

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**DATE:** **TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2015**  
**REPORT BY:** **CHIEF OFFICER (COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE)**  
**SUBJECT:** **SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING PLAN**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To update Members on the work being undertaken to put appropriate measures in place to manage the reduction within the 2015 – 2016 Flintshire Supporting People Programme Grant in order that service delivery is protected as much as possible.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 In 2012, the Welsh Government merged together the Supporting People Grant and Supporting People Revenue Grant and created the Supporting People Programme Grant. This grant funds the provision of services that enable vulnerable people to gain and retain independence by remaining in their own home and prevents people from needing to access health, social, and homelessness services, etc.

2.02 Members will be aware that the Flintshire Supporting People Programme Grant has suffered significant reductions as a result of the austerity measures that have seen some of the deepest public sector cuts for a generation being implemented by the government to reduce the budget deficit. Table 1 below, shows the year on year reduction in the grant since April 2013 from a Flintshire perspective. Further cuts are anticipated for 2016/17.

**Table 1**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Total SPRG</b>	<b>Reduction in SPRG (compared to previous years' SPRG)</b>	<b>% Reduction</b>
2013/14	£6,824,035	£296,221	4.1%
2014/15	£6,468,843	£356,092	5.2%
2015/16	£5,809,813	£659,026	10.4%

This represents a total budget cut of 18.4% over 3 years.

2.03 The continued reduction to the Supporting People Programme Grant is a significant and growing concern for the authority. The services funded by the grant prevent some residents from accessing more costly social and health care and homelessness services and positively support the authority in its attempts to mitigate the extreme financial pressures that are being generated by other reductions in public expenditure, such as the welfare reforms. Therefore, it has been essential for the Flintshire Supporting People Team to adopt a proactive and strategic approach in their management of the year on year reduction in the Supporting People Programme Grant and, in doing so, lessen the negative impacts upon front line service delivery.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 In June 2014 Cabinet approved the 2014 – 16 Supporting People Commissioning Plan. The proposals to reduce expenditure contained within this report will meet the council's strategic priorities. Though with less funding will reduce the council's ability to meet local need; with potential impact on vulnerable people and service provider businesses.

3.02 Managing the reduction in the 2015 -16 Supporting People Programme Grant is by far the most significant challenge that the Flintshire Supporting People Team has had to resolve. The cut of £659,026 represents a need to reduce current Supporting People Programme Grant expenditure by 10.4%. To achieve this level of efficiencies the Supporting People Team has to propose measures that shall reduce service provision. The Supporting People Team is also committed to making efficiencies through ensuring service providers are delivering their support services as efficiently and effectively as possible.

3.03 When identifying where efficiencies within the Supporting People Programme Grant may be found, the Supporting People Team have applied an objective and transparent process using the same framework of key questions (set out below) with all service providers.

- i. Is the service eligible for Supporting People funding?
- ii. Has the service been subject to value for money assessment?
- iii. Does the service contribute to key strategic priorities of the Supporting People programme?
- iv. Is there clear evidence of demand for the service?
- v. Could the same outcomes be achieved by delivering services in a different way?
- vi. Are there other services/funding streams in the County that could deliver the outcomes?
- vii. Is there opportunity for partner or regional collaboration?
- viii. What is the service user impact, if the service is ceased or reduced?

- 3.04 The outcomes of the assessment of service providers has enabled the Supporting People Team to identify potential efficiency savings of £649,000 (See Table 2 below). The efficiencies will be achieved through the remodeling of existing services; ceasing services that are not deemed to be strategically relevant to the aims of the Supporting People programme; and, by promoting greater levels of collaboration amongst service providers.
- 3.05 Within a service area, where efficiencies have been identified, the Supporting People Team has closely appraised the implications for service users and, importantly, they have identified alternative options where service users may access appropriate support to lessen any negative impacts generated by a reduction in service provision.

**Table 2**

<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Efficiency Savings Identified</u> <u>2015/16</u>
Domestic Abuse	£ 20,000
Families	£103,000
Housing Support (Generic)	£ 31,000
Housing Support (Aged over 55)	£204,000
Learning Disabilities	£282,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£649,000</b>

- 3.06 The Supporting People Team are currently working with individual service providers, agreeing the measures that will need to be taken in order to achieve the efficiency savings during the next financial year and to ensure service users are supported through any changes in how their particular support services are to be delivered.
- 3.07 To ensure that the provision of a comprehensive range of quality assured housing related support services within Flintshire will be sustainable over the longer-term, the Supporting People Team are continuing their proactive engagement with all service providers, challenging and redefining the traditional models of how housing related support is delivered. The Supporting People Team is also considering their options around the commissioning of services such as, can specific programmes be retendered to achieve lower delivery costs, etc.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That Members note the report and the actions that are being taken by Flintshire's Supporting Team to manage the reduction in the 2015/16 Supporting People Programme Grant to protect, as much as possible, housing support services for vulnerable residents.

## **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 A growing body of research has demonstrated the financial benefits to the public purse that are attained due to the positive outcomes from interventions delivered through the Supporting People programme. The key research in Wales indicates that for every £1 spent on the provision of housing related support, £1.68 is saved across other budgets, with the health, social care, and homelessness budgets seeing the most significant savings, primarily due to the preventative nature of Supporting People services.
- 5.02 Thus, the year on year reduction in the Supporting People Programme Grant is a concern as it may result in the authority incurring additional expenditure in the delivery of crisis intervention services and in the fulfilment of its social care and homelessness statutory duties.

## **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 The services provided through the Supporting People programme aim to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people by supporting them to live independently in the community. These include the provision of services that help people to maximise their household income and manage their financial commitments. The successful outcomes from such services play an important role in helping to tackle poverty and prevent homelessness within the County.
- 6.02 Whilst the Flintshire Supporting People Team has attempted to identify efficiencies that will generate the least impact upon service users, it has to be recognised that any reduction in service provision may result in some vulnerable people not having ease of access to the support services that they require in order to avoid their household from falling into poverty and/or becoming at risk of homelessness.

## **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 None arising directly from this report.

## **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 An Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014 – 2106 Flintshire Local Commissioning Plan is being undertaken and this will include how the 2015/16 reductions in the Supporting People Programme Grant will impact upon vulnerable members of Flintshire's diverse communities.

## **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.01 None arising directly from this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None arising directly from this report.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Service providers have been consulted upon how the support services that they are currently delivering will be impacted by the efficiencies being made within the 2015/16 Supporting People Programme Grant.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

**Contact Officer: Paul Neave**  
**Telephone: 01352 703802**  
**Email: paul.neave@flintshire.gov.uk**