

## **EXECUTIVE**

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

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### **Flexible Homelessness Support Grant Allocation for 2020/21**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Craig Warhurst
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis – Head of Community Services
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Key Decision	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report seeks Members approval to award Flexible Homelessness Support Grant to specific schemes recommended by the Strategic Housing Manager. Additionally it seeks to delegate authority to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to allocate any underspend of Flexible Homelessness Support Grant and Homelessness Reduction Act New Burdens Funding during 2020/21 on schemes to prevent homelessness and assist those actually homeless.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **The Executive Committee RESOLVE that:-**

**The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant is allocated to the initiatives in 3.7.**

**Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Community Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing to use any unallocated Grant during the year or make further adjustments to current initiatives as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grant for 2020/21.**

#### **3. KEY ISSUES**

##### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The Council has received £193,040 Flexible Homelessness Support Grant for 2020/21 which is ring fenced by the MHCLG for the prevention of homelessness. The Temporary Accommodation Management Fee previously received through the DWP has been amalgamated into this grant.
- 3.2 The amount the Council would have ordinarily expected from the former Temporary Accommodation Management Fund of £66,380

which supports the Council to provide a management service for temporary accommodation is deducted from this grant.

It is anticipated that an underspend of at least £30,000 Flexible Homelessness Support Grant 2017/20 will be carried forward into next year's grant.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.3 The Council has statutory duty under the Housing Act 1996 (as amended) to those people that are threatened with homelessness or homeless. In addition the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has placed additional duties on the Council regarding homelessness and the prevention of homelessness
- 3.4 The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant has been ring fenced to homelessness prevention and tackling homelessness by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.5 The main provisions of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 have extended the period during which the Council has to treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days. This applies to all eligible households who approach the Council for homeless prevention assistance regardless of any priority need, intentionality or local connection criteria.
- 3.6 There is also a duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible applicants for up to 56 days. However the Council can take into account local connection at this stage. The Council's resources now have a greater focus on preventing homelessness wherever possible.
- 3.7 Proposed Allocation of available Flexible Homelessness Support Grant £156,660

<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>£ (up to)</b>
Redditch Nightstop - Outreach Worker to support 21 to 35 year olds and prevent homelessness or work towards planned moves into suitable and sustainable accommodation. .	30,000
CCP Rough Sleeper Outreach Service and Housing First support provider	62,080
Fry Accord – 18 units of supported	22,000

accommodation for Ex Offenders or those likely to offend	
St Basils – Provide 23 units of Foyer accommodation for young people aged 16- 23 years of age additional funding to provide 24 hour cover following a reduction in funding from County Council	14,123
<b>Total</b>	<b>£128,203</b>

- 3.8 Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Community Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing to use any unallocated Grant during the year or make further adjustments to current initiatives as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grant for 2020/21.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.9 The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant will benefit customers by providing quality supported accommodation to young people and offenders, prevent homelessness and tackle rough sleeping.
- 3.10 These schemes and functions play a role in meeting the Council's Strategic Purposes:
- Help me live my life independently (including health and activity)
  - Help me find somewhere to live in my locality
  - Help me to be financially independent (including education and skills)
- 3.11 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 If the recommended schemes are not approved there is a risk that more households who are threatened with homelessness, or who are in housing need, will have limited alternative options. There is also therefore the risk that they may have to make a homeless approach and this could consequently lead to the following negative outcomes:
- Increased B&B costs
  - Increased rough sleeping in the Borough
  - Impacts on physical and mental health, educational achievement, ability to work and similar through increased homelessness

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- 4.2 All partner recipients of Grant will enter into a grant agreement and have regular monitoring with officers on the delivery of the service

**5. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**6. KEY**

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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