

Housing Related Support Grant Agreements 2017/2018
Councillor David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources
April 2017
Deadline date: N/A

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Corporate Director People and Communities
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan : YES Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan : KEY/17APR17/02
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO
Is this a project and if so has it been registered on Verto?	NO

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- (1) Award specific grants for the funding of Housing Related Support, which will be funded through the Housing Related Support (formerly Supporting People) Programme, to the following organisations for the period of 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018:
 - 1) Axiom Housing Association – Hostel Accommodation and Drop-in Service - £530,000.04;
 - 2) Cross Keys Homes – Hostel Accommodation - £99,109.08;
 - 3) YMCA – Hostel Accommodation - £250,059.48;
 - 4) Peterborough & Fenland MIND Floating Support Service - £21,333.60;
 - 5) Peterborough Woman’s Aid – Refuge Service - £60,205.68;
 - 6) NACRO Storm Project – Floating Support - £35,200.32; and

- (2) Award a specific grant for the provision of Housing Related Support to the following organisations for the period of 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017 with an option to extend for a further six months to 31 March 2018:
 - 7) Home Group (Stonham) – Hostel Accommodation - £36,687.60 per 6 month period; and
 - 8) Genesis Housing Association – Hostel Accommodation - £29,033.28 per 6 month period

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 This report seeks the Cabinet Member for Resources' approval to award grant funding to providers of Housing Related Support for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, with the exception of the Home Group and Genesis which will initially be for 6 months from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017 with an option to extend for a further 6 months to 31st March 2018.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 2.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Resources to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraphs 3.4.3 and 3.4.6 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph (h).

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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4. DETAILS OF DECISION REQUIRED

- 4.1 The Housing Related Support Programme is funded from a non-ring fenced revenue grant from the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) which is paid to the Council through the Area Based Grant.
- 4.2 Grant awards for the purposes of Housing Related Support were originally approved within the CMDN APR12/CMDN/046.
- 4.3 The focus of the Housing Related Support programme is now on the prevention of homelessness rather than independent living and includes the provision of homeless hostels, floating outreach support and drop in services to vulnerable groups such as young people at risk, offenders or people at risk of offending, young parents, victims of domestic abuse, single homeless and homeless families, people with mental health illness, those who are chronically excluded and people with learning disabilities. The grant funding continues to contribute towards the cost of support staff providing Housing Related Support.
- 4.4 Subject to the recommendations of this Decision Notice being followed, the grant recipients that will receive Housing Related Support grants are:
- Axiom Housing Association – Peterborough Foyer, New Haven and Fair View Court Hostels housing 97 people and Drop-In Services for young people, young people at risk, young parents, individuals who are under licence with the probation service and refugees;
 - Cross Keys Homes – five homeless hostels – 75 rooms in total for homeless individuals and families;
 - Genesis Housing Association – Mayors Walk Hostel and move-on flats supporting 26 people with high support needs;
 - Home Group (Stonham) – Eastlands Hostel for 14 people with mental health problems;
 - YMCA – The Cresset Hostel for 82 single homeless people with medium/low support needs and Time Stop for 22 young single homeless people with high support needs.
 - Peterborough & Fenland MIND - Floating Support Service to individuals with mental health problems who are chronically excluded;
 - Peterborough Women's Aid – Refuge Service for victims of domestic violence;
 - NACRO STORM Project – Floating Support to prolific and persistent offenders and those at risk of becoming so.

