

CABINET MEMBERS DELEGATED DECISION

Open		Would any decisions proposed:		
Any especially affected Wards	Discretionary /	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide	YES	
		Need to be recommendations to Council	NO	
	Operational	Is it a Key Decision	NO	
Lead Member: Cllr Sam Sandell E-mail: cllr.sam.sandell@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted:		
		Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: Ross Hefford E-mail Ross.Hefford@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial:01553 616299		Other Officers consulted: Duncan Hall, Nikki Patton		
Financial Implications No	Policy/Personnel Implications No	Statutory Implications YES	Equal Impact Assessment YES If YES: Pre-screening	Risk Management Implications YES
Date meeting advertised: 21 st June 2022		Date of meeting decision to be taken: 28 th June 2022		
Deadline for Call-In: 5 th July 2022				

Rough Sleeper Initiative 2022 – 25 Grant Funding DLUHC

Summary

This report details spending in respect of the Rough Sleeper Initiative 2022 - 25 grant funding provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to support homelessness prevention activities for rough sleepers.

Recommendation

1. To agree the allocation of this external grant funding in line with the details within this report.
2. To delegate to the Assistant Director of Regeneration, Housing & Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community, responsibility to enter both a contract and service level agreement with a Support Providers to deliver the projects set out in this report and agree any changes required.

Reason for Decision

It is necessary to agree to the entering of an external contract to deliver an In reach / Outreach Intensive Support Service and a Housing First Project as identified in the Councils Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019- 2024.

Background

The Council have been successful in obtaining £572,818 grant funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) under the Rough Sleeper Initiative 2022 - 25 (RSI 22-25). The RSI 22-25 program is now in its fifth year and the aim of the funding is to support local authorities in ending rough sleeping. The grant allocation has been made based on a funding application submitted by the councils Strategic Housing team. The funding allows the council to commission support providers to deliver two essential support services, an 'In reach / Outreach Intensive Support Service' and an expansion of our existing 'Housing First Service' for up to 3 years. The funding also has a 'Contingency Fund' element that can be used flexibly to cover e.g., increased accommodation costs over the winter period.

The services outlined within this report are well established and have proven to be an integral part of the council's response in supporting rough sleepers and ending rough sleeping within the borough.

This grant funding is ring fenced and can only be used for the purposes as outlined within this report.

In reach / Outreach Intensive Support Service

The In reach / Outreach Intensive Support service is intended to support rough sleepers through their journey from rough sleeping, by engaging with them at their rough sleeping sites and into temporary / permanent accommodation. The support will continue for as long as they require and need it. The support is intended to be client led and person centered and is based on meeting the needs of individuals rather than having fixed hours of operation.

This service is intended to be flexible and able to respond to reports of rough sleeping by visiting and engaging with rough sleepers at sites. However, the main purpose of this service is to support former rough sleepers and those with complex needs to retain any accommodation and to prevent them from being threatened with homelessness or returning to the street.

This is a specialist area of work. The Council will procure the service from a support provider to deliver the intensive support. The funding will be used to secure a minimum of four support workers who will be able to support a minimum of 10 clients per worker at any one time i.e., 40 clients being supported at any given time.

The service will be delivered from 1st July 2022 – 31st March 2025 or as soon as possible after that date as this will be dependent on when a provider can mobilise the service. This funding can only be used for this purpose.

In reach / Outreach Intensive Support Service (£462,681.12) over 2 years and 9 months.

Housing First Service

The West Norfolk Housing First Service supports homeless people with high needs and histories of entrenched or repeat homelessness to live in their own homes. Housing First workers will typically support an initial caseload of 5-7 people per worker.

The number of clients being supported may increase over time as clients require less

support. Housing First employs active engagement, supporting individuals by recognising and emphasising their strengths and capacity for positive change, and links with relevant services that help to meet the full range of an individual's needs. It is also fundamentally a choice-led approach, which fully respects the choices of each client and supports their self-determination. The Housing First approach allows for clients to be rapidly rehoused in instances of housing loss.

In the financial year 2021/22 we accommodated six clients with multiple and complex needs into six one-bedroom flats across King's Lynn. All six clients have maintained their accommodation with the support of the existing Housing First worker.

Our intention is to expand our existing Housing First Service with an external provider and build upon its success by providing an additional worker.

