

Item

## **HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANTS TO AGENCIES 2019-20**



**To:**

Councillor Richard Johnson, Executive Councillor for Housing  
Housing Scrutiny Committee 27/09/2018

**Report by:**

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**Wards affected:**

All

### **Key Decision**

#### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report outlines a programme of grant funding to organisations providing homelessness prevention services. All grant awards are for 2019-20 only and applications for funding are submitted on an annual basis with two exceptions – please refer to paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4. Given the dual financial and homelessness pressures the Council is facing, it is important that the grants programme is both transparent and exposed to scrutiny.
- 1.2 All grants over £5000 are reviewed annually by this committee and decisions on approval or discontinuation are founded on a composite assessment of the following:
  - Strategic relevance against four headline areas listed in the Housing Strategy (preventing homelessness and rough sleeping, minimising the use of temporary accommodation and maximising use of longer term housing solutions, enabling people to make informed choices about

their housing, promoting sustained and settled lifestyles and minimising social exclusion)

- Financial viability
- Performance against measureable outcomes
- The organisation's need for financial support from the Council in order to run the service.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree, subject to any changes that may be made as part of the budget setting process and the formal adoption of the 2019/20 budget by Council, the proposed grant funding allocations as outlined in appendix 1 of this report.
- 2.2 Agree delegated authority for the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Housing, to use the unallocated portion of the grant to support ad-hoc in-year awards to projects or other activities meeting the purposes listed in the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.
- 2.3 Agree delegated authority for the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Housing, to reallocate funds the event that an organisation is unable to deliver the service.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1. The homelessness prevention grant programme is entirely funded from the General Fund. The programme is specifically designed to relieve pressure on the Council's statutory and non-statutory homelessness services and, while most recipients are from the voluntary and charitable sectors, the Council will consider funding statutory partners and internal departments where there are demonstrable homelessness prevention or alleviation outcomes.
- 3.2 Grant applications were invited in June and officer assessments were concluded in August. The table at Appendix 1 lists the proposed allocations for 2019-20 along with details of grants funded in this current year but recommended for discontinuation from 1st April 2019.
- 3.3 The table at Appendix 1 includes two funded projects which are not one-year grants but are included in this report because they are funded from this budget and constitute homelessness prevention and alleviation

activity. One is for a learning and development service run by Wintercomfort; this is a two-and-a-half grant, jointly commissioned with the County Council. (This grant period was agreed by Housing Scrutiny Committee on 19 June this year in order to bring Wintercomfort's funding into line with the homelessness prevention grant award cycle). The service offers much in terms of added value and, for these reasons a long term grant was agreed.

- 3.4 The other exception is the funding for Change, Grow, Live (Street and Mental Health Outreach Service). This is a contract and not a grant. The service was re-tendered in 2016 and is due to be retendered in 2019-20.

#### **4. New awards, reduced awards and discontinuation of existing grants**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out in detail the recommendations for funding, including explanations for the grant figure advised. However, several matters should be noted here.
- 4.2 In 2017-18 the Council took the street-based anti-social behaviour post in-house, awarding the Public Realm Enforcement Service a grant of £41,730 to perform a similar role to that formerly undertaken by the police. It is proposed to discontinue this grant because a large proportion of this work is now fully embedded in the day-to-day work of the Public Realm Enforcement team. In addition, a recent grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has allowed the Council to commission the police to carry out some work in this area concentrating on the night-time economy, an important area not covered by the Public Realm Enforcement team.
- 4.3 A new grant is recommended to continue the work of the Dual Diagnosis Street Team. This service has been funded by a two-year grant from the MHCLG due to expire in 2018-19. While it has produced credible results, this grant will enable this service to continue its work for another year while its value is fully and independently assessed.
- 4.3 A new grant of £19,766 is recommended for a Hope Into Action project costing £76,886 in total. This project will work to try to resolve some of the underlying personal causes of homelessness and rough sleeping using a peer support and self-empowering approach.
- 4.4 While not a part of this grant programme, it should be mentioned that an award of £54,863 has been made to the Counting Every Adult Team at the County Council with a target to deliver eight additional Housing First units (to add to the two already in existence) by October 2019, and to coordinate the intensive

support programme to the residents. The funding has been awarded from 1st October 2018 for 2.5 years and has been allocated from the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant. (Housing Scrutiny Committee has approved delegated authority for allocations from the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant to be awarded by the Head of Service in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Housing).

- 4.5 As a general point, the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) which became law on 3 April this year, has significantly widened the scope for housing advisors to begin work earlier to prevent homelessness, and to accommodate this, additional housing advisors have been recruited. While it does not wholly replace the advice and early intervention work carried out by some grant-aided organisations, this additional scope and capacity has to some degree taken 'in-house' some of that work. This has suggested a small reduction in grant relative to last year for some advice-providing organisations. Appendix 1 provides further details.

## **Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

The financial implications of the homelessness prevention grant programme are set out in Appendix 1.

### **(b) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications.

### **(c) Equality and Poverty Implications**

Please see the EqIA attached as Appendix 2. (This to follow).

### **(d) Environmental Implications**

There are no known adverse implications arising from the award of funding to any of the organisations contained within this report.

### **(e) Procurement Implications**

The Street and Mental Health Outreach Service contract exceeds the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) thresholds for service contracts and was subject to an OJEU compliant tender process when

the service was re-tendered in 2016. A separate report was brought to this committee in September 2015 and permission was given to re-tender the service.

