

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive Committee
Date:	9.2.15
Subject:	Approval of Supporting People Programme Grant Commissioning Strategy and Spend Plan
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Ken Hughes
Head of Service:	Shan Lloyd Williams
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Local Members:	

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>The Supporting People Programme for Anglesey, which provides housing related support for vulnerable people and families (does not fund personal care) has seen its annual allocation from Welsh Government for 2015/16, reduced by 8.8%, which is commensurate with a £256,000 decrease. This is in comparison to a 7.7% average reduction across Wales and a 10.2%- 10.4% reduction across all other neighbouring North Wales Authorities.</p> <p>The level of reduction is substantial and in addition to the previous reduction over the previous 3 years, Supporting People Programme Grant Funding for Anglesey will have reduced by 23%. This presents significant challenges in providing support to mainly highly vulnerable individuals and families, many of whom live very chaotic lives.</p> <p>The attached Commissioning Strategy focuses upon the proposal for reconfiguring and in some cases fully decommissioning some services, based upon the criteria outlined under box b below.</p> <p>The key proposals, risks and implications are outlined within Chapter 5 of the attached Supporting People Commissioning Strategy. The reduction in funding has resulted in difficult decisions being made from April 2015, with unavoidable implications to the Local Authority's Learning Disability Budget.</p> <p>Historically, Supporting People has invested heavily within the provision of support for People with Learning Disabilities, with in excess of 33% of the total funding allocated towards the needs of this service area. Service Reviews of support provided to people with Learning Disabilities highlighted disproportionate levels of Supporting People Funding, with some duties undertaken, being ineligible in accordance with the Welsh Government's Guidance. Consequently, this will place additional pressures upon the Local Authority's Social Care Budget, as such needs will remain.</p>

The need to identify reductions within Supporting People funding for learning disabilities has resulted in a reduction of 15.5% reducing from £912k to £771k.

In addition to learning disabilities Domestic Abuse has seen a reduction of 10.3%, Services for Offenders 21.0%, Alcohol and Substance Misuse 10.2% Single Parent Families 5.8% and homeless and Rough Sleepers 10.6%. All services for the afore mentioned areas are provided by either Third Sector Organisations or subsidiaries of Housing Associations. Unfortunately, the reductions in funding may result in some job losses within some projects, possibly at management levels. Further reductions will be made within non-direct staffing costs to achieve the identified efficiencies. Discussions with providers has to date indicated that the number of people supported by each of these providers can be sustained at the current level.

Investment within Housing Related Support for People with Mental Health Services, will remain unchanged whilst discussions remain ongoing in relation to future re-modelling

Services for Older People have been reduced, with the floating support services decommissioned in full, and both services for people with early onset dementia and the contribution towards re-ablement significantly reduced following review findings. It is envisaged that the needs of those individuals eligible for the afore mentioned projects will be met when reconfiguration of the current warden services and transformation of accommodation and support services for older people are achieved.

Investment in services for Young and Vulnerable People has increased by 10.3%. This is mainly due to the contractual arrangements for Coedlys which contained an annual increase over the course of the agreement, due to tapered lottery funding for the corresponding period. Reductions of 5.8% have been made with the same provider for other services for Young People which has in reality meant that the actual increase is less than it would otherwise have been, had there not been a reduction in funding.

Discussions have also commenced with Gwynedd Council, in relation to jointly commissioning services for Offenders and those with needs relating to Substance Misuse. It is proposed that these arrangements will be undertaken early in 2015/16 and will involve a full tender process.

The reductions shown above are an inevitable consequence of the decision taken to reduce the allocation for Anglesey by 8.8%. It is also anticipated that further reductions can be expected from the following financial year. It is therefore imperative that service provision is based on eligibility, service quality, strategic relevance and value for money, to provide equity of access (Equality Impact Assessment included within Plan) to the service user in relation to assessed need at a cost which is acceptable to both commissioner and provider.

It is therefore proposed that that the Executive Group:

1. Approve the recommendations of the Supporting People Commissioning Plan and
2. Approve the allocation of funding per service area, as outlined on page 38 of the Supporting People Commissioning Plan document.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

The decisions were based upon a strategic approach which focused upon,

- Eligibility in accordance with the Supporting People Programme Grant Conditions,
- Strategic relevance in accordance with the Corporate Aims of the Isle of Anglesey County Council and those of the Community Directorate,
- Service Quality as discovered in the programme of detailed reviews undertaken over the previous two years,
- Value for money, following a detailed exercise undertaken across all providers, and, levels of need as gathered by providers when service users present with a range of diverse and complex issues which require support.

The above factors outline the rationales undertaken when considering various options to reduce funding within specific services, remodel others and in some cases decommission in full.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

It is a requirement of the Supporting People Programme Grant Conditions specified by Welsh Government, that the Annual Plan receives approval at Local Elected Member Level.

CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Not applicable.

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Not applicable – Supporting People is a Welsh Government Grant Programme.

DD – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	No comments received
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	No comments received
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	No comments received
4	Human Resources (HR)	No objection to the proposals – However, Corporate Policies must be adhered to in the event of any implications of the proposals resulting in redundancy or redeployment of Council Staff.
5	Property	N/A
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	N/A
7	Scrutiny	
8	Local Members	Proposals agreed with at recent Service Challenge Meeting
9	Any external bodies / other/s	All commissioned providers have been consulted with, and have reluctantly accepted the proposals to reduce funding where applicable

E – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)		
1	Economic	The reductions in funding, may lead to reduced hours or in some cases job losses within some of our currently commissioned projects
2	Anti-poverty	No direct impact anticipated, although possible reduced provision and support may exacerbate circumstances of some individuals due to possible reduced support in relation to budgeting skills and overall financial management.
3	Crime and Disorder	Reduction in the support provided may result in increased crime and disorder, particularly given the chaotic and complex needs of some of the service users, who require multi agency support and intervention.
4	Environmental	Not applicable
5	Equalities	An Equality Impact Assessment is included within the Local Commissioning Strategy, previously shared.

6	Outcome Agreements	Supporting People providers are subject to adhering to a mandatory outcomes framework as prescribed by Welsh Government.
7	Other	N/A

F - Appendices:

FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):
Supporting People Programme Grant- Local Commissioning Strategy.