



## CABINET – 16TH JANUARY 2019

**SUBJECT: WELSH GOVERNMENT FLEXIBLE FUNDING**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the Welsh Government's Flexible Funding project and the subsequent decision made by Welsh Government to implement two integrated grants from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019: A Children and Communities Grant & A Housing Support Grant.
- 1.2 To establish the necessary governance structure to administer and manage the two integrated grants and establish a new Programme Collaboration Group and support collaboration with the Housing Support Grants

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Welsh Government have piloted an approach to the amalgamation of funding for ten grant programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable people and communities, with the intention that a single Early Intervention Prevention and Support Grant will be allocated to the authority for local determination of delivery from 2019/20. The aim of Welsh Government is to support a joined-up, long term, preventative approach to delivering for vulnerable people.
- 2.2 The full Funding Flexibilities and Extending Flexibilities pilot was implemented from April 2018 and is ongoing. Caerphilly CBC was not a pilot authority.
- 2.3 There are many examples of joint working and collaboration already in place in Caerphilly within the grants in scope for funding flexibility. Examples are highlighted in section 4.12, although this is not an exhaustive list.
- 2.4 On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 a written statement from Alun Davies, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services and Rebecca Evans, Minister for Housing and Regeneration confirmed the future direction of the Early Intervention Prevention and Support Grant over the remainder of this Assembly term. Detail of included programmes is listed in Appendix 1. Welsh Government has indicated the level of funding across the programmes will remain unchanged during the current administration and will not be subject to financial cuts as previously indicated in 2017. However, should this position change a further report will be necessary as soon as the level of cuts are known.
- 2.5 A further letter was received from Welsh Government on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 outlining the arrangements for financial year 2019-20. Indicative grant offers will be issued by the end of the 2019 calendar year, with a comprehensive final offer issued by the end of March 2019.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The antipoverty programmes together aim to maximise our contribution towards the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:

- *A prosperous Wales*
  - The programmes aim to support children, young people, adults and families to achieve their personal goals which may include raising aspirations, children's development, attainment, employability skills, increase attendance at provision and build life skills for their future. In addition they support families to improve their resilience, financial management, parenting skills, language and literacy skills as well as support them to gain confidence to move on to employment support programmes, which aim to support and grow our economy.
- *A resilient Wales*
  - Many of the programmes encourage delivery of and use of local community based provision for sustainability of local resources. All childcare settings and schools as well as some of the projects funded are signed up to the Healthy Schools, Healthy colleges, Healthy Early Years and healthy snacks schemes which also include Eco Schools / Early Years and encourage children, young people and their families to use the indoors / outdoors natural environment.
- *A healthier Wales*
  - The Healthy schemes are embedded into practice across many of the programmes, projects, childcare settings, and group based provision encouraging healthy eating and activity, as well as reinforcing healthy behaviour messages, like no smoking, and advice on misuse of substances. There are also key health messages throughout the various projects and a specific project that encourages establishing healthy behaviours from the antenatal period. Using local community based provision for delivery of the programmes encourages walking rather than driving to settings and groups. New projects commissioned are also exploring transport training so that families are supported to access public transport.
- *A more equal Wales*
  - The programmes have a main objective to reduce the impact of poverty on children, young people, adults and families through supporting them to access interventions, building confident and resilient communities and promoting positive development and attainment. Some of the programmes aim to early identify children with additional needs and support their parents to be able to support their child's development. Some programmes also link with employment based programmes to encourage adults to take up opportunities to return to / start employment.
- *A Wales of cohesive communities*
  - Through the collaboration of the programmes the geographical limitations have been overcome. Although a criticism of Flying Start and Communities First programmes are the geographical targeting of postcodes, this also acts as a way to support those communities in the most concentrated areas of need. The geographical nature enables targeting of resources; creation of well resourced quality community based provision and builds a value to their local area, which other families want to access. However, Supporting People and Families First cover the whole borough so that families in need are able to access relevant provision to meet their needs. Collaboratively the programmes support safe, confident communities by minimising the chances of young people escalating through the criminal justice system and supporting the strategic planning for families subjected to domestic violence.

- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
  - Improving understanding of culture and using conversational Welsh language across provision and especially in the schools and childcare settings has been embedded throughout programme delivery. Childcare settings are working on a quality assurance scheme called the Road to Bilingualism which identifies their current practice and targets for improvements. Facebook pages and communications are now bilingual so that choices can be made as well as having translation into other languages as needed.
- *A globally responsible Wales*
  - Wellbeing is embedded through practice across many of the programmes, including programme / project delivery and the new specification designs. The Solihull approach is being embedded across all staff teams to enable a common language and understanding of the importance of relationships and attachment. The focus now is on preventing / mitigating the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences [ACEs] and using trauma informed approaches including Psychologically Informed Environments [PIE] to ensure practitioners are aware of and recognise how to support children and adults who have embedded behaviours due to previous life experiences, and therefore improve their wellbeing.

## 4. THE REPORT

### 4.1 Background

The Communities and Tackling Poverty (CTP) Programme Alignment Project was set up in October 2015 to explore options to streamline some of the administrative processes involved in the four tackling poverty programmes - Communities First (CF), Families First (FF), Flying Start (FS) and Supporting People (SP) - and to allow greater flexibility and alignment between them. The project recommended and implemented a number of recommendations to promote alignment between the programmes in 2016/17. The other programmes, listed in 4.8, have recently become part of the alignment project.

4.2 In order to understand what impact the recommendations had in 2016/17 and inform the decision on which recommendations should be taken forward in the next financial year (2017/18), an evaluation was carried out. The evaluation focused on the impact of the following recommendations:

- Reducing the number of programme payments and aligning the timings of these payments.
- Introducing some flexibility between the four programmes' budgets, through a virement window (open 1st October to 30th November) where up to 5% of one programme's budget could be transferred to another, subject to Welsh Government approval.
- Taking steps to better align the reporting arrangements across all four programmes, in line with changes to the timings of funding streams.
- Encouraging collaboration and smarter planning to take place between the programmes.

4.3 From October 2015 – April 2017 the Welsh Government Alignment Project sought to achieve greater alignment between four CTP programmes (Communities First (CF), Families First (FF), Flying Start (FS) and Supporting People (SP)). A number of recommendations were agreed relating to the schedules for fund claims and performance reporting as well as limited virement of funds between programmes.

4.4 In October 2016 Welsh Government offered Local Authorities the opportunity to pilot greater financial freedom and flexibilities across programmes. Several expressions of interest and outline proposals were received and this has led to the Flexible Funding Pilot. The organisations that accepted the offer are: Cwm Taf Public Services Board; Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT), Torfaen, Cardiff, Newport, Conwy, Bridgend and Merthyr.

4.5 Welsh Government wrote to Local Authorities in June 2017 informing them of the Cabinet Secretary's intention to establish a Flexible Funding project, which outlined two strands of work for the 2018/19 financial year, both of which seek to build on the positive messages drawn from the evaluation of the alignment project; the first is a 'Full Flexibility' pathfinder, the second is an 'Extended Flexibilities' programme. Local authorities were expected to allocate the same amount to the Supporting People programme.

#### 4.6 Full Flexibility Pathfinders

Feedback from pilot local authorities participating in the Alignment Project indicated a clear appetite for increased flexibility, reduced bureaucracy and for grant structures that support and promote better joint planning and commissioning.

4.7 The Full Flexibility pathfinder gave 100% flexibility across grants in order 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 pilot areas to work differently, giving more scope to design services to support the Government's drive for more preventative, long-term approaches.

4.8 The pathfinders have flexibility in relation to the 10 grants listed below previously in scope of the alignment project;

- Supporting People
- Flying Start
- Families First
- Legacy Fund
- Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People
- Childcare and Play (formerly Out of School Childcare)
- Homelessness Prevention
- Rent Smart Wales Enforcement (formerly Independent Living)
- St David's Day Fund
- Communities for Work Plus (formerly the Employability Grant)

However, given the view that the greater the combined fund, the more opportunity there is for efficiencies to be realised in the strategic targeting of funds on local needs in line with local strategies, Welsh Government are minded to consider extending the number of grants in scope to include those outlined in Appendix 1.