#### **(f) Community Safety Implications**

The contract for Street and Mental Health Outreach Services is specifically shaped to improve community safety by supporting efforts to tackle street-based anti-social behaviour. Cambridge Women's Aid provides refuge and support for victims of domestic violence and makes a significant contribution to community safety in so doing. Evaluations of the Chronically Excluded Adults Service have shown significant reductions in costs to the Criminal Justice System. Jimmy's assertive outreach and the Dual Diagnosis Street Team each contribute to encouraging people who are both victims and perpetrators of street-based anti-social behaviour to come off the streets and engage with support and treatment services.

### **5. Consultation and communication considerations**

The grant programme is shaped by the views of members of the Homelessness Strategy Implementation Partnership (HSIP) which includes representatives from every significant organisation with an interest in homelessness prevention. Invitations to bid for funding under the programme is invited through HSIP, and partners are in turn asked to publicise the programme to organisations or services which may not presently be represented in HSIP.

The grant programme, the award criteria, application forms and the bid period were all publicised on the Council's website.

### **6. Background papers**

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Equality Impact Assessment

### **7. Appendices**

#### **Appendix 1: Summary of grant awards**

## **8. Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact James McWilliams, Housing Services Manager - Housing Advice, tel: 01223 - 457813, email: [james.mcwilliams@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:james.mcwilliams@cambridge.gov.uk).



<b>Appendix 1: Grants received in this bid round</b>				
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Grant Requested</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>
Cambridge Cyrenians	Housing Related Support - Older People Homeless Floating Support Service	£15,000	£5,000	No award was made last year for this service on account of this organisation's adequate reserves. The award of £5000 in this round reflects the specialist nature of the older person's service.
Citizens Advice Bureau	Homelessness Prevention Advice	£47,791	£35,000	This award sum reflects the value of the advice service the CAB provides but is reduced from the amount requested and the 2018-19 grant (of £40,000) on account of increased homelessness prevention advice now being carried out by the Council as a result of the Homelessness Reduction Act. (See paragraph 4.5 of main report).
Cambridge Women's Aid	Housing-related and other advice for women	£47,395	£43,000	This award sum reflects the value of the service CWA provides but is reduced from the amount requested and the 2018-19 grant (of £46,470) on account of increased homelessness prevention advice now being carried out by the Council as a result of the Homelessness Reduction Act. (See paragraph 4.5 of main report).
CHS Group	Outreach Employment Advice Worker (Specialist Employment Worker)	£45,222	£25,000	This award is lower than the grant requested as a result of the healthy financial circumstances of the CHS group and the lower than anticipated take-up of HB Plus (which the specialist employment advice service was intended to support).
CHS Group	Young Parent Project	£19,000	£15,000	This award is lower than the grant requested as a result of the healthy financial circumstances of the CHS group.



CHS Group	Railway House	£27,500	£0	As in 2018-19, no grant is recommended for this service on account of the generally healthy financial circumstances of the CHS group.
Jimmy's Cambridge	Severe Weather Provision (SWEF)	£31,730	£31,730	This is an essential, staff-intensive service for the city's rough sleepers.
Jimmy's Cambridge	Assessment Centre	£64,400	£54,384	This year's award has been set at last year's figure with a 3% uplift for inflation.
Jimmy's Cambridge	Abstinence House Project	£4,524	£4,524	Awarded in full as achieving good outcomes with people who have been difficult to engage with and support.
Jimmy's Cambridge	Assertive Street Outreach 'Red Bed' Project Worker	£15,800	£9,000	Grant continues at the level of the 2018-19 award.
Centre 33	Homeless & Housing Advice for Young People	£43,154	£43,154	Grant to support a specialist service for young people.
The Riverside Group	Resettlement Worker	£30,000	£10,000	Grant reflects a move-on rate that is lower than anticipated despite new move-on support initiatives (e.g. HB+ and rent-in-advance scheme)
County Council Counting Every Adult Service	Counting Every Adult Service	£24,000	£20,000	Grant to continue at the same level as 2018-19.
County Council	Substance Misuse and Dual Diagnosis Service	£40,252	£40,252	Please see paragraph 4.2 of report.
Hope Into Action Cambridge -	Empowerment Support for the Homeless	£19,766	£19,766	Please see paragraph 4.3 of report.
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation	Cambridge Street Aid - Diverted Giving Project	£10,000	£7,500	Grant to cover administrative and other expenses for a project which in 18 months has raised over £35,000 to help people get off the streets
<b>Pre-allocated funding</b>				
Homeless Link IN-FORM	To enable homeless client information to be securely documented and exchanged between partners	N/A	£7,570	
Wintercomfort	Learning & Development Service	N/A	£91,630	
Change Grow Live (CGL)	Street Outreach Services	N/A	£181,980	
The Riverside Group	Cambridge Youth Foyer Emergency Bed Spaces	N/A	£4,160	
YMCA	Emergency Bed Spaces	N/A	£4,160	
<b>Other items in this budget</b>				
Discretionary rate relief - Cambridge Cyrenians		N/A	£330	
Discretionary rate relief - Cyrenians 53 St Phillips Rd		N/A	£810	

Discretionary rate relief - CWA 22 Primrose Street		N/A	£3,210	
Discretionary rate relief - CWA 28 Elizabeth Way		N/A	£640	
Discretionary rate relief - CWA - Sturton Street		N/A	£860	
Discretionary rate relief - Cambridge Re-Use - DRR		N/A	£1,720	
Discretionary rate relief - Wintercomfort		N/A	£2,200	
Recharged Costs - Accountancy & Support Services		N/A	£19,410	
Recharged Costs - Central Overheads		N/A	£15,690	
Recharged Costs - Customer Services Centre		N/A	£6,550	
Recharged Costs - Internal Audit		N/A	£4,010	
Recharged Costs - Cashiers		N/A	£4,450	
Recharged Costs - Other		N/A	£9,650	

<b>Total spend</b>	£722,340
<b>Total budget</b>	£749,270
<b>Unallocated</b>	£26,930