



## Report of Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills

External Funding Panel – 8 January 2020

### Welsh Government Funding for Embedding a Whole School Approach Supporting Emotional Health and Wellbeing 19/20

<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide details of funding allocation from the Welsh Government to Swansea Council to embed a Whole school approach work to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people; and increasing access for PRU staff to professional learning
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Corporate priorities (Safeguarding people from harm , Improving education and skills, Transformation and future council development Tackling Poverty Strategy 2017 - 2020 Social Services and Well-being Act Wales (2014) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
<b>Consultation:</b>	Education Department, Headteachers, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The panel notes the offer of funding from Welsh Government to Swansea Council regarding a Whole school approach work to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people; and increasing access for PRU staff to professional learning
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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Funding has been allocated from Welsh Government to all local authorities for embedding a Whole school approach work to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people; and increasing access for PRU staff to professional learning
- 1.2 Swansea Council's funding allocation is £ 138,881 revenue. The funding relates to the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

## **2. Purpose of the funding**

- 2.1 The purpose of the funding is to enable local authorities to:
    - (i) provide a whole school approach work which will support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people; and
    - (ii) access for PRU staff to professional learning
  - 2.2 The funding will be used to deliver training to all schools in a number of key areas in relation to Mental Health including:
    - I. Suicide and Self-harm
    - II. Bereavement
    - III. Understanding Mental Health
    - IV. Resilience framework
    - V. Intervention Training
  - 2.3 An element of the funding will also be used to fund additional 250 counselling sessions to the existing contract to wipe out the current waiting list and mitigate against this happening in the future.
  - 2.4 Professional Learning PRU- The expectation of this funding is to help schools meet the demands of the new National Approach to Professional Learning (NAPL) and enable investment in the elements of the model.
  - 2.5 The primary purpose of the funding is creating time in schools for practitioners to make the changes to practice they need to make in advance of the realisation of the new curriculum. The funding is to be targeted at the learning required by teachers and learners to prepare them for the new curriculum.
- ## **3. Allocation of the funding**
- 3.1 The local authority consulted with over 50 Headteachers across Swansea to establish what the priorities were, in relation to this funding for schools.
  - 3.2 The Suicide and Self-harm and Resilience training and interventions will be delivered via our current contract and provider (TCS – Therapeutic Counselling Services). The Bereavement Counselling will be delivered by

Cruse Bereavement Counselling service who are a subject specific expert and have previously delivered this training to a number of school staff.

- 3.3 As a condition of funding, the local authority will be required to provide updates on progress, which should capture the final out-turn in terms of impact and numbers of staff, children, etc receiving training, accessing interventions.

For ease and consistency of approach we will develop and issue a proforma to capture this information.

- 3.4 Professional learning PRU - the funding is to be delegated in its entirety to the PRU. The method used to determine funding at school level is calculated on FTE teacher numbers at the latest verified census point.
- 3.5 The funding is not exclusively reserved for support of teachers and leaders and is to be used to support all practitioners who support teaching and learning in classrooms including TAs/LSAs.
- 3.6 The funding should be utilised to support engagement with the regional professional learning offer, or a professional offer, for example an HEI, or to support professional learning collaboration across schools.
- 3.7 The PRU should publish their professional learning plans on a public website, outlining how they plan to support the professional learning needs of all practitioners within the Unit and report annually against those plans.

#### **4. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 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.

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

- 4.2 There are no 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.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The whole school approach work to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people; and access for PRU staff to professional learning is:

**Revenue funding: £138,881**

- 5.2 The funding relates to the period of 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
- 5.3 **By 3 Sept 2020** – the audit certification required under the grant should provide confirmation that the expenditure has been incurred or identify any underspend to be reclaimed by the Welsh Ministers.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Generally the terms attached to Grant Funding are legally binding and the grant should be used in accordance with those terms.
- 6.2 Utilising the grant as outlined above will assist the Council in meeting its Corporate priorities as outlined under the Policy Framework and in discharging its duties under the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

### **Background Papers:**

Welsh Government funding letter for Whole school approach work to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people; and access for PRU staff to professional learning.

Grant Offer Letter dated November 2019.

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form.

### **Appendices:**

None