

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th December 2024
Report Subject	Commissioning / Re-tendering Housing Support Grant funded Floating Support Services
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the current floating support provision in Flintshire funded by the Housing Support Grant (HSG) and the changes the Housing Support Team are proposing to make.

The Housing Support Grant is a Welsh Government funded programme which provides housing related support services to people over the age of 16. It is an early intervention programme to support activity which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilises their housing situation, or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation. Increasingly support also enables people to exit homelessness by identifying and addressing unmet support needs, offering a range of support including helping people to explore their housing options. The funding available also enables the delivery of a wide range of supported housing schemes across the county.

Support offered is person centred and trauma informed. It is aimed at supporting people to secure and maintain sustainable housing by addressing problems they may face to ease pressures on statutory services within the homeless system and other statutory services such as health, social care, and probation services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet approve the re-commissioning / re-tendering of Flintshire's Floating Support Services funded by the Housing Support Grant.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	FLINTSHIRE'S CURRENT FLOATING SUPPORT PROVISION FUNDED THROUGH THE HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT					
1.01	<p>Due to the impact of the pandemic and capacity with the Contracts and Commissioning Team in homelessness services all HSG contracts have been extended for long periods of time. Additional capacity has been recruited with two new Contracts and Reviewing Officers commencing in post. This has allowed the review and re-tendering of all Housing Support Grant (HSG) contracts. The HSG team have completed tenders on Domestic Abuse Provisions, Family support provision, Complex Needs Supported Accommodation and Housing First provision. The HSG Team are now tendering the floating support contracts.</p> <p>Flintshire's Housing Support Team currently have 8 longstanding external floating support contracts across Flintshire. These include 1 x young person's floating support service, 2 x criminal offending floating support services, 1 x older persons floating support service, 3 x generic floating support service and 1 x mental health liaison support service.</p> <p>After consultation with all the current floating support services, service users, stakeholders and an analysis of the data it was decided FCC will progress the tender as five lots of floating support services detailed in the table below. The value of the five lots exceeds £2m over the proposed term of the contracts and therefore requires Cabinet approval. In accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>Proposed new provision:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 1256 1350 1612"> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1256 1350 1330">Lot 1 – Young Person's Floating Support Project (35 units)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1330 1350 1404">Lot 2- Criminal Offending Floating Support Project (60 units)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1404 1350 1478">Lot 3- Older Persons Floating Support Project (55 units)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1478 1350 1552">Lot 4- General & Complex Needs Floating Support Project (88 units)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1552 1350 1612">Lot 5- Early Prevention Project (20 units)</td> </tr> </table>	Lot 1 – Young Person's Floating Support Project (35 units)	Lot 2- Criminal Offending Floating Support Project (60 units)	Lot 3- Older Persons Floating Support Project (55 units)	Lot 4- General & Complex Needs Floating Support Project (88 units)	Lot 5- Early Prevention Project (20 units)
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Detailed below are the cost implications associated with the delivery of the housing related support to be provided by the Floating Support services.</p> <p>Revenue: The Housing Support Grant like any other Grant regime is subject to review by Welsh Government. Although there is a strong commitment to the principles and objectives of the grant there is always a risk that the grant funding will reduce subject to budgetary considerations of Welsh Government. The Housing Support Grant received an uplift of 7.8% in 2024/25 with an indication that the budget will remain the same for</p>

	<p>2025/26. Local Authorities usually receive their indicative Housing Support Grant Allocation in December.</p> <p>Capital: There are no capital implications.</p> <p>Human Resources: HSG funding provides significant staffing capacity across a range of services. TUPE implications have been included in the specifications for this procurement exercise.</p>
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	<p>Risk: Failure of not having the correct Floating Support services in Flintshire to support with early interventions in homelessness.</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with workforce and extensions of contracts of employment progressing. • Ensure packages of training and development opportunities in order to attract, develop and retain appropriately skilled workforce if needed. • Ensuring that contract prices are desirable to providers. <p>Risk: Failure to maximise take up of our award of Housing Support Grant</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A robust delivery plan aligned to the Housing Support Programme and Needs Assessments. • Prompt commissioning and varying of services as required to meet local needs within budget as is case here. <p>Risk: Reduction in Housing Support Grant in future years as a result of redistribution and/or budget cuts at Welsh Government</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal mitigations and part of service delivery continues to be reliant on grant funding regimes. • Lobby Welsh Government on the importance of HSG funding and showcase positive examples of service delivery to evidence impact through spend to save principles
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3.02	Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact	
	Long-term	Positive – Increase in targeted support and alternative delivery methods to ensure services are inclusive for all.
	Prevention	Prevention - Preventing homelessness through ensuring there is adequate support to cater for a range of people’s needs.
	Integration	Positive – Increased integration between services and partner organisations

	Collaboration	Positive – Increased collaboration between services, partner organisations and service users
	Involvement	Positive – Service user involvement to help shape effective services so that support is timely and person centred
3.03	Well-being Goals Impact	
	Prosperous Wales	Positive – Retain staff to deliver housing related support on a greater scale within Flintshire.
	Resilient Wales	Positive – Creating services that are prevention focused and build resilience to avoid households becoming homeless.
	Healthier Wales	Positive – Reduction in homelessness, overcoming health inequalities associated with homelessness and poor housing conditions and investment to increase targeted support for people with housing issues and mental ill-health.
	More equal Wales	Positive – Services are delivered in a way that are inclusive for all. Consideration has been given to local and regional gaps in provision for often marginalised communities such as the homeless, those with mental health or substances issues and the LGBTQ+ community.
	Cohesive Wales	No Impact
	Vibrant Wales	No impact
	Globally responsible Wales	No impact

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	The Housing Support Team have carried out numerous consultations with service users, staff and stakeholders of current services. The consultations carried out have resulted in the proposed changes to the current provision so support can be provided to the most complex members of the community. Ensuring that people with a range of support needs can access support.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Housing Support Grant Guidance https://gov.wales/housing-support-grant-practice-guidance</p> <p>Flintshire's HSP Strategy 2022-2026 https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Housing/Housing-Support-Strategy/Housing-Support-Programme-Strategy-2022-26.pdf</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Martin Cooil – Housing & Prevention Service Manager Telephone: 07880 423234 E-mail: martin.cooil@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Floating Support Floating support means support not linked to accommodation and not normally provided by a person's landlord. Irrespective of a person's housing situation a person might need support with issues such as budgeting, life skills, drug or alcohol misuse, mental health etc. A floating support provider can offer this as a stand-alone service without providing or arranging accommodation linked to the support.</p> <p>TUPE - TUPE stands for 'Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006' and its amendment in 2014. This happens when staff transfer from one employer to another.</p>