



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Policy and Resources Committee – 8 December 2014

Homelessness Prevention Grant 2014 – 15

Purpose of report

To ask Members to consider and approve the recommendations of the Voluntary Sector (Homelessness Prevention) Grants Member Panel on the award of Homelessness Prevention Grants 2014-15.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 – Minutes of the meeting of the Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel

Appendix 3 – Homelessness Prevention Grants application scoring criteria.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The council has for a number of years received an annual Homelessness Prevention Grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for use in the prevention and reduction of homelessness.
- 1.2 Until 2012/13, the Homelessness Prevention Grant was, although not ring-fenced, paid to the council separately as a grant. The award for 2012/13 was £50,000.
- 1.3 From 2013/14 the payment arrangements changed, and the funding became an indicative amount of £50,000 in the council's Revenue Support Grant (RSG). The RSG was forecast to reduce by approximately 10% per annum until at least 2018, which would have eroded the £50,000 transferred by approximately £5,000 per annum. The assumed amount in the RSG for 2013/14 was £45,000 and for this year (2014/15) was £40,500.
- 1.4 Members were asked at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting, on 13 October 2014, to consider whether the fund should continue to be eroded by 10% per annum in line with Government funding, whether it should remain a fixed amount, or whether it should increase in 2015/16 in view of the likely additional bids for the grant as a result of the removal of the Supporting People funding.
- 1.5 Regardless of the level of grant it was considered that 2014/15 should be a transitional year, using the existing application process, but making it fairer and more transparent with the introduction of a single bid round to enable comparison of applications. Funding bids for 2015/16 and 2016/17 would be considered together using the same process as for Voluntary Sector Grants, and thereafter be brought in line with that application and evaluation process on a 3 year funding cycle.
- 1.6 Policy and Resources Committee agreed that a panel of members should consider applications for funding from the Homelessness Prevention Budget and submit recommendations to this committee for grants to be made in 2014/15 and the level of funding for future years.
- 1.7 The existing Voluntary Sector Grants Member Panel (the panel) was appointed to evaluate the applications received and make recommendations to committee on the awards of the grants. The panel has comprised Councillors Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Richard Lewis and Wendy Brackenbury. The minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 2.

1.8 The application and evaluation processes are now complete and the panel's recommendations to Committee on the awards of the grants are set out in section 3 below.

2.0 Outline of the evaluation process

2.1 The Homelessness Prevention Grant is paid to the council by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for use in the prevention and reduction of homelessness. East Northamptonshire Council has chosen to allocate this fund partly for in-house purposes and partly as grants to voluntary organisations. There are therefore several internal demands on the fund, amounting to **£6,500**, which have to be met in 2014/15 before the remainder can be allocated.

2.2 These are as follows:

- a) **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) - £2,000.** The council is statutorily obligated to operate this service in bad weather (when the temperature is forecast to drop below zero for 3 consecutive nights) and East Northamptonshire Community Service operate the service on our behalf.
- b) **Medical and Social Needs Panel – £1,000.** The panel meets monthly to consider applications which cannot be dealt with through the normal allocations policy and may, for example, award additional priority so that a household may be housed more quickly to prevent homelessness occurring, thereby reducing the need for court costs, bed and breakfast etc. The council pays a qualified nurse to sit on the panel and costs have exceeded the budget this year due to the number of cases considered and therefore need to be covered.
- c) **Housing research and consultancy work – £2,000.** Some funding may be required this year to enable us to update our Strategic Housing Needs Assessment and to obtain up to date incomes data. Whilst fairly long term in nature, this work is important to ensure that our housing needs information is up to date and accurate so that we can plan affordable housing provision for future needs and prevent and reduce homelessness by ensuring the right housing is provided.
- d) **Bed and breakfast and travel - £1,000.** It is anticipated that the Bed and Breakfast budget may be exceeded this year due to the removal of Supporting People funding and the consequent loss of supported temporary accommodation. A very small amount is also needed in reserve for assisting people made homeless in an emergency with travel to temporary accommodation.
- e) **Mediation work – approximately £500.** Several teams within the council contribute to the work of the mediation service which assists with family and neighbour disputes and may prevent homelessness occurring where there is a potential threat of violence from or between relatives or neighbours.

