



Policy and Resources Committee 27 February 2019

Homelessness Prevention Grant Funding 2019/20

Purpose of report

This report puts forward the Panel's recommendations in respect of the use of available Homelessness Prevention Grant funding for 2019/20.

Attachment:

Appendix 1 - Equalities Impact Assessment

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 9th January 2017, this Committee established a Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel comprised of three of its members, Councillors Greenwood-Smith, Boto and Carter. The Panel was re-appointed at Annual Council on 16th May 2018.
- 1.2 Homelessness Prevention Grants Funding is included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at £48,994 per annum.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The Council will receive Flexible Homelessness Support Grant of £68,735 from the Government in 2019/20. This is a grant ring-fenced to homelessness prevention. It will go towards the funding of the Homelessness Prevention Grants and the One Off Payments Scheme, which is designed to make payments to individual applicants and landlords to prevent homelessness and secure accommodation.

2.0 Bids received and Panel consideration

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

2.2

Funding bids received	
Project	£
Midland Heart, Shoemaker Court	12,219
Midland Heart, High Street South	12,219
ENCS Night Shelter	10,000
Mayday Trust, Personal Transitions Service	9,940
Internal Homelessness Support Services including SWEP provision	4,616
Total	48,994

2.3 The Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel met on 18th February 2019 to consider the bids received. The Panel made the following recommendations for funding in 2019/20.

Funding bids outcomes		Outcome	Reason
Project	£		
Midland Heart, Shoemaker Court	12,219	Funding approved subject to query on central management charge	Good professional service that delivers good outcomes
Midland Heart, High Street South	12,219	Funding approved subject to query on central management charge	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 like to see further improvements to facilities and potential new premises
Mayday Trust, Personal Transitions Service	9,940	Existing funding to be rolled forward into 2019/20 and further funding to be set aside and subject to review in 6 months time	Slow start to the project with expected outcomes not yet delivered
Internal Homelessness Support Services including SWEP provision	4,616	Funding approved	To meet the council's statutory requirement to deliver the SWEP and to provide funding for ad-hoc homelessness prevention initiatives
Total	48,994		

3.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

3.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 1) 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.

4.0 Privacy Impact Implications

4.1 A Privacy Impact Assessment is not required.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the housing and homelessness legislation to prevent homelessness. These duties have increased since the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 was implemented. The Council also has a duty to accommodate households found to be homeless and in priority need.

5.2 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.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 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'.

7.0 Resource and Financial Implications

7.1 Homelessness Prevention Grant Funding of £48,994 has been allowed for in the Council's budget for 2019/20 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 increased duties
- limit temporary accommodation costs.

8.0 Constitutional Implications

8.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from the report.

9.0 Implications for our Customers

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

10.0 Corporate Outcomes

10.1 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.

11.0 Recommendation

- 11.1 The Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel recommends that Committee:
- I. considers the Equality Implications relating to this report (see Appendix 1 and Section 3); and
 - II. approves the Homelessness Prevention Grant Panel’s recommendations at 2.3 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)

Legal	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				
Background Papers:					
Person Originating Report: Carol Conway, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager ☎ 01832 742078 ✉ cconway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 18 February 2019					
CFO		MO 19/02/19		CX 19/02/19	

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	18/02/2019

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)
Gender:				
Consider Women/Girls, Men/Boys, Transgender individuals.			x	
Sexual Orientation:				
Consider, for instance: Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals Any other sexual orientation			x	
Race/Ethnicity:				
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	
Disability:				
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
Marriage and Civil Partnership:				
People in a Marriage or Civil Partnership			x	
Pregnancy and Maternity:				
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

Age:				
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
Religion/Belief:				
Consider, for instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian • Hindu • Muslim • Sikh • Buddhist • any other religion or belief (including holding no belief) 			x	
Other Potentially Affected Groups				
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>)				