the Panel notes the implications contained in this report and approves the acceptance of the Grant.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Rachel Evans
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Chris Davies
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Ann Williams

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the following external funding opportunity Social Care Workforce Grant.
- 1.2 The purpose of the funding is to assist local authorities to manage the financial impacts of changing workforce costs and arrangement within the social care sector, particular pressure arising from the national living wage.
- 1.3 The investment underpins a joint commitment between partners – where we support, local authorities to invest in service provision and employers will create a more valued workforce, reducing the high turnover in staff currently being experienced.
- 1.4 The aim of this grant is to enable the social care sector to meet the financial pressures associated with the National Living Wage. Ensuring the people who work in the sector are appropriately rewarded for the work that they do is part of the broader range of improvements to their terms and conditions. These changes are expected to support improvement in the quality and continuity of service delivered.

- 1.5 The workforce is the principal resource for providers of social care impacting on the quality and continuity of care. Good quality services cannot be delivered in the context of a workforce which is subject to a high turnover of staff, where people feel undervalued or where inappropriate time pressures are applied to reduced costs. This grant is intended to provide a significant supplement to the resources provided by Local Authorities for these services to ensure that employers deliver an appropriately skilled and valued workforce alongside their obligations to pay National Living Wage.

## **2 Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 2.1 An EIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full EIA report was not required.

An implementation group has been established across a broad range of service areas including mental health, learning disability, older people and people with physical disabilities. It is anticipated that any impact of funding will be positive to improve the quality of the workforce and quality of support provided to vulnerable people and people with protected characteristics.

## **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The total value of the grant is £1,500,324.00. The grant period is for the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Post 2018 will form part of the Revenue Settlement Grant.

## **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 Generally the terms attached to Grant Funding are legally binding and should be formally recorded in an appropriate document/contract with external delivery partners as required.
- 4.2 Procurement rules (both EU and the Council's) and state aid rules will have to be fully complied with in all respects in relation to services or the procurement of services from external delivery agents.

### **Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 - Letter - Award of Funding in relation to Social Care Workforce Grant 2017/18 – REVISED GRANT FUNDING**

**Appendix 2 - Grant Conditions**