



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24TH SEPTEMBER 2020 (INFORMATION ONLY)

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES GRANTS 2020/21

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of 2020/21 grant funding for the Directorate of Social Services.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides details of current 2020/21 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.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are requested to note the content of this report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Appendix 1 provides details of the current grant awards for 2020/21 categorised as follows: -

- Grants receivable by Caerphilly Social Services for Caerphilly CBC only.
- Grants receivable by Caerphilly Social Services for wider Consortium arrangements.
- Grants receivable by other Organisations for wider Consortium arrangements that include Caerphilly Social Services.

5.2 In addition to the grants identified in appendix 1, in April 2020, Welsh Government made available additional grant funding to local authorities in response to the Covid 19 outbreak. This additional funding included £40million at a national level in respect of the implications of the pandemic specifically for adult social care. A general hardship fund of £30million was also made available at a national level in response to implications of the pandemic in a number of other services areas including children's social service. These allocations were intended initially to cover costs incurred for the period up to 30th June 2020.

5.3 A further allocation of adult social care funding in response the pandemic was amounting to £22.7million at a national level was announced by Welsh Government in July to cover the period

1st July 2020 to 30th September 2020 but there is no indication of funding beyond this point. Also in August Welsh Government confirmed additional funding of £264million for the continuation of the general hardship fund but further guidance is awaited regarding the specific intentions of this funding.

5.4 Members should note that the grant funding is fully committed for specific purposes in line with the terms and conditions of the grant awarding bodies. At year-end the grant funding bodies request information to satisfy them that monies have been spent in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions.

5.5 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.

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

5.7 **Conclusion**

The report is provided to ensure that Members are aware of the grants available to fund services which fall under the responsibility of the Corporate Director for Social Services along with their intended purpose. Further details of individual grants can be made available to Members if required.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions included in this report.

7. **LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

7.1 The effective utilisation of grant funding will ensure that the Authority is well placed to achieve its stated aims and contribute towards national objectives.

7.2 **Corporate Plan 2018-2023**

Appendix 2 provides details of how the services funded by each of the social services grants receivable in 2020/21 will contribute towards the Corporate Well-being Objectives included in the Corporate Plan for 2018-2023.

8 **WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

8.1 Effective financial management including the effective utilisation of external grant funding is a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are met.

9. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Grant funding levels can change from year to year 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.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 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.

12. CONSULTATIONS

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

13. STATUTORY POWER

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

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Schedule of Social Services Grant Funding for 2020/21
Appendix 2 - Potential Impact on Wellbeing Objectives of Social Services Grant Funding for 2020/21