2.3 Seven external applications for funding were received totalling **£42,022**. Applicants had also been asked to indicate if a lesser amount would be acceptable and, if so, what could be delivered for the lower amount.

2.4 Given the funding requirements at 2.2, the remaining funds for allocation amounted to **£34,000**.

2.5 The evaluation process involved a detailed discussion of each application followed by each panel member independently scoring the applications. For this the criteria set out in Appendix 3 was used. Panel members' individual scores were aggregated and the average taken to form the overall score. These, together with the panel's discussions, form the recommendations to committee on the grant awards for each application.

3.0 Panel's key findings and conclusions

3.1 The tables below set out the bids received, the average scores each applicant achieved from the panel, based on the scoring criteria, together with the panel's observations and conclusions. A total allocation of **£30,300** is recommended as follows:

3.1.1	Organisation/Proposal Central and East Northamptonshire Citizen's Advice Bureau – to extend the service of the Bridge Accommodation Project to East Northamptonshire, providing private rented accommodation mostly for single people homeless or in danger of becoming homeless	Average Score 8.3
	Bid £3,722.09	Potential reduced bid N/A
	Panel's observations and conclusions Proposed new service but two hours per week at Rushden was felt to be minimal and unlikely to be sufficient to make a real difference in East Northamptonshire. Bid heavily loaded towards set up costs which could be potentially found elsewhere and may be wasted if scheme did not proceed or could not attract further funding beyond 31.3.14. The applicant has approached ENC separately seeking a room in the Rushden Centre for this project. Following discussion the panel was minded to grant this room request as in-kind support for this project but not recommend a grant award under this scheme at this time.	
	Panel's recommendation – Nil grant but free use of room at Rushden Centre	

3.1.2	Organisation/Proposal East Northants Faith Group – to continue to operate the Night Shelter direct access emergency hostel facility	Average Score 12
	Bid £5,000	Potential reduced bid N/A
	Panel's observations and conclusions The night shelter is considered to be a valuable resource providing accommodation to people homeless in an emergency and reducing street homelessness in the district. However, there were some concerns about the quality of the accommodation which may need to be addressed in the future	
	Panel's recommendation – Award £5,000 grant	

3.1.3	Organisation/Proposal East Northants Faith Group – to help establish the Recovery House , providing accommodation for 6 people wishing to move from the cycle of addiction and homelessness.	Average Score 9.5
	Bid £5,000	Potential reduced bid Between £1,000 and £5,000
	Panel's observations and conclusions The panel wished to support the setting up of the Recovery House and felt it would be a useful resource for people wishing to move away from addiction. There were some concerns about referral processes and what training would be provided to volunteers. There were also concerns that a high proportion of residents may come from outside the district. These concerns would need to be addressed if further funding were to be considered for 2015/16 and 2016/17	
	Panel's recommendation – Award £5,000 grant	

