

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 3 April 2017**

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Social Care and Health**

### **Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2017 - 2020**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To adopt the draft Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2017 - 2020 following consideration by Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee and seek authorisation for its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee for the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.

#### **Recommendations**

1. THAT the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2017 - 2020 attached at [Appendix 1](#) to this report, be approved and Cabinet agrees to its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee for the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.

#### **Reasons for the Recommendations**

1. To ensure that the Council complies with the requirements of the Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) Guidance (Wales) July 2012 (updated June 2013).

#### **Background**

2. The Supporting People (SP) Programme is the policy and funding framework for delivering housing related support to vulnerable people in different types of accommodation and across all tenures.
3. The programme contributes to meeting the aims of 'Improving Lives and Communities - Homes in Wales' the National Housing Strategy and the ten year Homelessness Plan, with a strong emphasis on the prevention of homelessness. It also contributes to the Future Generations Act through its focus on prevention. Its importance is also recognised in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 implemented in April 2015.
4. At a local level the programme takes forward a number of strategic aims, reflecting community safety and health and social care and wellbeing objectives. It aims to deliver high quality and strategically planned housing-related support services that are cost effective, complement existing services and provide service users with the best possible outcomes.

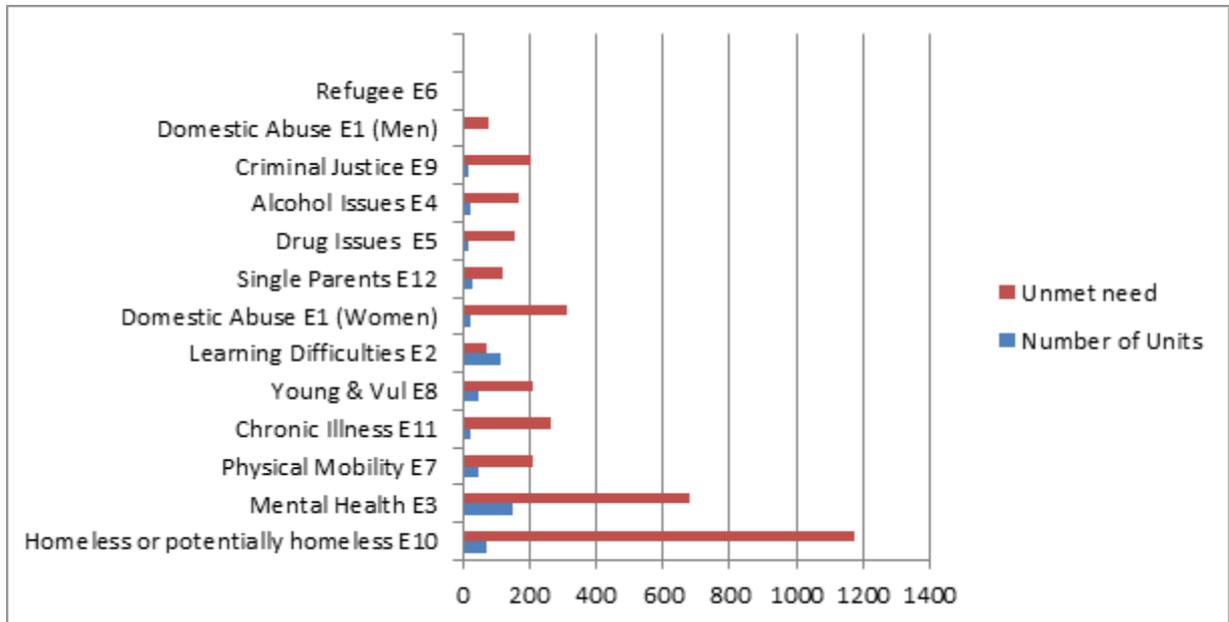
5. In accordance with the Welsh Government Guidance for Supporting People, all local authorities are required to develop a rolling three year Local Commissioning Plan, which must be submitted to the Regional Collaborative Committee for the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.
6. The development and coordination of the Local Commissioning Plan was undertaken by the Supporting People Local Planning Group (SPLPG) as required by Welsh Government. Membership of the SPLPG is made up of Officers from the Housing Division, Social Services Department, the Wales Probation Service, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and the Voluntary Sector (the Chair of the Vale Housing and Homelessness Forum).
7. The SPLPG meet to agree the information and priorities to be included in the Local Commissioning Plan. In addition to the core membership, service managers from a range of agencies who work with, and who have additional data on the provision and assessment of alternative housing and support were invited to each Planning Group meeting in order to allow fully informed decisions on the future service priorities to be made.
8. This report was provided in draft to Cabinet on 28 November, 2016 (Minute No. C3378 refers). It was then referred to Scrutiny (Homes and Safe Communities) Committee on 7 December, 2016 (Minutes No. 584 refers) where it was accepted with no recommendations made to Cabinet. This report seeks the authority of Cabinet to now accept the commissioning plan for the 2017- 2020 period.

