

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	14 th December 2018
Lead Member / Officer:	Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Wellbeing and Independence Phil Gilroy, Head of Community Support Services
Report Author:	Liana Duffy, Commissioning Officer (Homelessness Prevention)
Title:	Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22

1. What is the report about?

The draft Denbighshire Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22, which outlines how we propose over the next 3 years to develop and remodel support projects in Denbighshire which support people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is required on the approval of the draft Denbighshire Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22, prior to its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee and Welsh Government in January 2019.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. For Cabinet to approve the draft Denbighshire Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22, prior to its submission to the Regional Collaborative Committee and Welsh Government in January 2019.

3.2. That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 2) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

4.1. The draft Supporting People/Homelessness Prevention Commissioning Plan 2019-22 (Appendix 1) follows on from the last Commissioning Plan for 2018/19. We are required by Welsh Government to submit a 3 yearly Commissioning Plan/annual updates to the Regional Collaborative Committee in January of each year. The Plan gives an overview of our priorities and plans for 2019-22, primarily relating to Supporting People commissioned service development - why we're doing what we're doing, and what this means for the people it affects. The Commissioning Plan is a key part of us delivering against the Homelessness Strategy.

4.2. The Plan will also include a full annual spend plan for the Supporting People Grant; however it is not possible to produce a spend plan until our budget is confirmed by Welsh Government. While we do not anticipate any cuts in 2019/20, as in previous years however, we will contingency plan for cuts of 5%, including by negotiating efficiency savings, and re-configuration of existing services. We will always seek to mitigate any cuts as far as

possible through careful planning and negotiation with service providers and other stakeholders, locally and regionally.

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

The Plan contributes to supporting Denbighshire's Corporate Plan 2017-22 in the following areas:

- Everyone is supported to live in homes that meet their needs
- The Council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience
- Younger people want to live and work here and have the skills to do so

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

6.1. The ongoing and future actions required will have significant implications for the Supporting People Grant (currently ring-fenced from Welsh Government), as well as the statutory homelessness budget (part of central Community Support Services) - both of which are being merged into the new Housing Support Grant from April 2019, along with Rent Smart Wales Enforcement.

6.2. As with any such Commissioning Plan, significant resource investment will be required. This will be managed within the existing allocated budgets; however there will be also be a requirement for the Homelessness Prevention Team to work and invest collaboratively with both internal and external partners. Any such plans will be developed and managed via relevant channels, including the Homelessness Prevention Planning Group. It's also vital that we achieve buy-in at all levels, including corporately.

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

A Wellbeing Impact Assessment for the draft Plan was completed 11/09/2018 via the Homelessness Prevention Planning Group. It scored the Plan 28 points out of 30 in terms of its sustainability, and identified that it made a positive contribution to all of the 7 wellbeing goals (with strategies identified to address any unintended negative consequences). No amendments to the WIA were required following the Plan's consultation period and Partnerships Scrutiny feedback.

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

The priorities and actions set out in the Commissioning Plan have been informed by a range of information we gather throughout the year, including the views of citizens, with our Citizen Involvement Officer working closely with projects to make sure people have their voices heard. 2018 was also the first year that our annual homelessness prevention event (which links closely with and feeds into our service planning) was co-produced with people with lived experience. At each stage of the Plan's development, the Homelessness Prevention Planning Group have been consulted and given sign-off. The Plan was also subject to a formal consultation period (21/09/2018 – 02/11/2018), and was taken to Partnerships Scrutiny in November 2018 (see Appendix 3).

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Cost implications will become clearer as actions within the Plan develop and should be contained within existing resources. Whilst Supporting People grant funding levels are thought to be fixed overall in the short term, changes to policy or distribution may have an impact in future. The council's general approach is to pass reductions in grant funding through to the service area being provided.

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

10.1. Despite recent budget announcements from Welsh Government, stating that Supporting People funding will not be reduced at a national level, Welsh Government may still continue with the redistribution formula of the SP Grant. This would mean a grant reduction for Denbighshire in future.

10.2. We must also await confirmation of the arrangements for the recently confirmed merged housing support grant, and contribute to its development wherever possible, to ensure that front-line homelessness prevention services are protected. Guidance from Welsh Government is at present inconclusive.

10.3. Ongoing planning is taking place in Denbighshire to mitigate any future grant reduction, to ensure the Action Plan and Supporting People commissioning remain financially viable and within the resources available.

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)