#### Extended Flexibility

Welsh Government gave those local authorities who were not Full Flexibility pathfinders 15% flexibility from April 2018 across the original grants (Supporting People, Flying Start, Families First and the Communities First Legacy Fund) and the new Employability Grant (Communities for Work Plus).

The Cabinet Secretary moved ahead with these two approaches from April 2018, firmly believing they offer opportunities for service improvements directly impacting citizens, including:

- Improving access and availability of services
- Reducing service gaps and improving pathways
- Increasing understanding of need/demand
- Scoping, formulating and implementing broader strategy

#### 4.9 Feedback from Newport City Council as a Pathfinder Area

Newport began the process with an Equality Impact Assessment and an approach that the pilot should focus on improving the experience of residents, not saving costs. They set up a governance model that encompassed:

- A Flexible Fund Steering Group
- The Resilient Communities Board – oversees the process e.g. all virements are agreed by the Board.
- Links to the Regional Boards
- The 'One Newport' Public Services Board

Newport considered all elements of the process, including recognising there are 10 funds with 10 different managers, 10 finance teams, and multiple delivery sites across the City and some duplication of projects. To ensure impartiality they will be bringing in an external party to do a full review.

4.10 A number of Local Authority areas are undertaking a place based approach, in line with the Community Hubs agenda, focusing on family centre provision and co locating staff on an area management basis.

4.11 The Flexible Funding evaluation contract was awarded to Wavehill and will run until the end of May 2019. They have provided an Interim Evaluation Report, which formed part of the Ministerial statement on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. A Final Report is expected in May 2019. The Society of Welsh Treasurers is also playing a role in providing further evidence to help influence the decision on the way forward, and to provide an analysis of the possible administrative and service efficiencies that might be generated by working differently, to complement the independent evaluation.

4.12 As set out in the written statement in Appendix 2, Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers have decided that from 1 April 2019, there will be two integrated grants for all 22 local authorities:

- A Children and Communities Grant (Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund, Communities for Work Plus, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, Childcare and Play and St David's Day Fund) and
- A Housing Support Grant (Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement).

These arrangements will remain in place for the remainder of this Assembly term.

The decision reflects some of the learning from the pathfinder local authorities and some of the issues that were raised in the interim evaluation. Moving forward, Welsh Government will look to ensure that in developing the two grants, they consider how they best complement each other.

In simplifying the grants they aim to enable local authorities to explore opportunities to redesign services, drive sustainable long term preventative approaches and improve outcomes for vulnerable people

Welsh Government is currently working on more detailed guidance for the two grants for 2019-20. They will allocate £13.4m in total to restore previously-planned cuts to the programmes supporting early intervention, prevention and support by using £5m previously earmarked for the childcare offer, and allocating an extra £8.4m. The move to housing and non-housing grant arrangements will help provide stability to the housing sector, whilst maintaining the commitment towards alignment and integration.

#### 4.13 The position in Caerphilly to date

The original anti poverty programmes have continued to jointly commission where possible and practical and have also a number of examples of partnership working across grant funded programmes and wider partners.

##### 4.13.1 Supporting People joint working with Families First

Jointly commissioned project to provide support for people with financial issues, specifically around Debt, services for families or individual single people, facing eviction or who have a form of disability.

- The Floating Support worker who undertakes safety planning with families for Families First is part of Supporting People's larger Floating Support contract with Llamau.
- Families First funds Emphasis, a service for young people at risk of becoming homeless or NEET, which is joint with Supporting People's Family Mediation contract with Llamau.

##### 4.13.2 Supporting People joint working with Housing

- Supporting People fund a number of staff based within Housing Advice to provide support to anyone facing homelessness and those with housing related support needs that enter the office.
- Supporting People fund location based Floating Support workers in Caerphilly across two sites with an additional one due to start in the North of the borough shortly.
- Supporting People fund Cornerstone, a dedicated service for rough sleepers/homeless individuals across the Caerphilly borough and coordinators of the Night Shelter Scheme.
- Supporting People provide a dedicated worker for B&Bs across the Caerphilly borough, providing Housing Related Support to anyone in Bed and Breakfast or temporary accommodation.
- Supporting People and Housing Advice staff work together when producing Personal Housing Plans for all individuals going through Housing Advice.

