

HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13TH MAY 2014

SUBJECT: INTERMEDIATE CARE FUND

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Scrutiny Committee of a recent Welsh Government decision to create an Intermediate Care Fund across Wales, to explain the purpose of the fund and the outcomes of the bid process undertaken in March / April 2014. A report was made to Cabinet on the 30 April 2014 seeking endorsement of these bids.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In December 2013, Welsh Government announced the creation of an Intermediate Care Fund across Wales. The aim of the fund is to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health, third sector and housing. The fund is made up of £35 Million revenue funding and £15 Million capital.
- 2.2 This reports explains the background to the funding, lays out the process followed in prioritising bids and provides details of the successful bids on both a Caerphilly County Borough and a Pan Gwent basis.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Intermediate Care Fund will support the authority in maintaining older people in their own home as long as possible as well as preventing unnecessary admissions to residential/nursing care and hospital. These are key priorities laid out in the Single Integrated Plan and the Adult Services Service Improvement Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 In December 2013, Welsh Government announced the creation of an Intermediate Care Fund across Wales. The aim of the fund is to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health third sector and housing. The fund is made up of £35 Million revenue funding and £15 Million capital.
- 4.2 The fund has been primarily created to support frail elderly people in their own home and to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions or inappropriate admissions to care, as well as preventing delayed discharge from hospital.

- 4.3 In mid January 2014 Welsh Government provided further guidance, which indicated that;
- The intermediate care fund is only available for 2014-15.
 - Funding would be allocated on a regional footprint, based on NHS boundaries.
 - Funding is not to be used for proposals that do not relate primarily to older people.
 - Funding is not to be used to substitute existing funding streams or create ongoing demand.
 - The deadline for bids was the 7 March 2014.
- 4.4 The guidance further stated that local authorities will lead the development of the proposals, working in close partnership with Local Health Board, and with the Housing, third and Independent Sectors.
- 4.5 Following receipt of the guidance an initial meeting was held on the 7 February 2014 between the five Directors of Social Services in Gwent, senior managers from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, representatives from the third sector and Welsh Government officials. This was followed up by a further meeting with representatives from the independent sector.
- 4.6 Following these meetings a total of 25 bids were compiled totalling £7.9 Million were submitted to Welsh Government on the 7 March 2014 (Appendix 1). It should be noted that the reference to lead authorities in Appendix 1 simply specifies the lead authority. The majority of the schemes will operate on a Gwent wide basis.
- 4.7 On the 2 April 2014 Welsh Government confirmed that all 25 schemes submitted had been approved and that officers could move to implementing the various schemes. The Corporate Director Social Services, Caerphilly County Borough Council is the Programme Manager on behalf of the Gwent region and is responsible for the liaison between Welsh Government and the partner agencies.
- 4.8 A quarterly monitoring regime has been put in place by Welsh Government to track spend and service progress. Partners have the ability to undertake virements of up to 10% between the schemes and there is potentially the opportunity for further funding bids from any underspends as the year progresses. Clearly as the funding is for 2014/15 only all partners will be very aware of managing the impact of this funding no longer continuing and will be ensuring that staff and service users are aware of the one off nature of this funding.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An equalities impact assessment hasn't been completed at this time as this report is for information only.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The total funding allocated to the Gwent region by Welsh Government amounts to £7,958,100. Caerphilly CBC, as programme lead, will receive this funding from Welsh Government and reimburse other partner agencies as appropriate. Again, it should be stressed that this is one off funding for 2014/15 only.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Several of the schemes will require additional staff to be recruited. Given the one off nature of the funding staff will be recruited on a fixed term basis.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The bids have been subject to consultation with all of the partner agencies prior to their submission to Welsh Government.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members note the creation of the Intermediate Care Fund by Welsh Government and the schemes laid out in Appendix 1 that will support older people across Gwent. A report was made to Cabinet on the 30 April 2014 seeking endorsement of these bids.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Intermediate Care Fund will allow all partner agencies to “test” some new models of service delivery whilst also increasing capacity in other areas. Formal evaluation will be undertaken and fed back to Welsh Government by December 2014.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 List of approved schemes