



## Policy and Resources Committee - 12 March 2018

### Homelessness Prevention Grant Funding

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#### **Purpose of report**

This report puts forward the Panel's recommendations in respect of the use of available Homelessness Prevention Grant funding for 2018/19.

#### **Attachment:**

Appendix 1 - Equalities Impact Assessment

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#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017, this Committee established a Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel comprised of three of its members. The Panel was re-appointed at Annual Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017.
- 1.2 Homelessness Prevention Grants Funding is included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at £48,994 per annum.
- 1.3 The previous report on this agenda has outlined the additional burdens which will be imposed on the council as a result of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, which will impact on the delivery of the Housing Options Service and have the potential to add to the costs of temporary accommodation.
- 1.4 Bids for grant funding have been invited through the East Northamptonshire Housing Forum, which comprises housing associations as well as statutory and voluntary agencies dealing with homelessness and homeless people in the district.
- 1.5 There are also a number of internal calls on the funding for homelessness support services, including the provision of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP). The Council has a statutory obligation to provide accommodation for anyone homeless in the district when the overnight temperature drops below zero for more than three consecutive nights. This service is operated on behalf of the council by East Northants Community Services.

#### **2.0 Bids received and Panel consideration**

- 2.1 Bids have been received for the funding as follows:

2.2

<b>Funding bids received</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>£</b>
Midland Heart, Shoemaker Court	11,247
Midland Heart, High Street South	11,247
ENCS Night Shelter	10,000
ENCS Women's House of Restoration	5,000
ENCS Recovery House	5,000
Mayday Trust, Personal Transitions Service	9,940
Internal Homelessness Support Services including SWEP provision	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,434</b>

2.3 The Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel met on 6<sup>th</sup> March to consider the bids received. The table below identifies the applications the Panel have recommended for funding in 2018/19, and the reasons for their decisions.

<b>Funding bids outcomes</b>		<b>Outcome</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>£</b>		
Midland Heart, Shoemaker Court	11,247	Funding approved	Good professional service that delivers good outcomes
Midland Heart, High Street South	11,247	Funding approved	Good professional service that delivers good outcomes
ENCS Night Shelter	10,000	Funding approved	Established project providing a needed resource in the district. Panel would still like to see improvements to facilities
ENCS Women's House of Restoration	5,000	Funding declined	Project in development stage so doesn't currently exist. Sources of income not established
ENCS Recovery House	5,000	Funding declined	Advised last year project would not be funded this year as should now be self sufficient
Mayday Trust, Personal Transitions Service	9,940	Funding approved	Clear commitment to work with the Council to prevent homelessness amongst young people
Internal Homelessness Support Services including SWEP provision	5,000	Funding approved	
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,434</b>		

### **3.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 3.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and only neutral or positive impacts have been identified. There are positive impacts of providing grants to organisations offering services to homeless people and in particular for those
- who are young or old
  - with children, who have just had a baby or are pregnant
  - with poor physical and mental health
  - suffering social exclusion.

The Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 1.

### **4.0 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the housing and homelessness legislation to prevent homelessness. These duties will be increased when the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 is implemented. The Council also has a duty to accommodate households found to be homeless and in priority need.
- 4.2 Whilst there is no legal duty to provide grants to any organisation in the voluntary sector, the Council has a duty to provide emergency accommodation under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol.

### **5.0 Risk Management**

- 5.1 There is a risk that homelessness will increase in the district and that the Council will have to pay the additional costs associated with the risk. The Council's risk register includes RM PLN 014 – 'Increase in homelessness applications'. The risk score is currently 8 in recognition of the 'very high' likelihood of an increase.

### **6.0 Resource and Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Homelessness Prevention Grant Funding of £48,994 has been allowed for in the Council's budget for 2018/19 and it is included at that level in the MTFS to allow the council to
- continue to support existing projects
  - enable the development of new projects to assist in the discharge of our increasing duties
  - limit temporary accommodation costs.

### **7.0 Constitutional Implications**

- 7.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from the report.

### **8.0 Implications for our Customers**

- 8.1 Any increase in homelessness will have an impact on calls and visits to both the Council's and the contractor's offices. The Council will need to ensure that adequate services are provided to meet our statutory duties towards people who are experiencing, or are at risk of, homelessness.