- 4.5 The award of a grant to the Home Group for the Eastlands hostel and move on flats is for six months, with agreement to extend for a further 6 months, depending on the review of specialist accommodation provision for clients with mental health issues currently being undertaken by Adult Social Care Commissioning and the Housing Programmes Team.
- 4.6 The award of a grant to Genesis HA for the Mayors Walk hostel and move on flats is also for six months, with agreement to extend for a further 6 months. Communication was received from Genesis in August 2016 indicating their wish to sell the Mayors Walk hostel and flats as a going concern. It later transpired that these properties were part of a larger Cambridgeshire lot of general needs and specialist supported housing that Genesis were looking to dispose of. Expressions of interest were invited but our enquiries with Saville's, who are marketing the properties on behalf of Genesis, have revealed that no interest in Mayors Walk has been forthcoming. The Mayors Walk property has a capacity of 26 and is currently occupied by 25 individuals, some with chaotic lifestyles including entrenched alcohol and drug dependency. The proposed grant agreement will ensure that supported housing for these vulnerable residents will remain in place whilst a clearer picture of the future of the hostel and flats emerges.
- 4.7 Following the release of the Government's Consultation on the Funding of Supported Housing in November 2016 discussions have taken place between Housing and Adult Social Care Commissioners about the future provision of housing related support. The consultation proposes a new housing costs funding model for supported housing as well seeking views on how funding for emergency and short term placements should work. The new model will mean that core rent and service charges will be funded through Universal Credit (or Housing Benefit for pensioners where Universal Credit has yet to be fully rolled out) up to the level of the applicable LHA rate. Funding will be devolved to Local Authorities in England to provide a "top up" where necessary to providers, reflecting the often higher costs of offering supported housing.
- 4.8 The final models will be announced in Autumn 2017 and will commence in April 2019 after a transitional period. The award of grant agreements to existing providers initially until March 2018 will allow time for commissioners to take a more coherent approach to commissioning future services across housing, health and social care.
- 4.9 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out in February 2013 as a result of the proposed cuts to the Housing Related Support Programme in 2013/2014. The Equality Impact Assessment has been further reviewed in relation to the grant awards in subsequent years, which are at the same level, to assess the impact of the funding.
- 4.10 Officers have undertaken an assessment of the existing provision of Housing Related Support and, in discussion with the current grant recipient, the grant funding for 2016/2017 reflects the assistance the Council can give in order to maintain the Housing Related Support provision undertaken by the recipients. The grant values are within the limits of the overall funding for the Housing Related Support Programmes for 2017/2018.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has been carried out with all existing grant recipients of Housing Related Support on the award of grant funding for a period of one year from 1 April 2017 and for 6 months from the 1 April 2017 for the Home Group and Genesis which are based on 2016/2017 agreed funding levels.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Award grant funding and grant agreements for the continued provision of accommodation based, drop-in and floating Housing Related Support to grant recipients for a period of one year and for six months, plus the option for an additional six months in the case of the Home Group and Genesis.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 7.1 The recommendations in this report will ensure that the continuity of Housing Related Support to some of the most vulnerable in society is achieved, whilst a longer term solution is explored.
- 7.2 Housing Related Support is provided for vulnerable people, often with complex support needs either in an accommodation based setting, through drop in support workers or through floating support provided by outreach workers. Our evidence shows that the Housing Related Support provided through the homeless hostels plays a significant role in helping to reduce homelessness in the city. Drop in and floating support reaches hard to engage groups, assisting people with complex and entrenched needs, often living chaotic lifestyles.
- 7.3 The Homelessness Act 2002 sets out the Council's powers to meet the aims of the act and its duties towards homeless people.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Cut funding completely and stop the Housing Related Support. Rejected due to the adverse impact on the provision of hostel provision and homeless prevention.
- 8.2 A procurement has been rejected because the budget provision is only confirmed annually for one year only. Full exploration of the future provision of housing related support will take place during 2017/2018 including the potential for joint commissioning of support services with Cambridgeshire County Council.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 9.1 Grants will be awarded subject to confirmed funding for the Housing Related Support Programme and the provider entering into a grant agreement with the Council.

Legal

- 9.2 The Council has the legal power to make grant awards under the general power of competence contained in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 9.3 The Council must ensure that their arrangements with the grant recipients do not breach State Aid rules.
- 9.4 State aid can occur whenever state resources are used to provide assistance that gives organisations an advantage over others. It can distort competition, which is harmful to consumers and companies in the EU. Where there is a genuine market failure, State aid might be necessary and justified. In general, aid that really changes the behaviour of the organisation that receives it, which is the best way to address the failure and limit distortions, and where the benefits outweigh any negative effects on competition, is approvable.
- 9.5 For the purposes of these grants, the Service of General and Economic Interest (SGEI) rules have been considered. Funding of SGEI is in principle caught by the state aid rules as the state is providing an undertaking with financial support to deliver a service, therefore in order to ensure the support can be provided in a state aid compliant way, European Commission

rules in respect of SGEI have been complied with. Consideration has been given to the SGEI De Minimis Regulation and the block exemption under the SGEI Decision. Grant agreements will be drafted to ensure compliance with the requirements within these rules.

Equalities

9.6 There are no equalities implications arising from this decision.

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

10.1 None.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Cabinet Member Decision Notice APR12/CMDN/046

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/2016 – 2024/2025

Housing Strategy 2011 - 2015

Homelessness Strategy 2013 -2018