3.1.4	Organisation/Proposal East Northants Faith Group – support and advice for those in the night shelter, those wishing to move on to settled accommodation and those needing help to maintain tenancies and prevent homelessness and repeat homelessness	Average Score 12
	Bid £5,000	Potential reduced bid - Any amount
	Panel's observations and conclusions The Night Shelter was considered to be a good base for this type of work enabling staff and volunteers to work with homeless people who may not otherwise engage with services	
	Panel's recommendation – Award £5,000 grant	
3.1.5	Organisation/Proposal Midland Heart – High Street South – support for single people in temporary accommodation at 50 High St South to foster independence and prevent repeat homelessness	Average Score 13.3
	Bid £5,650 to support 8 people	Potential reduced bid £2,825 to support 4 people
	Panel's observations and conclusion High St South is a valued resource for the council providing accommodation and support for single people, many of whom are vulnerable and who would otherwise have to be placed in expensive and inappropriate bed and breakfast outside the district. Concern was raised however that the level of funding provided for the remainder of 2014/15 may not be sustainable for 2015/16 and 2016/17	
	Panel's recommendation – Award £5,650 grant	
3.1.6	Organisation/Proposal Midland Heart – Shoemaker Court – support for families in temporary accommodation at Shoemaker Court to foster independence and prevent repeat homelessness	Average Score 13.3
	Bid £5,650 to support 8 households	Potential reduced bid £2,825 to support 4 households
	Panel's observations and conclusions Shoemaker Court is a valued resource for the council providing accommodation and support for families many of whom would otherwise have to be placed in expensive and inappropriate bed and breakfast outside the district. Concern was raised however that the level of funding provided for the remainder of 2014/15 may not be sustainable for 2015/16 and 2016/17	
	Panel's recommendation – Award £5,650 grant	
3.1.7	Organisation/Proposal Women's Aid – to support refuge victims who are homeless due to domestic abuse	Average Score 8.6
	Bid £12,000	Potential reduced bid £10,000
	Panel's observations and conclusions Women's Aid is a valued resource for the council providing accommodation and support for women and families many of whom would otherwise have to be placed in expensive and inappropriate bed and breakfast outside the district. However, there were concerns that the level of funding requested for the remainder of the financial year was too high and that some of the work proposed would not directly prevent or reduce homelessness in the district. It was agreed that a reduced amount should be offered to cover the remainder of the financial year but that more detailed information on the services to be provided, as well as income and expenditure, would be required for a bid to be considered for 2015/16 and 2016/17.	
	Panel's recommendation – Award £4,000 grant	

4.0 Future Requirements

4.1 Applicants were asked to indicate what their bids for funding were likely to be for 2015/16 and 2016/17 to enable the committee to estimate the future requirements for Homelessness Prevention Grant. The following amounts were indicated:

Project	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
Internal requirements	10,000	10,000
CAB accommodation project	6,250	6,500
Women's Aid	14,000	16,000
Midland Heart – Shoemaker Court	13,914 (reduced bid 7,238)	14,277 (reduced bid 7,427)
Midland Heart – High Street South	13,914 (reduced bid 7,238)	14,277 (reduced bid 7,427)
ENCS – SWEP	2,000	2,000
ENCS – Night Shelter	5,000	5,000
ENCS – Support and Advice	5,000	5,000
ENCS – Recovery House	5,000	5,000
Mediation	500	500
Totals	75,578	78,554

4.2 As can be seen, the indicative requirements are considerably above this year's funding (in large part due to the removal of Supporting People funding) and at present the Homelessness Prevention Grant budget is set to continue to decrease by 10% per annum to £36,450 in 2015/16 and to £32,805 in 2016/17. Future bids would be subject to a more rigorous 2 stage evaluation process in line with the Voluntary Sector Grants.

4.3 The panel, however, felt unable to recommend a level of funding to be set for the grant for future years. This was because

- a) There would be a new council which would agree the level of funding to be allocated to homelessness prevention
- b) It was as yet uncertain how the new non-accommodation based support arrangements would work
- c) It was unknown whether further bidders would wish to make an application
- d) Some of the allocations made this year would need to be further monitored and assessed to ensure they were delivering desired outcomes before further funds could be allocated.

4.4 The panel therefore wished to defer the decision on the level of funding for applicants in subsequent years as it was as yet unknown how much would be required and what priority it would be given.

4.5 Each applicant has been informed of the recommendations being presented to Policy and Resources Committee.

5.0 **Equality and Diversity Implications**

5.1 The services supported by all the grants are available to all residents of East Northamptonshire including individuals with protected characteristics. A full analysis of the implications is attached at appendix 1.