## 9.0 Corporate Outcomes

9.1 The Homelessness Prevention Grant Fund contributes to the following corporate outcomes:

- Good Quality of Life – the grants provide assistance to services that help reduce homelessness in the district, together with consequent health and social problems associated with homelessness
- Good Value for Money – homelessness prevention saves the council money in the longer term by limiting the costs of temporary accommodation
- Effective Partnership Working – by working with Registered Providers and voluntary organisations, the funding can be used to best effect and deliver better outcomes for homeless people and the community.

## 10.0 Recommendation

10.1 The Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel recommends that the Committee:

- a) considers the Equality Implications relating to this report (see Appendix 1 and Section 3)
- b) approves the Homelessness Prevention Grant Panel's recommendations in respect of the allocation of the available funding.

*(Reason – to ensure the fair and transparent allocation of the available funding and ensure appropriate funding of statutory duties)*

<b>Legal</b>	Power: Localism Act 2011				
	Other considerations: Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and the Homelessness Code of Guidance				
<b>Background Papers:</b> Policy and Resources Committee 9 January 2017 Agenda Item 6 13 February 2017 Agenda Item 9 24 April 2017 Minutes 5 June 2017 Homelessness Monitoring Statistics and Temporary Accommodation Costs Report					
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Carol Conway, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager ☎ 01832 742078 ✉ cconway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
<b>Date: 23 February 2018</b>					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b>	

Title of proposal being assessed:	Homelessness Prevention Grant Funding
What type of proposal is this an assessment of?	Other
What are the aims and/or objectives of the proposal and the intended outcomes?	To allocate funding available for homelessness prevention grants
Who is intended to benefit from this proposal?	Customers, voluntary and statutory organisations, the council
Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the proposal?	Housing services, housing associations, voluntary and statutory organisations
How is the success of the proposal to be measured?	targets met on agreed performance with grant recipients
Name of person completing Initial Screening:	Carol Conway
Job title / role of person completing Initial Screening:	Housing strategy and delivery manager
Date of Initial Assessment	19/02/2018

Instructions: For **every** category in column A, below, submit a positive, negative or neutral assessment by entering an **x** in the relevant cell. Add an explanation in the Reason box, where applicable, including a specification of any sub-group affected. There may be both a positive and negative impact for the same category (e.g. a policy may be positive for young children but negative for older people).

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Explanation and Evidence (e.g. description of elements of the proposal, data held, consultation results, customer feedback)
<b>Gender:</b>				
Consider Women/Girls, Men/Boys, Transgender individuals.			x	
<b>Sexual Orientation:</b>				
Consider, for instance: Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals Any other sexual orientation			x	
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>				
Consider, for instance: • White British people, • White non-British people • Asian or Asian British people • Black or Black British people • Chinese people • People of mixed heritage • Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage) • People from any other ethnic groups • People who do not have English as their first language			x	
<b>Disability:</b>				
Physical impairment, e.g mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.			x	
Sensory impairment, e.g blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.			x	
Mental health condition, e.g depression or schizophrenia	x			Homeless people often have mental health conditions which projects funded can offer support with.
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder			x	
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV. Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy	x			Rough sleepers in particular often suffer poor health
Other health problems or impairments (please specify if appropriate)	x			Drug and alcohol dependents
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership:</b>				
People in a Marriage or Civil Partnership			x	
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity:</b>				
People who have just had a baby or who are pregnant.	x			Additional children often lead to overcrowding and family strain which can in turn lead to homelessness and the need for accommodation and support
<b>Age:</b>				
Older People (60+)			x	
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)	x			High St South can accommodate young people. Shoemaker Court accommodates families with children
<b>Religion/Belief:</b>				

Consider, for instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian</li> <li>• Hindu</li> <li>• Muslim</li> <li>• Sikh</li> <li>• Buddhist</li> <li>• any other religion or belief (including holding no belief)</li> </ul>			x	
<b>Other Potentially Affected Groups</b>				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g isolated geographically, lack of internet access			x	
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	x			People who are homeless are often socially excluded, on benefits, unemployed, have low educational attainment, have poor access to services, may be single parents etc
Any other potentially affected groups ( <i>please specify</i> )				