##### 4.13.3 Supporting People partnership with Social Services

- Supporting People fund an officer based in integrated Health and Social Care Centre – dealing with housing related support issues, signpost/support individuals to social services or health services, link in with the CPN and accommodation services.
- Supporting People, Housing and Social Services provide accommodation for those with Learning Disabilities and/or Physical Disabilities who do not require staff services 24/7 to move them into independent housing

##### 4.13.4 Gwent Wide services

- Supporting People commission some services across Gwent where there are needs identified in each area The floating support services for Gypsies and Travellers, High Level MAPPA Probation clients, and tenants of United Welsh properties is a contract between Caerphilly, Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent.
- There are also fixed site accommodation projects for domestic abuse provision for those with acute mental health needs or substance misuse issues based in Blaenau Gwent and young people with complex needs based in Newport.

##### 4.13.5 Flying Start with Families First and Childcare and Play grants

- Flying Start and Families First have strategically planned, commissioned and delivered services for 0-4 to provide a range of services for families in need who live outside of Flying Start areas.

- Families First funds the ABUHB health contract to ensure there are referral based services for health interventions for antenatal support, responsive feeding support following discharge from hospital after the birth and throughout the early years of the child's life.
- The Flying Start and Families First joint contract for GAVO and Homestart allow speech and language support groups to be accessed by all families with concerns over their child's language development.
- Families First have commissioned parenting and family support for all families who are not able to access Flying Start family support. In addition Flying Start parenting programmes allow families living locally referred for parenting to access places on the parenting programmes, where there is no additional cost for childcare or transport, in an effort to reduce waiting time for a high demand service and therefore provide intervention avoiding crisis.
- Childcare cannot be funded through Families First as specified in the guidance unless there are concerns regarding developmental delay. Families First have commissioned Action for Children who deliver More Than Play which is similar to Join in and Play in Flying Start and provides a bespoke parenting child development package in the home to support children with additional needs or emerging delays. This service can then refer to Assisted and Supported places scheme for childcare for up to two terms prior to a child starting Foundation Phase. This scheme is funded by Families First for children Pre School and through Childcare and Play grant for those of school age.

#### 4.13.6 Flying Start and Communities First legacy and Community Regeneration Employability programmes

- Jointly fund a family support worker post in Lansbury Park. This post is funded by legacy, Flying Start and St James Primary School with the aim of providing family support and parenting programmes to families from antenatal to when the child moves to comprehensive school. Good family support will enable a child to have settled routines, appropriate support to engage in school and raise aspirations. This post also links families to other legacy and employability projects so that parents are able to fulfil their own aspirations and role model this to their children.
- Flying Start and the Communities First Legacy programme works closely in partnership both strategically and frontline enabling families to move between services as their needs change and support offered is timely and appropriate
- Flying Start family support team work closely with the Community Regeneration Employability programmes to support transition from the STEPS group onto work related support.

#### 4.13.7 Flying Start with Social Services

- Flying Start outreach receives referrals for all young pregnant parents leaving care or Local Authority Care and provides an intensive support package with the aim to reduce the babies taken into care or needing child protection measures at birth and beyond. This project implemented since 2013 has had significant success reversing the trend, supporting parents to provide positive environments for their babies and preventing 85% of babies being removed to date.

#### 4.13.8 Flying Start with Education

- Flying Start aims to early identify children with additional needs and put in place appropriate support measures aiming to reduce the need for additional support as a child enters Foundation Phase and school. The strategies being implemented in Join in and Play as well as Childcare has reduced the number of children needing support on entry to school as well as appropriately identifying those who have complex needs and need health care plans or individual plans prior to starting school. The team works closely with Education Psychology and Health and Safety to ensure a smooth transition to school nursery.