6.0 **Legal implications**

6.1 The Council is not under any obligation nor has any legal duty to provide grants to any organisation in the voluntary sector. However, the council is statutorily obliged to provide emergency accommodation under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol when the temperature is forecast to drop below zero for 3 consecutive nights.

7.0 **Risk management**

7.1 There are no significant risks to the Council in relation to the recommendations of this report. However, failure to award grants promptly could have financial implications for those organisations who have applied. This could in turn impact negatively on the Council's reputation.

7.2 The Council manages its grants through Grant Agreements, which contain all of the terms and conditions, service specification and outcomes to be achieved, relating to each grant. The grant agreements will contain provisions for dealing with under performance and default by the provider.

8.0 **Financial implications**

8.1 Provision has been included in the 2014/15 revenue budget of £40,500 and is set to reduce by 10% per annum to £36,450 in 2015/16 and to £32,805 in 2016/17. Without further recommendation from Councillors these assumptions will be included in the MTFS

8.2 The grants for 2014/15 will be paid at the end of the financial year and this will be set out in each Grant Agreement. For subsequent years it is proposed the grant will be paid quarterly in line with the quarterly monitoring meetings with each provider to ensure all of the targets are being met.

9.0 **Corporate outcomes**

9.1 The voluntary sector grants contribute to our corporate outcomes as follows:-

- **Good quality of life** – the grants provide specialist services that help prevent and reduce homelessness in East Northamptonshire, together with consequent health and social problems associated with homelessness
- **Good value for money** – the Grant Agreements will focus on the achievement of specific outcomes which together with regular monitoring will ensure that the performance expected by the providers is achieved
- **Effective partnership working** – by working in partnership with voluntary organisations the available funding can be used to best effect and deliver better outcomes for potentially homeless people and the community.

10.0 **Recommendations**


10.1 Members are recommended to:-

1. Endorse the evaluation process undertaken by the Member Panel.
2. Approve the awards of the Homelessness Prevention Grants 2014 to 2015 as follows:

Internal requirements (including £2000 to ENCS to operate the SWEP)	£ 6,500
Citizens' Advice Bureau	Nil grant but free use of room at Rushden Centre for 2 hours per week until 31.3.14
ENCS – Night Shelter	£ 5,000
ENCS – Recovery House	£ 5,000
ENCS - Support and Advice	£ 5,000
Midland Heart – High St South	£ 5,650
Midland Heart – Shoemaker Court	£ 5,650
Women's Aid	£ 4,000
Total	£ 36,800

3. Approve that any underspend from 2014/15 is carried over to 2015/16 to assist with additional demands on the fund as a result of the ending of Supporting People funding.
4. Defer the decision on grant funding required for subsequent years as set out in paragraph 4.3 above.

(Reason – to enable the efficient and effective administration of the council's budget to prevent and reduce homelessness).

Legal	Power: Localism Act 2011				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers: Policy and Resources Committee – 13 October 2014 - Agenda item 7 – Homelessness Prevention Budget					
Person Originating Report: Carol Conway, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager ☎ 01832 742078 ✉ cconway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 25.11.14					
CFO 27/11/14		MO		CX	



EIA Initial Screening Form – Committee decision

1. Decision being taken:	Allocation of Homelessness Prevention Grant
2. Name and Job title / role of person completing Initial Screening:	Carol Conway Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager
3. What is the main purpose of the Service or Policy under discussion?	To ensure that the council's Homelessness Prevention Grant is allocated to best effect to reduce and prevent homelessness in the district
4. List the main activities of the Service or Policy under discussion	Provision of grant funding to voluntary organisations providing accommodation and/or support to homeless and potentially homeless households in the district
5. Who are the main beneficiaries of the Service or Policy under discussion?	Voluntary organisations and their service users/the wider community
6. How is the success of the Service or Policy under discussion measured?	Grant agreements with agreed outcomes and targets will be put in place with the successful organisations together with regular monitoring reports to ensure targets are met.
7. Are equality monitoring systems for the Service or Policy under discussion in place?	Equality monitoring information will be requested through the grant agreements to ensure equality of access to services funded.

