

<b>Report to</b>	Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board
<b>Date of meeting</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Cllr Louise Emery, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Leisure, CCBC
<b>Report author</b>	Erica Wyn Roberts
<b>Title</b>	Flexible Funding Programme Update

## **1. What is the report about?**

1.1. The report is an update on the Flexible Funding Programme in Conwy

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1 To provide an update on the Flexible Funding Programme in Conwy. Welsh Government requires us to ensure the Flexible Funding grants align with the wellbeing objectives of the Public Services Board, and report to the Board on progress.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1. To note the progress and consider if the work aligns with that of the wellbeing objectives of the Public Services Board.

## **4. Report details**

4.1. Please see Appendix 1 for full details.

4.2. The Welsh Government's Flexible Funding approach aims to ensuring that 10 different grants work together with the aim of providing greater local authority autonomy in service delivery, and to allow for a more strategic approach in delivering early intervention, prevention and support.

4.3. There are two integrated grants – or ‘funding pots’. These are:

- The Children and Communities Grant (CCG): Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund (community resilience), Communities for Work Plus, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People (Youth Justice), Childcare and Play, and St David’s Day Fund (care leavers):

**Total for Conwy - £4,124,140**

- The Housing Support Grant (HSG): Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement.

**Total for Conwy - £6,571,460**

4.4. The purpose of both grants is to address the support needs, and the housing and housing related support needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities through the range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms. The grants seek to mitigate or remove disadvantage to vulnerable people to enable them to have the same life chances as others, and therefore contribute to a more equal Wales.

4.5. Conwy’s vision is to strengthen our relationship with citizens so that we can work together to improve the county. Flexible Funding provides us with an opportunity to achieve increased programme alignment, make more effective use of funding and meet local needs. This greater financial freedom and flexibility is expected to enable Conwy to work differently, giving more scope to design services to support the Government’s drive for more preventative, long-term approaches, whilst also working towards our Corporate Plan priorities.

4.6. In order to progress the approach to working flexibly and aligning these 10 grants, we have established five work streams under our Flexible Funding Programme. These are made up of lead and support officers for the various grants, as well as specialist roles across the authority.

4.7. We have also identified 6 themes under which we are structuring our work **(Please see Appendix 1 for full details):**

Parenting, Childcare & Play, Young People, Health & Wellbeing, Employability and Homelessness Prevention

- 4.8. One of the aims of the programme is to identify more effective ways of working, identifying both duplication and opportunities to work more closely, in order to ensure our approach to early intervention and prevention is maximised.
- 4.9. In Conwy, these ten grants encompass five Services (Children, Families and Safeguarding; Community Development; Education; Integrated Adult and Community Services; and Regulatory and Housing) and as such a key element of the programme governance is the Delivery Group, which oversees the 5 programme work streams in detail, and brings together the lead officers and service managers for all 10 schemes.
- 4.10. Some of the work undertaken includes the development of our Locality Profiles which include a diverse range of data including poverty indicators, education, health, and crime information as well as demographic information for each locality area.
- 4.11. Within our parenting theme we have developed our Family Centre model, which brings together both the Families First and the Flying Start grants under one delivery mechanism. Our Family Wellbeing tool is also a finalist for an accolade award, and we have been invited to join the Children's First Pioneers.
- 4.12. In Conwy the Childcare and Play grant is used to provide financial assistance to support families and clubs, as well as fund the Childcare Business Development Officer to ensure the quality and sustainability of the 85 Out of School Childcare clubs offering 2,641 childcare places in Conwy.
- 4.13. Our Young People themes includes NEET, leisure provision, and out of school activities as well as the specific grants. The St David's Day Fund, which is a fund specifically to support care leavers to access opportunities that will lead them towards independent and successful lives, have recently invited care leavers to join our panel to consider applications for the St Davids Day fund. The Promoting Positive Engagement grant for young people at risk of offending includes support for restorative justice, access to Education, Training, Employment, and a volunteer programme.

4.14. Within our Health and Wellbeing theme we have been seeking user feedback on play opportunities and leisure services, and have also linked in with Health colleagues and are liaising with Foodbanks within Conwy.

4.15. We have reviewed a number of employment related schemes resulting in moving all our employability support to one service area, as well as the implementation of a new employability structure.

4.16. We are currently analysing the Supporting People Outcomes data, in order to understand who we are current supporting, what their needs are, and be able to better predict our future demand for homelessness prevention and housing support services.

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

5.1. The report (Appendix 1) notes how the programme contributes to Conwy's priorities and the 6 themes around which are structuring our work. There is no decision in this instance.

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

6.1. The Flexible Funding Programme includes ten well established grants, spanning five service areas. The programme aims to align these grants to make more effective use of funding and meet local needs. There only additional costs are those of the Programme Manager and the Information Analyst who have been appointed on a fixed term basis.

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

7.1. Not required for this report.

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

8.1. No consultation undertaken, the report is for information only.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. No consultation undertaken, the report is for information only.

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

10.1. No risks identified, the report is for information only