#### 4.13.9 Childcare and Play

- Childcare and Play grant supports the development of affordable childcare provision across the borough. The majority of the grant is for small businesses that are frequently not for profit voluntary sector run registered groups; as well as supporting training, quality and Welsh language development across the sector. This grant now provides the underpinning support for the Childcare Offer in small grant set up support for new developments which are needed as the market needs to grow to meet demand of working families.
- Childcare and Play also part funds the placement officer for the Assisted and Supported places scheme jointly with Families First to ensure children with developmental needs can be supported across the age range in childcare and play provision.
- The childcare development team work closely with the employability projects to ensure childcare is removed as a barrier to returning to work as well as offer work placement opportunities for those wishing to pursue a career in childcare and play.

#### 4.13.10 Families First, Flying Start and Communities First

- The three programmes joint commissioned a project to develop Parent Forum groups in Flying Start areas, Communities First legacy areas and across the borough where there are identified communities with high levels of need. The project looks to improve engagement with services and the wider community and develop skills through volunteering opportunities and community focused activities.

#### 4.13.11 Families First and Social Services

- Children and Young People's Advocacy is provided through a joint Children's Services contract throughout Gwent. Both Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Families First have also commissioned advocacy services for children below statutory threshold as part of the contract, with the option for the remaining three Families First services to join the contract in the future.
- Social Services provide assessment for all Young Carers and through a package of one to one support will ensure that the young person's needs are being met. This service is complemented by Families First funded groups for Young Carers.
- The Supporting Family Change team (Team Around the Family model) sit within Children's Services but work at an early intervention level, below statutory. There are close working relationships between Supporting Family Change and Children's Services teams to ensure families are provided with seamless support as they 'step down' from, or escalate to, statutory interventions.
- Families First fund two Duty Officers within the Information, Advice and Assistance team (IAA) who complement the existing core team and receive and allocate all referrals for Early Intervention via the JAFF.

#### 4.13.12 Families First and Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People (PPE)

- Both Families First and PPE jointly fund Youth Respect workers who work with young people who show early indications of abusive, aggressive and controlling behaviours in family or intimate relationships.
- Funding from Families First and PPE is used to undertake targeted work within the Youth Service. Funding has been undertaken in a joined up approach to ensure that there is no duplication. The Families First element (Targeted Youth and Family Engagement) focuses on developing personal and social skills, raising confidence and building self-esteem and resilience, The PPE element focuses on preventing First Time Entrants and offending behaviour by delivering detached sessions in areas identified as having high levels of ASB. Work is also undertaken with children and young people aged 8 – 25 to prevent and/or reduce incidents of ASB and/or involvement in crime.



#### 4.13.13 Families First and Education

- Families First works closely with Education to ensure that families receive support at an early intervention and schools understand where they can refer for support. The Supporting Family Change team have a part-time Education Support Worker who supports and liaises closely with schools. In addition, Families First fund Outreach SRB to support children in school with severe and significant speech and language delays. Support is available for the whole family via Families Learning Together, a project which increases parents' understanding of how best to support their children's learning and development.

#### 4.13.14 Promoting Positive Engagements for Young People and Community Safety

- **Promise Project** - offers support and services to every young person at strike 2, 3 and 4 in the two Safer Community Partnerships Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) process. The aim is to divert young people away from ASB and crime. The YOS address areas such as family support, substance misuse, mental health, education, training and employment, citizenship and community reintegration.
- **Family Support Project** - This funding covers service provision for all young people and their families involved with the YOS whether they are engaging voluntarily on an early intervention or prevention initiative or on a Statutory Court Order as a voluntary intervention as part of a wider plan.
- **Youth Inclusion & Support Panel** - The YISP programme seeks to promote positive engagement and prevent offending and anti-social behaviour by offering multi-agency support services to children aged 8-15. The YISP ensures that children and their families receive access to early intervention, prevention and diversionary support as well as tailored educative, substance misuse, parenting, and mental health and youth services.