8. Use the following table to indicate using a ✓:

- a) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality of opportunity or improving relations within equality groups.
- b) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- c) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a neutral impact on any of the equality group i.e. no impact

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Gender:				
Women/Girls	✓			Women's Aid provides services for female victims of domestic violence
Men/Boys			✓	
Transgender people			✓	
Sexual Orientation:				
Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals			✓	
Race/Ethnicity:				
White British people			✓	
White non-British people (including Irish people)			✓	
Asian or Asian British people			✓	
Black or Black British people			✓	
People of mixed heritage			✓	
Chinese people			✓	
Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage)			✓	
People from other ethnic groups			✓	

Appendix 1

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
People who do not have English as their first language			✓	
Disability:				
Physical impairment, e.g mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.			✓	
Sensory impairment, e.g blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.			✓	
Mental health condition, e.g depression or schizophrenia	✓			Provision of accommodation and support for people with mental health problems and for recovering addicts
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder	✓			Provision of housing and support for vulnerable people
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV. Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy	✓			Provision of accommodation and support for recovering addicts who may have long term health issues as a result of drug or alcohol abuse
Other health problems or impairments (<i>please specify if appropriate</i>)	✓			Provision of accommodation and support for recovering drug and alcohol addicts
Age:				
Older People (60+)			✓	

Appendix 1

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)	✓			Some young people may be at high risk of homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse. Supported accommodation can assist to break the cycle.
Religion/Belief:				
Christian			✓	
Buddhist			✓	
Hindu			✓	
Jewish			✓	
Muslim			✓	
Sikh			✓	
Other religion (including holding no belief)			✓	
Other Potentially Affected Groups				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g isolated geographically, lack of internet access			✓	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Socio-economic Exclusion – e.g. people who are on benefits, have low educational attainment, single parents, people living in poor quality housing, people who have poor access to services, the unemployed or any combination of these and the other protected strands	✓			Users of the funded services are likely to be on benefits and be unemployed. They may have been homeless, living in poor quality accommodation or be otherwise socially excluded with poor access to services. Some will have low educational attainment.
Any other potentially affected groups (<i>please specify</i>)			✓	
9. If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group:				
N/a				
a) Is that impact against legislation? N/a	Yes		No	
b) What is the level of impact? N/a	High		Low	
10. Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance? N/a	How?			
11. Could you improve a positive impact of the decision? N/a	How?			
12. If there is no evidence that the decision promotes equality of opportunity or improved relations, could it be adapted so that it does? N/a	How?			
Head of Service signature				
Date of Initial Screening:	20.11.14			

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary Sector (Homelessness Prevention) Grants Panel held on 17th November 2014

Present: Councillors Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Richard Lewis and Wendy Brackenbury

In attendance: Carol Conway, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager, ENC
Mike Greenway, Community Partnerships Manager, ENC

Background

At its meeting on 13th October 2014, the Policy and Resources Committee requested that the Voluntary Sector Grants Panel (the panel) consider the applications for grants under the council's Homelessness Prevention Grant funding for 2014/15 and to make recommendations back to the committee for allocation of the funds for 2014/15 and to recommend the budget for future years.

Seven applications totalling £42,022 were received for consideration. The total fund available for 2014/15 is £40,500. Applicants had also been asked to indicate if a lesser amount would be acceptable and, if so, what could be delivered for the lower amount.

