



Report of the Director of People

External Funding Panel – 4 October 2017

Grant to Support the National Approach to Statutory Advocacy

Purpose:	To advise Panel of the award of the Grant for the Western Bay Advocacy Service 2017 - 18
Policy Framework:	Social Service and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 National Approach to Statutory Advocacy
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	That the Panel notes the implications contained in this report and retrospectively approves the acceptance of the Grant.
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Finance Officer:	Chris Davies
Legal Officer:	Pamela Milford
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the National Approach to Statutory Advocacy and the associated Grant.
- 1.2 This grant has been awarded direct by Welsh Government and did not require an application from the Council.

- 1.3 The Cabinet Member was fully informed and consulted before the Council accepted the grant offer. Due to the short timescales for acceptance imposed by Welsh Government, this report is provided to Members for their information.
- 1.4 The purpose of the funding is to support the implementation of the National Approach to Statutory Advocacy.
- 1.5 In 2014 the Welsh Government formed a Ministerial Expert Group on Advocacy with the purpose of developing a National Approach to Statutory Advocacy Services.
- 1.6 The outcome of that Group being the recommendation that local authorities work at a regional level (i.e. Western Bay) to commission a service which adheres to the following components:-
- A standardised national service specification, which includes the concept of an Active Offer to ensure children subject to child protection or looked after procedures are informed of their rights, including their right to an advocate.
 - A common performance reporting tool.
 - A National Standards and Outcomes Framework.
 - A Range and Level Tool that calculates; (a) the level of need for advocacy in each authority, and (b) the levels of funding required to service those needs.
- 1.7 In 2016 Welsh Government obtained a commitment from the Leaders and senior Officers of all 22 local authorities for the implementation of the National Approach.
- 1.8 The 'Range and Level Tool' specifies precisely how each authority must fund advocacy. Nationally, it calculates a shortfall in the funding of in excess of £1m. The Welsh Government agreed to support the implementation of the National Approach by providing up to £550k to the local authorities. This is to be provided through a designated grant in 2017/18 and 2018/19, and thereafter it will be included within the RSG.
- 1.9 As the lead authority for the Western Bay service, Swansea Council has been provided with the total sum for the region which has to be split between the three authorities.

2 Equality and Engagement Implications

- 2.1 There are no direct equality and engagement implications arising from this report. Any new service designed as a result of this grant will be subject to the EIA process and any engagement as required.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The total value of the grant is £94,035. The initial grant period is for the 1st April 2017 to the 31st March 2018 and must be claimed in full by 30th April 2018 otherwise any unclaimed part of the Funding will cease to be available.

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) have been followed to commission a single provider to deliver the regional service and an Inter-Authority agreement has been established to regulate finance and governance arrangements, including match funding obligations between the three Western Bay authorities.

Background Papers: Screening Form - Equality Impact Assessment

Appendices: Appendix A - EFP1