### **Relevant Issues and Options**

9. Attached at Appendix 1 is a copy of the Local Commissioning Plan 2017 - 2020.
10. Following the announcement of the Welsh Government draft budget for 2017, local authorities received notification of their indicative Supporting People Programme Grant. All local authorities were told their allocations would remain the same as 2015/16. For the Vale of Glamorgan this means the budget remains static at £3,466,829.
11. The Supporting People Team had been informed that they were again facing SPPG cuts anywhere from 5 - 20%. During the recent retendering of services grant monies were saved in preparation of the savings. We have now utilised these savings by increasing the amount of units of support when we retendered the floating support schemes (TESS). By increasing the number of support units it means that applicants do not now have to wait so long to receive support.
12. This year the Local Commissioning Plan outlines the evidence collected on the support needs of vulnerable people in 2015/16 and the existing services being delivered, in order to evidence their continuation and the decisions on new service priorities for development. In addition we have been directed by Welsh Government to ensure our older peoples services are based on need and not based on tenure. We will therefore be recommissioning those services when the contracts end (October 2017). We have also been asked to justify our spend in the Learning Disabilities category and along with our Social Services colleagues we will be retendering those services in 2017 when the contracts end.
13. An assessment of the support needs of all individuals who have contacted the Housing Division and other voluntary and statutory sector agencies in 2014/15 has been undertaken and through this 'self-assessment' process the majority of these identified that they had a support need. The most important serious issues self

selected by clients continues to be homeless/potentially homeless and mental health issues.

14. Graph 1: Data on Clients Needs identified 2015/16 compared to the Supply of Services funded through the Supporting People Programme apart from Older People due to high levels of services and no unmet need.



15. The Supporting People Local Planning Group had determined from the needs analysis, that under the Supporting People Programme the highest priority is to develop a direct access hostel and more support units for mental health, domestic abuse and people with a physical disability.
16. The total annual revenue requirement for the identified services would have to be costed through a full assessment which would not be prudent at this time given the uncertainty in the funding. There would also be a capital funding requirement for some of the projects, which would also have to be factored in. There is therefore clearly an identified issue with the short term nature and continual uncertainty over the funding to the Vale of Glamorgan which Housing Services continue to try to address with our partners and Welsh Government.

### Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

17. There are no direct resource implications associated with this report. All funding requirement identified for resourcing under the Supporting People Programme is financed through grant funding from Welsh Government.
18. It should be noted that the Council has not developed an exit strategy for supporting people funded services, as the effect of a total loss of funding from Welsh Government would affect support services throughout Wales, leading to the closure or severe restrictions to the services of voluntary support organisations that are funded in this way. This is an unlikely scenario given that Supporting People was introduced in 2003 and the number of people requiring the services is continuing to increase across Wales. It is expected that this trend will continue in the future because of the new welfare reform changes due in April 2018 and the continuing roll out of Universal Credit.

19. There is also a requirement on the Supporting People Team in the Council to continue on an annual basis to ensure that all projects remain strategically relevant to the Council and to reconfigure them if they are no longer required. In addition, the projects are monitored by the Team to ensure that they continue to provide the appropriate support to vulnerable people and provide value for money.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

20. The principals of sustainability and climate change will be considered as part of every contract for Supporting People services that is put in place by the Council, including employment and environmental considerations.

### **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

21. The development and publication of the three year Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan is a requirement of Welsh Government to comply with the Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) Guidance (Wales).

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

22. The development of good quality housing related support services will protect and support very vulnerable clients who are likely to be more susceptible to experience crime and disorder difficulties if these projects were not developed. The provision of the services to very vulnerable clients will also have a beneficial impact upon reducing crime and disorder in the Vale of Glamorgan.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

23. The adoption of the Local Commissioning Plan will do much to improve the quality of life of some of the most socially and economically disadvantaged people in the Vale of Glamorgan.

### **Corporate/Service Objectives**

24. This report is consistent with the Corporate Objective of the Council.  
An inclusive and safe Vale: Reducing poverty and Social exclusion; safeguarding those that are vulnerable; promoting independent living.

### **Policy Framework and Budget**

25. This report is consistent with the Policy Framework and Budget and is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

### **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

26. The Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan enshrines the principles of consultation and has been developed following detailed dialogue with service users, service providers, voluntary sector organisations, registered social landlords and statutory agencies.
27. The prioritisation of future service developments has also been subject to consultation via the Supporting People Liaison Group meetings with service providers, voluntary sector organisations, registered social landlords and statutory agencies.
28. There has been no individual ward member consultation in respect of this report as it is an issue that affects the whole of the Vale.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

29. Homes and Safe Communities.

### **Background Papers**

- (i) Welsh Government Document - Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) Guidance (Wales) July 2012 (updated June 2013).
- (ii) Minutes of the Supporting People Planning Group meetings 2015/16.

### **Contact Officer**

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### **Officers Consulted**

Carolyn Michael, Accountant, Resource Management.  
Committee Reports, Legal Services.

### **Responsible Officer:**

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