Evaluation Process

It was agreed there were several internal demands on the fund, amounting to **£6,500**, which had to be met before the remainder could be allocated, as follows:

- a) **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) - £2000.** This is a service the council is statutorily obligated to operate in bad weather, and East Northamptonshire Community Service operates the service on the council's behalf.
- b) **Medical and Social Needs Panel – £1000.** The panel meets monthly to consider applications which cannot be dealt with through the normal allocations policy and may, for example, award additional priority so that a household may be housed more quickly to prevent homelessness occurring, thereby reducing the need for court costs, bed and breakfast etc. The council pays a qualified nurse to sit on the panel and costs have exceeded the budget this year due to the number of cases considered and therefore need to be covered.
- c) **Housing research and consultancy work – £2000.** Some funding may be required this year to enable an update of the council's Strategic Housing Needs Assessment and to obtain up to date incomes data. Whilst fairly long term in nature, this work is important to ensure that housing needs information is up to date and accurate to enable planning for affordable housing provision for future needs and prevent and reduce homelessness by ensuring the right housing is provided.
- d) **Bed and breakfast and travel - £1000.** It is anticipated that the Bed and Breakfast budget may be exceeded this year due to the removal of Supporting People funding and the consequent loss of supported temporary accommodation. A very small amount is also needed in reserve for assisting people homeless in an emergency with travel to temporary accommodation.
- e) **Mediation work – approximately £500.** Several teams within the council contribute to the work of the mediation service which assists with family and neighbour disputes and may prevent homeless occurring where there is a potential threat of violence from or between relatives or neighbours.

The remaining funds for allocation amounted to **£34,000**.

The evaluation process involved a detailed discussion of each application followed by each panel member independently scoring the applications. Individual scores were aggregated and the average taken to form the overall score. These, together with the panel's discussions form the recommendations to committee on the grant awards for each application.

Panel's key findings and conclusions

The 7 applications were evaluated as follows:

1. **Central and East Northamptonshire Citizen's Advice Bureau – £3722.09**

To extend the service of the Bridge Accommodation Project to East Northamptonshire, providing private rented accommodation mostly for single people homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.

Panel's comments

- Proposed new service but two hours per week at Rushden was felt to be minimal and unlikely to be sufficient to make a real difference in East Northamptonshire.
- Bid heavily loaded towards set up costs which could be potentially found elsewhere and may be wasted if scheme did not proceed or could not attract further funding beyond 31.3.14.
- The applicant had approached ENC separately seeking a room in the Rushden Centre for this project. Following discussion the panel was minded to grant this room request as in-kind support for this project but not recommend a grant award under this scheme at this time.

Average score 8.3

Panel's recommendation – Nil grant but free use of room at Rushden Centre.

2. **East Northants Faith Group – £5000**

To continue to operate the **Night Shelter** direct access emergency hostel facility

Panel's comments

- The night shelter is a valuable resource providing accommodation to people homeless in an emergency and reducing street homelessness in the district.
- Some concerns about the quality of the accommodation which may need to be addressed in the future

Average score 12

Panel's recommendation – Award £5000 grant

3. **East Northants Faith Group – £5000**

To help establish the **Recovery House**, providing accommodation for 6 people wishing to move from the cycle of addiction and homelessness. Potential reduced bid of between £1000 and £5000.

Panel's comments

- Support the setting up of the Recovery House as a useful resource for people wishing to move away from addiction.
- Concerns about referral processes and what training would be provided to volunteers.

- Concerns that a high proportion of residents may come from outside the district. Concerns would need to be addressed if further funding were to be considered for 2015/16 and 2016/17

Average score 9.5

Panel's recommendation – Award £5000 grant

4. East Northants Faith Group – £5000

Support and advice for those in the night shelter, those wishing to move on to settled accommodation and those needing help to maintain tenancies and prevent homelessness and repeat homelessness. Potential to reduce bid to any amount.