The additional worker will expand the service meaning that twelve clients will be provided with intensive support at any one time instead of six. This funding can only be used for this purpose.

Housing First Service (£105,480) for two years 6 months.

Contingency Funding

This funding is meant to be flexible and will help us to respond to additional pressures especially over winter periods. The funding can be used for a variety of interventions such as emergency accommodation, travel costs and can be used for example to spot purchase specialist support or specialist accommodation for individuals.

The funding can only be used for this purpose.

- Contingency Fund (£30,000)
 - 1st July 2022 – 31st March 2023 - £10,000
 - 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2024 – £10,000
 - 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 - £10,000

Options Considered

The funding can only be used to provide the RSI 22-25 initiatives in line with the submission of the bid to DLUHC. The outcomes and success of the schemes are monitored by DLUHC. It is important to note that requirements around service provision can change.

Timescales for new development and services coming into effect can change in what is a rather fluid environment responding to ongoing needs. Any changes may therefore need to be reviewed or varied in consultation with the Portfolio holder.

Policy Implications

The proposals for utilising the RSI 22-25 funding are consistent with the Council's focus on homelessness prevention activities as set out in the Homeless & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 24.

Financial Implications

The costs of the RSI 22-25 initiatives outlined within this report are all covered by the DLUHC grant. Using the funding in this way helps to prevent homelessness and end rough sleeping, this in turn helps to avoid costs incurred by the Council of expensive B&B.

Personnel Implications

Not applicable at this time.

Statutory Considerations

The Council has statutory obligations under the Housing Act 1996, Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Equality Working Group will monitor the impact of the use of this grant funding and request feedback from Strategic Housing team at the end of the 2022/23 financial year. (Prescreening report template attached)

Risk Management Implications

The risks associated with this decision are that failure to respond to opportunities to provide accommodation and services for those with complex needs could lead to increasing levels of homelessness and rough sleeping. Failure to respond effectively to the identified issue of rough sleeping can lead to tragic consequences for individuals in our communities.

Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

None

Background Papers

- Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-24

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function	Rough Sleeper Initiative 2022 - 25 Program				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	Existing				
<p>Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened.</p> <p>Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations</p>	<p>Funding to be used to support services that help prevent homelessness and rough sleeping</p> <p>The Council has statutory obligations under the Housing Act 1996, Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.</p>				
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Age				x	
Disability		x			
Gender				x	
Gender Re-assignment				x	
Marriage/civil partnership				x	
Pregnancy & maternity				x	
Race				x	
Religion or belief				x	
Sexual orientation				x	
Other (eg low income)	x				

Question	Answer	Comments
<p>2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favoring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?</p>	No	<p>This report considers the use of DLUHC grant funding provided specifically for authorities to tackle homelessness issues and in particular in response to getting rough sleepers off the streets under the Everyone In initiative.</p>
<p>3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?</p>	No	
<p>4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?</p>	Yes	<p>Designed to address the disadvantage of rough sleeping or being homeless</p>
<p>5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions?</p> <p>If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>	Yes	<p>The proposals outlined in this report are specifically designed to have a positive impact on the lives of homeless people and rough sleepers in West Norfolk, in particular those with disabilities, and those on low incomes. The impact of these proposals may be minor or significant depending on the specific circumstances of the individuals concerned, but the aim is to maximise the positive benefits for people where possible.</p> <p>Actions: None</p> <hr/> <p>Actions agreed by EWG member:</p>
<p>If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary:</p> <p>A full impact assessment is not necessary as all of the impacts are positive. The proposals outlined will have a positive impact on single homeless people and rough sleepers and will be focused on those with a history of rough sleeping. The nature of rough sleeping means that these individuals will be on low incomes, and many will have physical and/or mental disabilities. However, those without disabilities will not be excluded.</p> <p>Other protected characteristics such as race, religion, gender or sexual orientation will not prevent access to the service as the criteria for receiving support will primarily be based around the individual's specific circumstances in relation to rough sleeping and</p>		

homelessness and their individual needs.

Individuals with protected characteristics are not expected to be more likely to access the service than others.

The Equality Working Group will monitor the impact of the use of this grant funding and request feedback from Strategic Housing team at the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

Decision agreed by EWG member: ..  ..

Assessment completed by:	
Name	
Job title	
Date	