

South Lakeland District Council

Delegated Executive Decisions

Date of Proposed Decision: Thursday 29 July 2021

Rough Sleeping Initiative

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| Portfolio: | Health, Wellbeing and Poverty Alleviation Portfolio Holder, Housing Portfolio Holder |
| Decision Maker: | Director of Customer and Commercial Services |
| Report Author: | Carol Halton – Housing Options and Strategy Specialist |
| Wards: | (All Wards); |
| Forward Plan: | Not required |

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 This report is to note the receipt of year 4 RSI funding awarded to the council in order to continue the work already in place and extend the posts in place.
- 1.2 The award for the Council is £110,435 to continue the work until the end of June 2022. This money will ensure the Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator, Supported lettings officer and Support Officer remain in post to support those rough sleeping, where possible prevent new individuals rough sleeping and work with partners to develop pathways to prevent homelessness.

2.0 Proposed Decision

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Director of Customer and Commercial Services:-**
 - (1) **notes the receipt by the Council of grant funding for year 4. The RSI bids were submitted by Carlisle City Council to MHCLG on behalf of the Districts; and**
 - (2) **That the Director of Customer and Commercial Services in conjunction with the Lead Specialist Legal Governance and Democracy enter into the appropriate agreements on behalf of the Council to receive and administer the grant funding for year 4.**
 - (3) **That Cabinet are requested to increase the income and expenditure budgets for homelessness prevention for the value of this grant.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 MHCLG opened up two rounds of funding named the Rapid Rehousing Pathway and Rough Sleeping Initiative which were for all councils across England to apply to in order to reduce rough sleeping and homelessness across their areas. Carlisle City Council submitted a bid on behalf of the Cumbria Districts (Allerdale Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Copeland Borough Council, Eden District Council and SLDC), which was successful and MHCLG agreed to award funds to Carlisle as the accountable body. SLDC's allocated funding (which was paid and committed) was for £38,220 to work with Eden council to have a local lettings scheme which would

increase access into the private rented sector for those individuals either rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping.

- 3.2 Later, a further bid for funding was submitted by Carlisle on behalf of some of the Cumbria Districts for additional funding for the project. That further bid was successful, in which SLDC was awarded £68,774.
- 3.3 The current position is that the Council has been awarded funds through year 4 which takes us till the end of June 2022 to continue delivering the services mentioned above but also includes an uplift to incorporate the Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator role. The total award for year 4 is £110,435.
- 3.4 The targeted person centred approach has worked extremely well with initial targets being met within the initial 6 months. The addition of the Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator enabled a targeted approach during the winter months to ensure support was in place for those most vulnerable and sustainable move on options to prevent them becoming street homeless again.
- 3.5 South Lakeland District Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 to 2024 sets out a key action to 'develop the work of Government funded initiatives that support rough sleepers across Cumbria. This work is consistent with meeting the Strategy's priorities which are:
 - Homelessness prevention;
 - Increasing the supply of settled accommodation;
 - Ensuring the right support is available to those that need it;
 - Tackling complex needs.
- 3.6 This funding will continue to support the Council in its role in tackling homelessness and rough sleeping.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The bid was proposed on the homelessness data for South Lakeland District Council and an identified gap in the lack of accessibility of not only private rented accommodation but sustainable and suitable options for complex individuals. Through the Homelessness forum within South Lakeland it was highlighted through partners that a Rough Sleeper Co-ordination role was required in order to bring services together and provide support and move on for all those facing homelessness regardless of any legal duties under the Homeless Reduction Act. This data was shared with all other districts and specialist advisors from MHCLG to support the bid.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Council could decide not to accept the monies available for year 4 but this is not recommended as it would not support the work of the Private Rented Accommodation Officer, Support Officer and Rough Sleeping Co-Ordinator currently in post to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in South Lakeland. The work undertaken has also provided further funding opportunities to expand the offer to complex individuals and should the posts not continue numbers of rough sleepers would increase, prevention work decrease and additional costs to the council to source high cost accommodation through the private sector.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

- 6.1 Within the Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy for South Lakeland District council there are 4 key priorities which are:
 - Homeless prevention

- Increase the supply of settled accommodation
- Ensuring the right support is available to those that need it
- Tackling complex needs

The proposal for year 2 will help in the delivery of these priorities. The proposal will also help in the delivery of the Council Plan's aim to provide 'homes to meet need'. The Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy can be found at the link below.

