

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 22 January, 2018

Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services

Draft Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2018 - 2021

Purpose of the Report

1. To request that Cabinet adopt the draft Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2018 - 2021 and approve its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee for the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff (RCC).
2. To update Cabinet on the Council's indicative allocation of Supporting People Programme Grant for 2018/19 from Welsh Government.

Recommendation

1. That the draft Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2018 - 2021 be adopted by Cabinet.

Reason for the Recommendation

1. To adopt the Plan in compliance with the Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) Guidance (Wales) June 2013.

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. It also contributes to the Well-being of Future Generations Act through its focus on prevention. 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.

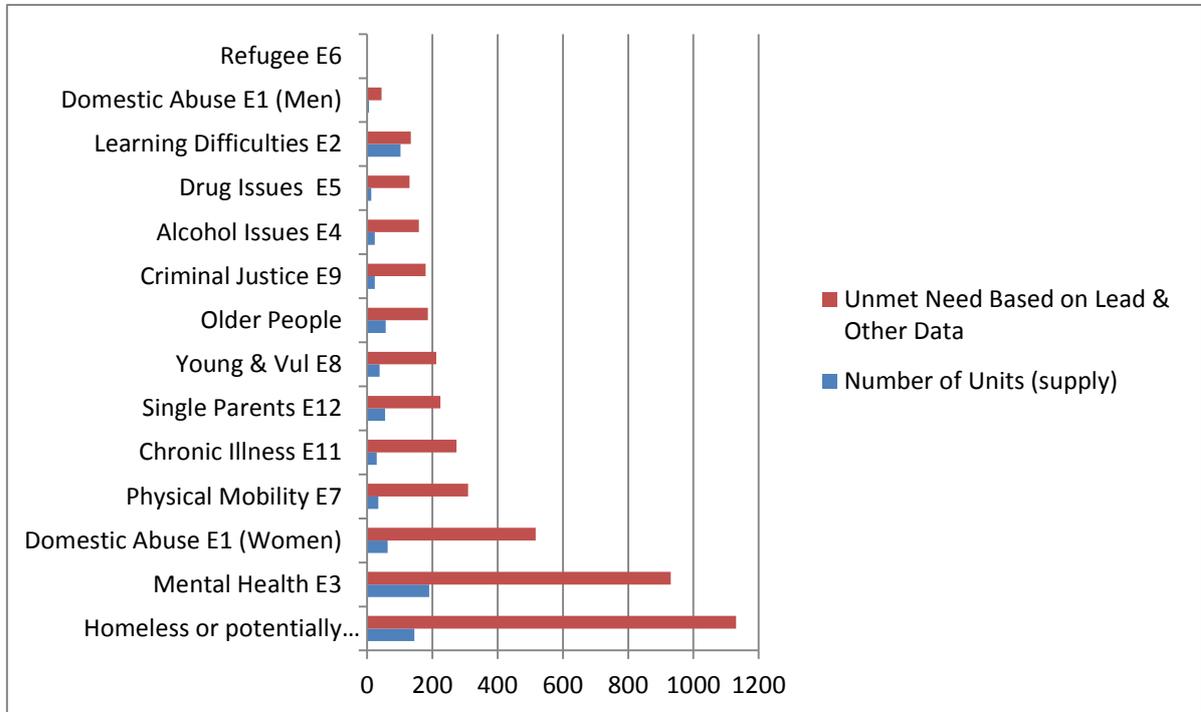
6. In accordance with the Welsh Government Guidance for Supporting People, all local authorities are required to develop a rolling three year Local Commissioning Plan, which must be submitted to the Regional Collaborative Committee for the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.
7. The development and coordination 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 (currently the Chair of the Vale Housing and Homelessness Forum).
8. 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 provide data for their services 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 Draft Local Commissioning Plan 2018 - 2021.
10. Following the announcement of the Welsh Government draft budget for 2018, local authorities received notification of their indicative Supporting People Programme Grant. All local authorities were told their allocations would remain the same as previous years. For the Vale of Glamorgan this means the budget remains static at £3,466,829.
11. Welsh Government had previously indicated that SP would receive a two year indicative budget with no cuts to the grant in 18/19 or 19/20. However WG have now indicated that they will merge the four grant streams of Supporting People, Flying Start, Families First and the legacy Communities First funding in year 18/19. WG have indicated they are minded to remove the ring fence from Supporting People in 19/20, with a possibility of including several other smaller grants, including the Homeless prevention grant, into a 'Super Grant' and this pot will receive a cut in funding.
12. Due to the uncertainty in funding the SP team continue to fund our frontline services as a priority and to use pilots to trial any new projects or ways of working.
13. This year the Local Commissioning Plan outlines the evidence collected on the support needs of vulnerable people in 2016/17 and the existing services being delivered, in order to evidence their continuation and the decisions on new service priorities for development. In addition Local Authorities have been directed by Welsh Government to ensure our older peoples services are based on need and not based on tenure. It is therefore planned to re-commission those services when the contracts end. SP has also been asked to justify the spend in the Learning Disabilities category and along with the Social Services directorate, the SP team will be reducing the levels of funding in April 2018 ahead of retendering those services in 2019 when the contracts end.
14. An assessment of the support needs of all individuals who have contacted the Housing Division and other voluntary and statutory sector agencies in 2016/17 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, mental health and domestic abuse issues.

- Graph 1: Data on Clients Needs identified 2016/17 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.



- 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, subject to the availability of Capital funding in the future, develop more support units for mental health, domestic abuse and people with a physical disability.
- The final Local Commissioning Plan is required to be submitted to the RCC by the end of January 2018 for approval before a regional plan with Cardiff is submitted to Welsh Government.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

- There are no direct resource implications associated with this report in respect of the services being delivered. All funding requirements identified for resourcing under the Supporting People Programme are financed through grant funding from Welsh Government.
- There will potentially be considerable resource implications for Adult Services from any reduction made to the Supporting People payments for housing related support services delivered within the supported housing schemes for clients with learning disabilities. Contracts already in place for these services include combined unit costs that cover both personal care and housing related support provided to the service users. Therefore any reduction in the Supporting People funding for the housing related support element will have to be covered from the Social Services budget.

20. 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.
21. 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

22. 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)

23. 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

24. 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)

25. 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. Once adopted the plan will be available in Welsh and English on the Councils website.

Corporate/Service Objectives

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

Wellbeing Objective 1: An inclusive and safe Vale: Outcome 1: Reducing poverty and Social exclusion.

Wellbeing Objective 4: An active and healthy Vale: Outcome 8: Safeguarding those that are vulnerable and promoting independent living.

Policy Framework and Budget

27. This report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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

31. Homes and Safe Communities.

Background Papers

- (i) Welsh Government Document - Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) Guidance (Wales) June 2013.
- (ii) Minutes of the Supporting People Planning Group meetings 2016/17.

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