

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 22 February, 2016

Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Building Maintenance and Community Safety

Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2016 - 2019

Purpose of the Report

1. To adopt the draft Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2016 - 2019 and seek authorisation for its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee for the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.
2. To update Cabinet on the Council's indicative allocation of Supporting People Programme Grant for 2016/17 from Welsh Government.

Recommendations

1. THAT the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2016 - 2019 be approved and Cabinet agrees to its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee for the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.
2. THAT the report is referred to the Scrutiny Committee (Housing and Public Protection) for information.

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).
2. For information.

Background

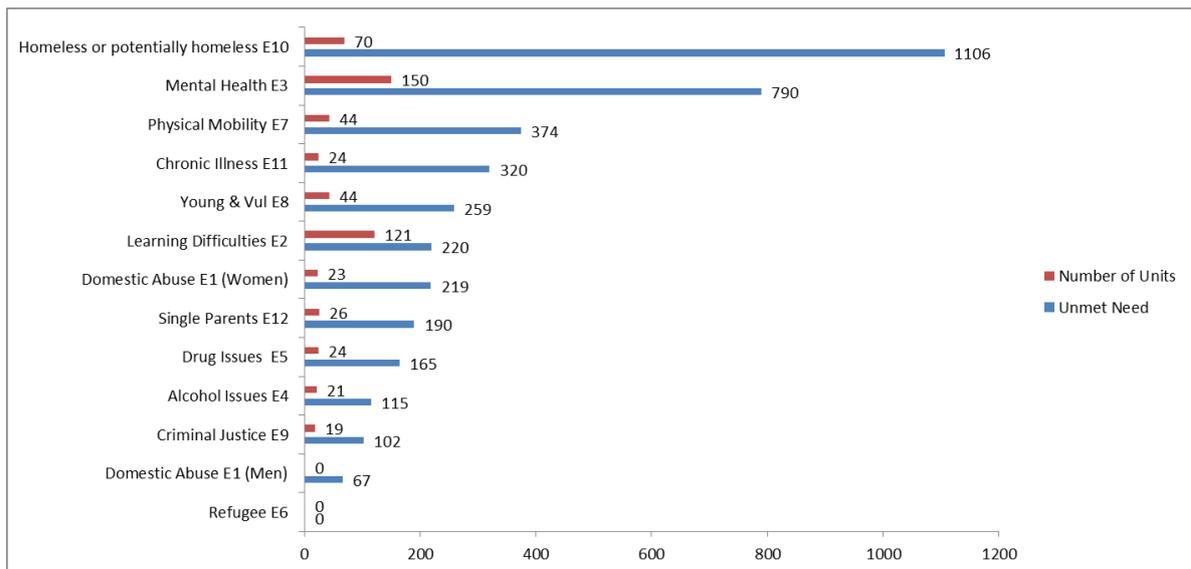
3. The Supporting People (SP) Programme is the policy and funding framework for delivering housing related support to vulnerable people in different types of accommodation and across all tenures.
4. The programme contributes to meeting the aims of 'Improving Lives and Communities - Homes in Wales' the National Housing Strategy and the ten year Homelessness Plan, with a strong emphasis on the prevention of homelessness. Its importance is also recognised in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 implemented in April 2015.

5. 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.
6. In accordance with the Welsh Government Guidance for Supporting People, all local authorities are required to develop a three year Local Commissioning Plan, which must be submitted to the Regional Collaborative Committee for the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.
7. 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 Vale Housing and Homelessness Forum).
8. The SPLPG met on five occasions 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 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.

Relevant Issues and Options

9. Attached at [Appendix 1](#) is a copy of the Local Commissioning Plan 2016 - 2019.
10. Following the announcement of the Welsh Government draft budget in December 2015, local authorities received notification of their indicative Supporting People Programme Grant. All local authorities were told their allocations would remain the same as 2014/5. For the Vale of Glamorgan this means the budget remains static at £3,466,829.23.
11. The Supporting People Team had been informed previously that they were facing SPPG cuts anywhere from 5 - 20% and had undertaken work to identify possible budget savings in an attempt to minimise the impact on front line services and in turn the very vulnerable service users requiring support in the Vale of Glamorgan.
12. The decisions were made based on financial modelling, meetings with providers, needs mapping information and service priorities and was endorsed by the Supporting People Local Planning Group and the Regional Collaborative Committee for the Vale of Glamorgan. The analysis and approach taken are outlined in the Local Commissioning Plan attached at [Appendix 1](#). The result is no impact on services due to the protection of the budget. However work will continue to identify savings going forward to meet gaps in service and to protect against future predicted cuts.
13. In addition to addressing the approach to be taken to the budget cuts, the Local Commissioning Plan outlines the evidence collected on the support needs of vulnerable people in 2014/15 and the existing services being delivered, in order to evidence their continuation and the decisions on new service priorities for development. Whilst these are outlined below, it is difficult to assess if we will be able to commission new services as savings may be needed for future cuts so it remains unlikely that any new services will be developed next year.

14. 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.
15. Graph 1: Data on Clients Needs identified 2014/15 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.



16. The Supporting People Local Planning Group has determined from the needs analysis, that under the Supporting People Programme the highest priority is to develop more support units for mental health, domestic abuse and people with a physical disability.
17. The total annual revenue requirement for the new support services identified in the Local Commissioning Plan is estimated to be in the region of £364,000. There would also be a capital funding requirement for some of the projects, which have yet to be calculated. There is therefore clearly a mismatch in the Vale of Glamorgan in terms of available resources which Housing Services continue to try to address with our partners and Welsh Government.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

18. 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.
19. 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 with

the introduction of the changes to the Homelessness Legislation in April 2015 from the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and the continuing roll out of Universal Credit.

20. 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

21. 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)

22. 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

23. 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)

24. 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

25. This report is consistent with the Corporate Objective of the Council.

Housing:

Vale of Glamorgan residents have access to affordable, good quality suitable housing and housing advice and support.

Policy Framework and Budget

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

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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

30. Housing and Public Protection.

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.

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