Panel's comments

- Night Shelter is a good base for this type of work enabling staff and volunteers to work with homeless people who may not otherwise engage with services

Average score 12

Panel's recommendation – Award £5000 grant

5. Midland Heart – High Street South – £5650

Support for 8 single people in temporary accommodation at 50 High St South to foster independence and prevent repeat homelessness. Potential reduced bid of £2825 to support 4 people.

Panel's comments

- High St South is a valued resource providing accommodation and support for single people, many of whom are vulnerable and who would otherwise have to be placed in expensive and inappropriate bed and breakfast outside the district.
- Concern was raised that the level of funding requested for the remainder of 2014/15 may not be sustainable for 2015/16 and 2016/17

Average score 13.3

Panel's recommendation – Award £5650 grant

6. Midland Heart – Shoemaker Court – £5650

Support for 8 families in temporary accommodation at Shoemaker Court to foster independence and prevent repeat homelessness. Potential reduced bid of £2825 to support 4 families.

Panel's comments

Shoemaker Court is a valued resource providing accommodation and support for families many of whom would otherwise have to be placed in expensive and inappropriate bed and breakfast outside the district.

Concern was raised that the level of funding provided for the remainder of 2014/15 may not be sustainable for 2015/16 and 2016/17

Average score 13.3

Panel's recommendation – Award £5650 grant

7. Women's Aid – £12,000

Support for refuge victims who are homeless due to domestic abuse. Potential reduced bid of £10,000

Panel's comments

Women's Aid is a valued resource providing accommodation and support for women and families many of whom would otherwise have to be placed in expensive and inappropriate bed and breakfast outside the district.

Concerns that the level of funding requested for the remainder of the financial year was too high and that some of the work proposed would not directly prevent or reduce homelessness in the district.

Agreed a reduced amount should be offered to cover the remainder of the financial year but that more detailed information on the services to be provided, as well as income and expenditure, would be required for a bid to be considered for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Average score 8.6

Panel's recommendation – Award £4000 grant

Total Grant Awards recommended £30,300

Future requirements

Applicants had been asked to indicate what their bids for funding might likely be for 2015/16 and 2016/17 to enable committee to estimate what future requirements for Homelessness Prevention Grant might be. The following amounts were indicated:

Project	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
Internal requirements	10,000	10,000
CAB accommodation project	6,250	6,500
Women's Aid	14,000	16,000
Midland Heart – Shoemaker Court	13,914 (reduced bid 7,238)	14,277 (reduced bid 7,427)
Midland Heart – High Street South	13,914 (reduced bid 7,238)	14,277 (reduced bid 7,427)
ENCS – SWEP	2,000	2,000
ENCS – Night Shelter	5,000	5,000
ENCS – Support and Advice	5,000	5,000
ENCS – Recovery House	5,000	5,000
Mediation	500	500
Totals	75,578	78,554

The panel however felt unable to recommend a level of funding to be set for the grant for future years. This was because

- a) There would be a new council which would agree the level of funding to be allocated to homelessness prevention
- b) It was as yet uncertain how the new non-accommodation based support arrangements would work
- c) It was unknown whether further bidders would wish to make an application
- d) Some of the allocations made this year would need to be further monitored and assessed to ensure they were delivering desired outcomes before further funds could be allocated.

The panel therefore wished to defer the decision on the level of funding for subsequent years as it was as yet unknown how much would be required and what priority it would be given.

Homelessness Prevention Grant 2014/15

Scoring system

The following scoring mechanism will be used by all members of the panel to judge each applicant's proposals, around each category of the criteria.

Each category has a score out of 3. The scores are defined as:

- No evidence or demonstration = 0
- Some evidence but not developed fully = 1
- Evidence with some details = 2
- Clearly evidenced with detail = 3

Name of proposal.....

Category	Score
What evidence of need is there for the proposal?	
How will it reduce or prevent homelessness?	
How will it benefit the residents of East Northamptonshire?	
Are there robust monitoring and evaluation arrangements in place?	
What is the organisation's background and experience in this area?	
Total	