

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 13th December 2016

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Social Care & Children's Services / Katie Newe, Supporting People Team Manager

Report Author: Liana Duffy, SP Commissioning & Tendering Officer

Title: Denbighshire Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2017-18

1. **What is the report about?**
 - 1.1. The 2017-18 Local Commissioning Plan (LCP) for the Supporting People (SP) Programme in Denbighshire; this updates on SP's commissioning for the next financial year, following on from the three year (2016-19) Plan, published in February this year.
2. **What is the reason for making this report?**
 - 2.1. To consult on the SP LCP, including proposals to manage possible ongoing reductions to the Supporting People Grant (currently modelled on a 0% reduction in 2017-18, though with contingency planning for 5%). The grant is ring-fenced by Welsh Government for SP; however, the allocation of the grant and any cuts received will have an impact upon other Council services.
 - 2.2. The LCP will need to be approved by Cabinet prior to its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee (RCC) and Welsh Government in January 2017.
3. **What are the Recommendations?**
 - 3.1. To approve the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2017-18, prior to the plan being submitted to the RCC and Welsh Government in January 2017.
4. **Report details**
 - 4.1. SP is a Welsh Government funding stream that provides housing related support to people at risk of homelessness, including: young people; older people; people fleeing domestic abuse; offenders; people with drug or alcohol issues; people with physical or mental health issues, and people with learning disabilities or difficulties. Housing related support aims to enable people to develop and maintain the confidence and skills to live as independently as possible. The SP Programme is spend-to-save, and has been shown to deliver both financial and non-financial benefits.
 - 4.2. SP teams across Wales are required to submit an LCP to their RCC in January of each year. The Plan foremost details all of SP's strategic and development plans and priorities; these are informed by data gathered by SP throughout the year, including consultation evidence, Needs Mapping data, and strategic review findings. Examples of these plans and priorities within the Denbighshire 2017/18 LCP include the implementation of key pieces of legislation, collaboration strategies (e.g. regionally with other SP Teams, and alignment with Tackling Poverty Partners), and

remodelling the ways we deliver our services (e.g. the development of the young people's positive pathway).

4.3. Denbighshire SP has faced in excess of 20% cuts (£1.5 million) between 2012 and 2016. These cuts were managed from 2012 to 2015 without significantly impacting on service levels; 2015-16 was the first year in which Denbighshire SP had to decommission services which were assessed to be strategically relevant. SP and the services funded by the Programme have therefore faced significant pressure on already limited budgets, to help those in Denbighshire who are most in need of support. These services are delivered both internally by Community Support Services and Children and Family Services, and externally by several third sector organisations.

4.4. The draft budget from Welsh Government has indicated that the overall Supporting People Grant will remain the same for 2017-18; however, the final allocation for Denbighshire is yet to be confirmed..

4.5. Denbighshire SP are currently modelling their 2017-18 budget on anticipated cuts of 0%, with a contingency plan for 5% already having been drawn up.

4.6. Denbighshire SP will continue to work strategically, through careful planning and negotiation with service providers and other stakeholders locally and regionally. This includes continuing to negotiate efficiency savings and reconfiguration of existing projects with service providers; however, as in 2016-17, SP may have to consider decommissioning projects which are still strategically relevant (these decisions will only be made following a full service review, and in line with the Denbighshire SP Decommissioning Strategy).

4.7. Details of the proposed actions for service development can be found on pages 19-32 of the LCP.

5. **How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

5.1. The projects and proposed actions within the LCP will contribute to supporting Denbighshire's Corporate Plan 2012-17 in the following areas:

- Developing the local economy
- People with support needs are protected and are able to live as independently as possible
- Ensuring access to good quality housing
- Modernising the Council to deliver efficiencies and improve services for our customers

5.2. Regional collaboration across North Wales and a regional strategy for commissioning and delivering services will also contribute towards managing the downsizing of the Grant, and the protection of frontline services.

6. **What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1. Should 5% cuts materialise, this would result in a Grant reduction of approximately £274,485. This would be in addition to the £1.2 million cuts over the last 5 years.

6.2. Cuts inevitably impact on internal services funded by SP, including DCC Community Support Services, and Children and Family Services. The projects and changes identified will be managed within the SP budget allocated to Denbighshire by the Welsh Government. If the SP budget is not cut, all money will remain in SP

services (reflecting this, SP have produced draft budget plans based on both 0% and 5% cuts - as above, we will not know for sure until we have Welsh Government confirmation).