#### 4.14 St David's Day Fund

Outcomes for care leavers in relation to employment, housing and well being can be poor. The St David's Day Fund supports young people age 16 – 25 who are, or have been, in local authority care, to access opportunities that will promote independent and successful lives. As corporate parent for these young people Caerphilly County Borough Council are committed to ensuring that young people in or leaving care are not disadvantaged in the support they receive in relation to education, maintaining social contact and building independence skills, similar to their peers living with birth families. The flexibility provided by the St David's Day Fund has ensured that where care leavers request support to enable them to undertake an activity that will improve their wellbeing and contribute to their development and progression, these requests are supported.

This has enabled creative and flexible support to these young people and has significantly reduced the risk of homelessness for a number of young people by assisting with arrears, bonds or rent in advance. It has also promoted and enabled young people to sustain educational placements through the purchase of laptops and college equipment and ensured successful employment by contributing to car insurance, a significant cost for young people.

Development and implementation of a six week tenancy ready programme during the Summer School holidays, specifically for those young people approaching leaving care, the St David's Day Fund was able to ensure those young people were able to access and attend this programme, ensuring that they have the opportunity to begin developing essential skills for living independently.

The accelerated transition of a number of young people leaving care to live independently at a very young age compared to their peers will result in greater responsibility for managing a tenancy, being economically independent and often reliant on the benefits system. With such great responsibility at such a young age, these young people have little opportunity to enjoy activities, hobbies or holidays that their peers might enjoy. The St David's Day Fund has

enabled these young people to access activities and hobbies and has also facilitated a residential course, the focus being team work, whilst promoting well being, self esteem and self worth.

The purpose of the fund clearly states that the fund is not to support the implementation of national strategies, but is to go directly to care experienced young people.

#### 4.15 Other grants forming part of programme collaboration in Caerphilly

There has been a long standing approach to joint commissioning across the four anti-poverty programmes in Caerphilly. Welsh Government proposals for the Early Intervention and Support grant bring in other grants that were under the direction of the previous Cabinet Minister.

4.15.1 Community Safety funding for youth crime prevention has been managed on a Gwent wide basis for a number of years.

4.15.2 Youth crime prevention funding supports projects across Gwent that are managed and delivered by Community Safety and Youth Offending Services jointly, including specific projects in the YOS's within Youth Services and in Leisure (Positive Futures), including the main partnership co-ordinating support to deescalate young people from the criminal justice system.

### **5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The long term strategy is to reduce the attainment gap and develop a well skilled, well educated workforce able to contribute positively to society.
- 5.2 Integration and collaboration through partnership working supports a coordinated approach for children, young people and their families aiming towards a long term prevention of poverty.

### **6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 No impact assessment has been undertaken on this report, however many individuals and groups who fall under the protected characteristics, and wider issues covered by the Council's Strategic Equality Plan, are often affected to a greater extent by poverty, vulnerability and the related causes; therefore any reduction in resources would have a negative impact on those individuals and groups.

### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The current grant budgets have either been at standstill or have faced a reduction for the last few years. This is increasing the pressure on budgets as many are staff related costs, which have been increasing due to recent pay increases (CCBC employed staff have increased by 2%, ABUHB staff have increased by 4% and are anticipated to increase again in 2019/20); all of which has to be met by the standstill or reduced grant. This has usually seen a rationalisation of delivery and project costs.
- 7.2 As the grants are currently received individually across directorates, a decision will need to be made in regards to how the new funding arrangements are managed, allocated and reported against.
- 7.3 Welsh Government has indicated that no cuts to the total grant allocation will be made during this administration. However, should this position change a further report will be required to determine the financial implications.

## **8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 All funding streams have directly employed staff as well as contracted providers who directly employ staff. As the grant seeks administrative and service efficiencies there could be implications for employees within this service. Should this be the case, employees will be supported and we will work within the Council's agreed HR policies to address any issues.
- 8.2 Indicative grant offers will be issued by the end of the 2019 calendar year, with a comprehensive final offer issued by the end of March 2019. Staff funded by the programme are on fixed term contracts until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and these cannot be extended until the final offer letter is received. Therefore all staff will be formally served their notice.

