



Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel

Draft Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 18 February 2019 at 11.30am, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present: Councillors: Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Chairman)
 Tony Boto
 Val Carter

Officers: Carol Conway (Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager)
 Louise Bagley (Housing Services Manager)
 Michelle Drewery (Head of Resources)

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Amy Eyles, Finance Manager.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 No interests were declared.

3.0 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

3.1 Councillor Boto nominated Councillor Greenwood-Smith as Chairman. Councillor Carter seconded the nomination.

4.0 DISCUSSION ON HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT APPLICATIONS

4.1 Mayday Trust – Personal Transitions Service

4.1.1 This had been a new project supported through the 2018/19 grant funding. There was some concern that the project had taken a long time to start up and had not yet delivered the expected outcomes. However, payments would only be made for the last 2 quarters of the year and so there was £4970 remaining from the 2018/19 funding. It was considered that this should be rolled forward into 2019/20 and that further funding should be subject to a mid-year review of outcomes against targets.

4.2 East Northamptonshire Community Services – Night Shelter accommodation, counselling and support

4.2.1 Representatives from the Night Shelter had met with Councillor Greenwood-Smith, Carol Conway and Louise Bagley the previous week to discuss their plans for an improved night shelter. Some works had been undertaken to the existing premises but it was agreed that new premises would be required if the night shelter was to continue to operate in the future. This would be difficult to achieve given the need for a town centre location. The work of the night shelter was recognised as a valuable resource for the district and it was therefore agreed to recommend funding the project in full.

4.3 Midland Heart – High Street South and Shoemaker Court

4.3.1 These applications were considered together as they shared many similarities and the funding provides a joint member of staff to deliver support to the residents of the 2 projects. This was considered to be a very good service, delivered by professional staff and providing good value for money. There was however a query concerning a

central management cost of £1,594. It was considered that the full amount should be set aside for these projects, subject to more detail being provided concerning this cost.

5.0 INTERNAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The council has a statutory requirement, when the weather is forecast to drop below zero for 3 consecutive nights, to provide emergency accommodation under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP). This service is operated by East Northants Community Service on our behalf at the night shelter, providing a meal and basic accommodation. ENCS have also agreed that they will provide this service whenever the council considers it necessary to prevent loss of life e.g. during significant storms or snowfall. The panel considered this arrangement should continue and that the remainder of the grant (£4,616) should be retained by the Housing Services Team to fund the SWEP and ad-hoc homelessness prevention requirements during the year.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 **THE PANEL RESOLVED** that the funded organisations should be advised that no guarantees of further funding could be given after 31 March 2020, due to the proposed move to unitary council status.

6.2 THE PANEL RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

- (i) That the remaining grant of £4,970 to Mayday Trust for 2018/19 is rolled forward and allocated during 2019/20, and that a further £9,940 is set aside for 2019/20, subject to a review of outcomes in 6 months time
- (ii) That £10,000 is awarded to East Northants Community Services towards the costs of accommodation, counselling and support at the night shelter
- (iii) That Midland Heart is awarded grants for High St South and Shoemaker Court at £12,219 for each project, subject to a satisfactory response regarding central management costs, with authority to make the payments delegated to the Chairman of the Panel and the Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager
- (iv) That the remainder of the funding should be retained by the Housing Services Team for the provision of the SWEP and ad-hoc homelessness prevention measures during the year.

Chairman