7. **What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1. A Wellbeing Impact Assessment (WIA) was completed 5th October 2016. This identified that the Plan had a positive impact on five out of the seven wellbeing goals; the remaining two being neutral. In terms of sustainability, the Plan scored 15/24 – this may in part be influenced by the uncertainty surrounding SP Grant funding; however, the WIA will be revisited prior to finalisation, following Cabinet feedback.

7.2. As part of the Denbighshire SP Decommissioning Strategy, a WIA will also be completed for each project being considered for decommissioning. Service reviews/contract management throughout the year additionally ensure that any negative impacts can be identified and addressed.

7.3. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) had additionally already been completed for the LCP in July 2016. This confirmed that SP services are accessed by all protected characteristic groups; that every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate negative impact on those with protected characteristics, and that SP will continue to monitor the impact of any changes made. The EqIA did not identify any detrimental impact brought about by the Plan on any protected characteristics.

8. **What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1. During the development of the LCP, the Denbighshire SP Planning Group (SPPG) has considered all of its content development.

8.2. The LCP was also out for consultation with citizens, service providers, and other stakeholders, for a period of 8 weeks from 4th August-30th September 2016. During the period of consultation, feedback was encouraged via a variety of platforms: the LCP was circulated to a wide range of SP stakeholders, including all SP commissioned projects, referrers, colleagues throughout Denbighshire Council, our Tackling Poverty Partners, and other health and social care agencies in the area; SP also attended various meetings where feedback was sought, e.g. the Children, Young People, and Families Partnership, and Mental Health Planning Group. Additionally, a Local Commissioning Plan/SP Day was held in Rhyl Town Hall on 12th September 2016, with attendees including citizens and staff from a variety of stakeholder agencies. The Plan was also added to the DCC website, under 'Current Consultations'.

8.3. Minor changes have been made following Partnership Scrutiny feedback 24th November 2016, which have been shared with SPPG members. Following Cabinet approval, the Plan will be submitted to the North Wales RCC in January 2016, to inform the development of the North Wales Regional Commissioning Plan. The final document will be published on the SP pages of the DCC website, and circulated to stakeholders.

9. **Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The council's policy is to pass on directly any cuts to specific grant funding streams therefore any further reductions will have to be managed within the resources available.

10. **What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1. The proposals to manage the reduction in grant funding in 2017-18 are reasonable based on an assumed 0% figure, though with a contingency plan also in place to manage a 5% reduction. Further cuts above 5% could pose significant risks to services and service users:

- 10.2. The sheer scale and short notice of such cuts makes it difficult to make decisions about how to administer these cuts in a strategic and transparent way. The scale of cuts may have a disproportionate impact on some smaller providers who have very little room for efficiency savings.
- 10.3. Cuts must be considered regionally – not only are there potentially differing views around regional priorities to fund, but the level of cuts could destabilise entire providers who work across the region.
- 10.4. This can have a knock on effect of damaging provider confidence and the good relationships we have with them – this can be managed to some extent by continuing to share relevant information with providers.
- 10.5. It may not be possible to manage more substantial cuts by simply remodelling services to find efficiency savings; this will necessitate the decommissioning of entire services which are providing quality support. This will directly impact upon frontline services, and will reduce much-needed support for some residents in Denbighshire. Denbighshire SP have developed a Decommissioning Strategy in order to manage this process fairly and transparently.
- 10.6. SP relieves the burden on already overstretched statutory services such as Social Services, Health, and Police, by working to prevent crisis situations. Further cuts to SP will place even greater pressure on these statutory services.
- 10.7. SP is also particularly key in supporting the delivery of the Housing Act (Wales) Act 2014 and Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 10.8. In previous years, we have been afforded a safety net in the form of the SP reserve; this will not however be available for this year or next, as these funds will be used by DCC Community Support Services to mitigate the impact of cuts to internal services - both as a result of Supporting People Grant cuts, and wider cuts applied to the Social Services budget.
- 10.9. Denbighshire SP have presented a contingency plan to SPPG in preparation of cuts being higher than 5%.
- 10.10. In September 2015, DCC full Council voted unanimously in favour of a motion to protect the SP budget, and support the national 'Let's Keep on Supporting People' campaign, run by Cymorth Cymru and Community Housing Cymru.

11. **Power to make the Decision**

To determine the content of any plan, strategy or other policy document requires approval by the Lead Cabinet Member, in accordance with Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2291 (W,179) Regulation 4 (3)(c) + (d)