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

- 9.1 All comments from consultees have been included in the report.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 That 2019 / 20 budgets are allocated to the programmes as previous year to enable time to plan for future years.
- 10.2 That future planning should include the evaluation of a programme's effectiveness, prioritising delivery in line with corporate priorities.
- 10.3 Establish two collaboration groups for both new integrated grants to be chaired by the Interim Head of Business Improvement Services.
- 10.4 To provide a further report when the amount of funding is known and guidance and grant conditions are received from Welsh Government.

## **11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 To allow early grant planning for the proposed changes.

## **12. STATUTORY POWER**

- 12.1 Local Government Act 2000. This is a Cabinet function.

Author: Tina McMahon, Community Regeneration Manager  
Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion  
Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities  
Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement Services  
Sue Richards, Head of Education, Planning and Strategy  
Rhian Kyte, Head of Planning and Regeneration  
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Communities, Leisure and Public Protection  
Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer  
Suzanne Cousins, Principal Housing Officer  
Kathryn Peters, Corporate Policy Manager  
Michaela Rogers, Service Manager Social Services  
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager  
Shelly Jones, Supporting People Manager  
Rebecca Boulton, Families First Manager

Natalie Kenny, Community Safety Partnership Team Manager  
Nicole Scammel, Head of Corporate Finance & Section 151 Officer  
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager  
Lesley Allen, Principal Accountant  
Mike Lewis, Principal Accountant  
Jane Southcombe, Principal Accountant  
David Roberts, Group Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Flexible Funding Grants' Programmes and Detail

Appendix 2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> October correspondence from Welsh Government

## Appendix 1

### Funding Flexibilities Grants

| Grant                      | Lead          | Service Area        | Amount (2018/19) | How paid to Local Authority                              | End Date of funding (if known)      | Comment  |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Supporting People          | Shelly Jones  | Adult Services      | £6,232,790       |  |                                     |  |
| Families First             | Becky Boulton | Children's Services | £2,697,747       | As separate grant (re-imbursed through quarterly claims) | Renewed annually; no known end date |  |
| Flying Start Revenue Grant | Sarah Mutch   | Early Years         | £5,120,443       |  |                                     | To fund the four elements: childcare, parenting, SLC, and health interventions to a cap number of 2483 children aged 0-3. Original cost planned on a basis of £2100 per child which is already challenging as childcare place alone costs this figure and excludes the contract management, advisory teacher support for quality child development, health, parenting, SLC and ALN support needed for one child per year. They have also increased the ability to do FS outreach to 5% of budget but only if you are under cap. Our last caseload count was 2586 at 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2017 and excludes number of 4 year olds on caseload until Sept and all pregnancies. |
| Communities First Legacy   | Tina McMahon  | Com Regen           | £547,000         | Reimbursement through quarterly claim forms              | 31.03.19                            | The Legacy programme will focus on developing a multi-faceted approach to revitalizing, planning, designing and managing the eight priority communities, in meaningful co-production with residents and other partners. Services and future projects will only be identified when this process has been successfully undertaken. Each area will then have an holistic masterplan that will address the social, economic and environmental needs of each community, underpinned by an action  |

