



HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT GRANT AGREEMENTS 2016/2017
Councillor David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources
April 2016
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/04APR16/02
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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- 1) Award specific grants for the funding of Housing Related Support to be funded through the Housing Related Support (formerly Supporting People) Programme to the following organisations for the period of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017:
 - i. Axiom Housing Association – Hostel Accommodation and Drop-in Service - £530,000.00;
 - ii. Cross Keys Homes – Hostel Accommodation - £99,109.00;
 - iii. Genesis Housing Association – Hostel Accommodation - £58,066.46;
 - iv. YMCA – Hostel Accommodation - £250,059.39;
 - v. Peterborough & Fenland MIND Floating Support Service - £21,333.60;
 - vi. Peterborough Woman’s Aid – Refuge Service - £60,205.69;
 - vii. NACRO STORM Project – Floating Support - £35,200.32; and
- 2) To award a specific grant for the provision of Housing Related Support to the following organisation for a six month period of 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016, with an option to extend for a further six months to 31 March 2017:
 - i. Home Group (Stonham) – Hostel Accommodation - £36,687.58 (per six 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 2016 to 31 March 2017, with the exception of the Home Group which will initially be for six months from 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016 with an option to extend for a further six months to 31 March 2017.

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 and 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 and the decision was based on the fact that the grant agreements, for use by the Council, fund the Housing Related Support projects undertaken by the recipients, which funds support staff and managers employed by the grant recipient where they are based in or work from buildings owned by the grant recipient. The Council is providing financial assistance to the grant recipients but is not receiving any direct service in return.

- 4.3 Following a reduction to the programme in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014, 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 – The 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 24 people with high support needs;
 - Home Group (Stonham) – Eastland 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 is for six months, with agreement to extend for a further six months depending on the Adult Social Care review being completed by September 2016.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 Officers have undertaken an assessment of the existing provision of Housing Related Support and, in discussion with the current grant recipients, the grant funding for 2016/17 reflects the assistance the Council can give in order to maintain the Housing Related Support project undertaken by the recipients,. The grant values are within the limits of the overall funding for the Housing Related Support Programmes for 2016/2017.

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 2016, and for six months from 1 April 2016 with the option to extend for a further six months for the Home Group. This funding is based on agreed funding levels.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Award grant funding and issue 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 and the option to extend for a further six months in the case of the Home Group.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 7.1 The recommendations in this report will ensure that the continuity of Housing Related Support some of the most vulnerable in society is achieved.
- 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 Under the Homelessness Act 2002 local housing authorities must have a strategy for preventing homelessness in their district. The strategy must apply to everyone at risk of homelessness. Authorities are also encouraged to take steps to relieve homelessness in cases where someone has been found to be homeless but is not owed a duty to secure accommodation under the homelessness legislation.

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 grants can be given to an organisation to fund a specific project, which in this case is the funding towards the cost of support staff providing Housing Related Support, in order to meet the support needs of vulnerable groups in the city. Grant agreements will be used by the Council in respect of the funding being undertaken by the grant recipients.

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 these grant awards under the general power of competence contained in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 9.3 The Council must ensure their arrangements with the grant recipients does not offend the rules against state aids which prohibit public bodies from favouring certain undertakings and distorting competition. The implications of the existence of state aid have been considered. For the purposes of these grants, the Service of General and Economic Interest (SGEI) rules have been considered and 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.

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