



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 25TH JUNE 2013

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES GRANTS 2013/14

REPORT BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of 2013/14 revenue grant funding for the Directorate of Social Services.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides details of the current 2013/14 revenue grant funding for the Directorate of Social Services. During the financial year further grants are often made available subject to new funding being identified and successful outcomes for bids.

2.2 The report is provided to ensure that Members are aware of the grants for the Directorate and their intended purpose. Further details of individual grants can be made available to Members if requested.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The effective utilisation of grant funding will ensure that the Directorate is well placed to deliver its objectives, which in turn will support the achievement of the Authority's stated aims.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The Directorate has historically received a number of revenue grants but many of these have been incorporated into the Welsh Government Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in recent years. The current total of grants for the Directorate for the 2013/14 financial year is £8.5m. Members should note that this funding is fully committed for specific purposes in line with the terms and conditions of the grant awarding bodies. Appendix 1 provides a list of the grants along with a brief description of the use of the grant funding. At year-end the grant funding bodies request information to satisfy themselves that grant monies have been spent in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions.

4.2 Where required, External Audit assesses expenditure against the terms and conditions of the grant. This assessment normally comprises of a random sample of spend, followed by an in-depth scrutiny of the sampled items. This can also involve ensuring proper procurement processes have been adhered to and confirmation that expenditure complies with the conditions of the grant and the intended purpose. Any issues identified by the Auditors will be investigated and this could lead to a need to review a larger sample of expenditure. The schedule in Appendix 1 shows which grants are subject to audit review.

4.3 The External Auditors produce a report annually summarising any issues that have come to light during their audit of the Authority's grants.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Grant funding levels can change leading to uncertainty of funding. As mentioned above, many of the grants are subject to audit and expenditure must comply with the grant terms and conditions. Failure to comply may result in a qualification of the grant by the External Auditors, which could result in the clawback of the grant funding.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None at present but it should be noted that grant funded posts have the potential to be at risk if funding is withdrawn. Wherever possible this risk is mitigated through fixed-term appointments to grant funded posts.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are requested to note the content of this report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure that Members are aware of the revenue grants for the Directorate and their intended purpose.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

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Consultees: Social Services Senior Management Team
Cllr. R. Woodyatt, Cabinet Member for Social Services
Cllr. L. Ackerman, Chair of HSC&WB Scrutiny Committee
Cllr. B. Jones, Vice-Chair of HSC&WB Scrutiny Committee
Mike Jones, Group Accountant, Social Services

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Social Services Grant Funding 2013/14