

## Appendix 4 – Housing Support Grant

From April 2021 The Housing Support Grant (HSG) was increased, with Denbighshire receiving an additional £1.74 Million to £7.3 million. Any provision procured through the HSG must support the Welsh Government's Homelessness Prevention Policy Paper: 'A Rapid Rehousing Approach for Wales' issued in June 2021, but cannot be used to deliver the statutory elements of homelessness. The additional funding from HSG is allowing us to procure an Early Intervention and Prevention Service to identify and support those households at risk of homelessness at an early stage and prevent them needing to access statutory homelessness services. Through the Grant we are funding Tenancy Support Workers in Community Housing to work with tenants in DCC Community Housing to prevent eviction and risk of homelessness. We are also piloting a similar role to work with households who we have supported to end their homelessness within the PRS. Work is ongoing to review all HSG provision to ensure it supports Denbighshire's vision to end homelessness in line with the Welsh Government's Rapid Rehousing Approach.

An example of the work that is being undertaken by Housing Support Grant funding is the Employment Mentor in Working Denbighshire.

The Working Denbighshire Homeless Employment Mentor is employed to work specifically with people under the age of 35, and thereby only entitled to the Single Room Rate, who are working with the Homeless Prevention team and who identify or are at risk of becoming homeless. The Homeless Employment Mentor provides 1:1 support to participants to help to identify and overcome the barriers that are preventing people moving into employment. Once these barriers have been identified an action plan is created to overcome the barriers and sets goals to move people into employment or training. Working Denbighshire is able to access funding for work related training and certificates, the essential PPE that is necessary for certain roles, equipment, interview clothing and short term travel costs etc.

Referrals are received via the Homeless Team and other support services such as NACRO, Wallich etc.

The Homelessness Employment Mentor has succeeded in moving 17 citizens into employment and Since it began Working Denbighshire have secured a total (including the above) of 35 employment outcomes for participants whose barriers included homelessness or housing exclusion.