<https://democracy.southlakeland.gov.uk/documents/s25966/Draft%20South%20Lake%20District%20Council%20Homelessness%20Strategy%202019%20-%202024%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf>

7.0 Implications

7.1 Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1.1 The council, as part of a county wide Rough Sleeping Initiative bid has been allocated a total of £110,435 to be spent in by June 2022 from MHCLG. This funding has been allocated to employ a part time position hosted by Impact Housing Association, a temporary Accommodation Support Officer offering in/out reach to Town View Fields and additional temporary accommodations units to provide assertive move on. There is currently budget of (£153,936) for grants relating to Homelessness: this should be increased by the value of this grant award and split between 2021/22 and 2022/23 to reflect the profile of spend. This request needs to be approved by Cabinet as it is over the £60,000 limit for officer approval. This will be included in the Q1 Finance Update to be reported to Cabinet on 1 September 2021.
- 7.1.2 In addition to this, the homelessness expenditure budget was increased by a further £150,000 in 2020/21, to support additional COVID-19 related expenditure. This was approved by Cabinet on 20/05/2020. Alongside this the council received an uplift of £60,000 in both income and expenditure in Q1 which is ring fenced for homelessness prevention to assist with finding solutions for this cohort.

7.2 Human Resources

- 7.21 SLDC have currently employed a shared full time post and 0.8 FTE support worker, hosted by Impact Housing Association. The additional posts are recruited to and have been extended to coincide with the allocated funding.

7.3 Legal

- 7.3.1 Legal Services are currently concluding negotiations regarding the grant agreement.

The grant agreement provided by the lead authority (Carlisle City Council) includes an unlimited indemnity in respect of any actions/omissions of the Council in relation to the Project, the non-fulfilment of obligations of the Recipient under this Agreement or its obligations to third parties. The Funder's liability is limited to payment of the Grant.

There are also a number of clawback provisions which provide that the funder may at its discretion withhold or suspend payment of the Grant and/or require repayment of all or part of the Grant if various events arise, including, for example:

- use of the Grant for purposes other than those for which it has been awarded;
- breach of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and a failure to remedy this in accordance with the procedure set out in the grant agreement;
- the Funder (acting reasonably) consider that the Recipient has not made satisfactory progress with the delivery of the Project;

- any of the Council's employees/volunteers have acted dishonestly/negligently directly or indirectly to the detriment of the project or taken any actions which in the reasonable opinion of the funder bring or are likely to bring the funder's name or reputation into disrepute.

The grant agreement also includes obligations in respect of the purpose, payment and use of the grant, financial accounting and monitoring and reporting requirements.

If, in future, further tranches of funding are awarded for the same project, via Carlisle City Council as the lead authority, it may be the case that further amendments to the grant agreement are sought to increase the sum of grant awarded to the Council. Such amendments should be effected as formal contract variations and Legal will advise on these as and when the matter arises including advising on further reports and decision-making where appropriate.

7.4 Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.41 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No
- 7.42 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: This is year 4 of the funding and no changes to the original assessment.
- 7.43 Summary of health, social, economic and environmental impacts: It has been proved that the project will have a positive effect on health impacts through the provision of support to homeless individuals and therefore reduce dependencies on high cost statutory services and encourage resilience within individuals.

7.5 Equality and Diversity

- 7.51 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 7.52 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: This is Year 4 of the project.
- 7.53 Summary of equality and diversity impacts: It has been proven that the proposal has had a positive effect on equality and diversity through the support of individuals with protected characteristics such as disability.

Risk

| Risk | Consequence | Controls required |
|--|--|--|
| Agreement isn't given to the funding and posts are lost. | Funding could be lost in and individuals would not receive support in their situation. | All posts recruited to and no changes needed to the original grant agreement |
| Accommodation is not found. | Homeless households may not have move on accommodation or temporary accommodation. | Continued engagement with Registered Providers, private landlords and empty home owners. |
| Lack of engagement from other agencies such as Health and Social Care. | Essential wraparound support is not available for homeless households along with the support provided through the RRP. | Continue meeting with the Health and Homeless multi-agency group. |

Contact Officers

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Julie Jackson, Principal Specialist, 01539 793371, j.jackson@southlakeland.gov.uk

Tracking Information

| Signed off by | Date sent | Date Signed off |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Legal Services | 26/05/2021 | 21/07/21 |
| Section 151 Officer | 26/05/2021 | 21/07/2021 |
| Monitoring Officer | 26/05/2021 | 21/07/21 |
| CMT | N/A | N/A |

| Circulated to | Date sent |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Lead Specialist | N/A |
| Human Resources Lead Specialist | N/A |
| Communications Team | 26/05/2021 |
| Leader | n/a |
| Committee Chairman | N/A |
| Portfolio Holder | 26/05/2021 |
| Ward Councillor(s) | N/A |
| Committee | -N/A |
| Executive (Cabinet) | -N/A |
| Council | -N/A |

Note – Report authors must consult the relevant Portfolio Holder, members of the Corporate Management Team, the Monitoring Officer, and any other interested parties before a decision can be taken. If any objections are received, they must be reported at the meeting before the decision is taken.

| Signed by:- | Title:- |
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