

Housing Related Support Grant Agreements 2020/2021
Councillor David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources
March 2020
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/13APR20/03
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 Housing Related Support, which will be funded through the Housing Related Support Programme (formerly Supporting People Programme), to the following organisations for the period of 12 months, 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021:
 - Longhurst Group (formerly Axiom Housing Association) – Hostel Accommodation and Drop-in Services - £530,000.04;
 - Cross Keys Homes – Hostel Accommodation - £99,109.08;
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough YMCA – Hostel Accommodation - £250,059.48;
 - Peterborough Women’s Aid – Refuge Service - £60,205.68;
 - Futures Housing Group – Hostel Accommodation - £58,066.56
 - Home Group – Hostel Accommodation - £73,375.20

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 2020 to 31 March 2021.

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 (fh) and (g).

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 The focus of the Housing Related Support programme is now on the prevention of homelessness 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.
- 4.3 Subject to the recommendations of this Decision Notice being followed, the grant recipients that will receive Housing Related Support grants are:
- Longhurst Group (formerly Axiom Housing Association) – Peterborough Foyer, New Haven and Fair View Court Hostels housing 97 people and providing 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;
 - Futures Housing Group – Mayors Walk Hostel and move-on flats supporting 26 people with medium support needs;
 - Home Group – Eastlands Hostel for 14 people with mental health problems;
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough 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 Women's Aid – Refuge Service for victims of domestic violence
- 4.5 A full Supported Housing Review is in the process of being carried out in Cambridgeshire, following which a review of the potential for joint funding opportunities will follow, to feed into plans for HRS funding going forward.
- 4.6 The award of grant agreements to the existing providers until 31 March 2021 will allow time for commissioners to complete the reviews and prepare a coherent approach to commissioning future services across housing, health and social care and look at the feasibility of moving some accommodation based services to the more cost effective floating support model.
- 4.7 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.

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 2020.
- 5.2 The Eastlands service, operated by Home Group, is jointly funded by HRS grant funding and Mental Health Support funding. The MH funding is currently undergoing a process of review and change and has recently moved to being funded on a client by client basis rather than in block. Further work is expected during 2020-21 across this and other services which will ultimately result in a new framework of mental health support providers for eligible clients to buy specialist support as required.
- 5.3 The Housing Programmes Team in Peterborough is working with MH Commissioners to help shape the proposed new service and how it will affect Home Group. Grant funding for this service will allow us to review service requirements in the coming months whilst maintaining service delivery.
- 5.4 As part of the Cambridgeshire Housing Related Support Review, consultation continues with district councils, service providers and Peterborough City Council. Representatives from Peterborough City Council sit on the Cambridgeshire Housing Related Support Board meetings in order to identify potential future opportunities for joint commissioning of support services.
- 5.5 Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council have jointly commissioned a multidisciplinary floating support service. Peterborough City Council's annual contribution to this service is £56,533 and the award of this funding is covered separately in FEB18/CMDN/90 - Authorisation for Peterborough City Council to delegate the discretionary function of providing Housing Related Floating Support services to Cambridgeshire County Council

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.

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 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 full procurement has been rejected because currently the budget provision is only confirmed annually for one year only. Full exploration of the future provision of housing related support will continue during 2020/2021 including the potential for further joint commissioning of services with Cambridgeshire County Council. The value for money and outcomes delivered by floating support are excellent and it is one model of support that both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are considering expanding in the future, where possible.

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.
- 9.2 The breakdown of Housing Related Support is as follows:
- Longhurst Group (formerly Axiom Housing Association) – Hostel Accommodation and Drop-in Services - £530,000.04;
 - Cross Keys Homes – Hostel Accommodation - £99,109.08;
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough YMCA – Hostel Accommodation - £250,059.48;
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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 has considered State Aid in the application of the grants.
- 9.4 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. Grant agreements will be drafted to ensure compliance with the requirements within these rules.

Equalities

- 9.5 There are no equalities implications arising from this decision.

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.6 This decision is anticipated to have a neutral impact because the award of agreements continues existing arrangements and therefore emissions will not change.

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

None