|   |                 |                        |             |  |                                     |   |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
|   |                 |                        |             |  |                                     | plan with relevant and meaningful measurements of success that have been agreed with the community.   |
| Communities for Work Plus   | Tina McMahon    | Com Regen              | £856,753.85 | Reimbursement through quarterly claim forms      | 31.03.19                            | The Communities for Work Plus structure has been developed to provide a wrap around support service to Communities for Work including supporting clients with 'softer skills' such as digital & financial literacy, health & wellbeing, which will improve their employment prospects   |
| Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People at Risk of Offending | Kath Peters     | Corporate Policy       | £248,240    | Reimbursement through quarterly claim forms      | Renewed annually; no known end date | Broken down into:<br>Anti Social Behaviour Initiative £43,166<br>Restorative Approaches for LAC £12,000<br>Gwent Early Intervention, Prevention & Diversion Project £5,210<br>BCG YOS Prevention & Early Intervention Initiative £187,864   |
| Childcare and Play (Out of School Childcare Grant)                  | Sarah Mutch     | Early Years            | £128,000    |  |                                     | Going to change to be childcare and play and is essential to delivery to meet Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (developing new provision, training, quality and definitely essential in new Childcare Offer development for the small provision revenue developments to complement the big capital developments in the future) and newly added but not increased budget will be Play Sufficiency Assessment (but not sure what they are expecting from it as already challenging for CSA) |
| Homeless Prevention   | Suzanne Cousins | Housing                | £282,000    |  |                                     | Awarded through the RSG to provide the statutory homeless prevention service which covers staffing and all operational costs and prevention funding to prevent or alleviate homelessness  |
| Rent Smart Wales Enforcement  | Claire Davies   | Private Sector Housing | £11,840.34  | Paid in arrears at the end of the financial year |                                     | Figure awarded in 2017/18. No figure for 2018/19 yet.   |
| St David's Day Fund   | Janine Edwards  | Children's Services    | £68,327     |  |                                     | Specifically for Care Leavers. New in April 2017 – has been used for Personal Adviser, Peer Mentor work with NYAS.  |

The below were mentioned in the Flexible Funding letter/Draft budget narrative but were **not** included in the final pathfinders pilot

|   |                        |                  |                     |  |  |  |
|---|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Independent Living  |                        |                  |                     |  |  | Mentioned in Flexible Funding letter but not in Draft Budget Narrative   |
| National Advocacy Services  | Marie Reid             | Commissioning    |                     |  |  |  |
| Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services Grant | Kath Peters (Regional) | Corporate Policy | £350,000 regionally |  |  | Regional coordination of VAWDASV services across Gwent, delivery of the regional strategy and partial support for the regional Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Team (IDVA allocated to support in Caerphilly) |
| Community Cohesion Grant  | Kath Peters (Regional) | Corporate Policy | £45,000 regionally  |  |  | Support the national community cohesion programme in including support to the Syrian Refugee Programme and settlement of families in the borough. Regional coordinator post hosted by Torfaen                        |



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Y Grŵp Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
Education and Public Services Group

To: Chief Executives of  
Local Authorities in Wales

3 October 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you following the Written Statement today issued by the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services and the Minister for Housing and Regeneration.

You will be aware that seven pathfinder local authorities have been developing approaches to funding flexibility across ten grants in 2018-19 (Supporting People, Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund, Communities for Work Plus, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, Childcare and Play, Homelessness Prevention, St David's Day Fund and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement). During the course of the year, Wavehill have also conducted an independent evaluation of flexible funding and produced an interim report which was published today.

As set out in the [written statement](#), Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers have decided that from 1 April 2019, there will be two integrated grants for all 22 local authorities.

- A Children and Communities Grant (Flying Start, Families First, Legacy Fund, Communities for Work Plus, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, Childcare and Play and St David's Day Fund) and
- A Housing Support Grant (Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement).

These arrangements will remain in place for the remainder of this Assembly term.

The decision reflects some of the learning from the pathfinder local authorities and some of the issues that were raised in the evaluation. Moving forward, we will look to ensure that in developing the two grants, we consider how they can best complement each other.

In simplifying grants we aim to enable local authorities to explore opportunities to redesign services, drive sustainable long term preventative approaches and improve outcomes for vulnerable people.



Throughout this year, we have been working with local authorities to support this agenda: monthly pathfinder events, meetings in North and South Wales to support non-pathfinder local authorities and an all Wales network event in mid Wales on 13 July. Feedback on these arrangements has been positive and we will want to build on this.

We are also working on more detailed guidance for the two grants for 2019-20 and will share this as soon as we are in a position to do so, being mindful of your need to put in place arrangements for next year.

Welsh Government will continue to work with you throughout this period to generate maximum public benefits from these grants and to facilitate effective dialogue and support with your teams. We are reviewing the best way to maximize our engagement with you and will be in touch in due course.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your engagement around Flexible Funding and your continued support as the new arrangements are put in place.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Studley', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Ruth Studley**  
Deputy Director Funding Transition

Cc CEO WCVA, WLGA, Cymorth Cymru