



CABINET - 23RD MARCH 2022

SUBJECT: HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME STRATEGY

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the current Housing Support Programme Strategy for the period 2022-2026 (Appendix 1) as required by Welsh Government to outline our single strategic view of Caerphilly's approach to Homelessness Prevention and Housing Support Services.

2 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Welsh Government require all Local Authorities to develop a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy every four years, with a mid-point review every two years. The document is to outline the strategic direction of the local authority for housing related support services. It also provides our single strategic approach to homelessness prevention and housing support services.
- 2.2 The report outlines the main areas of the strategy based on a template provided by Welsh Government. A draft strategy has already been submitted to Welsh Government for verification and feedback has been incorporated into this document.
- 2.3 The strategy also satisfied existing statutory requirements under Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
- 2.4 The strategy takes into account how delivery of support is in line with Welsh Government's vision and aims for the prevention of homelessness and the transformational shift required to move to a rapid re-housing approach.
- 2.5 The strategy sets out the key priorities for the Local Authority and its partners based on findings from a comprehensive needs assessment and stakeholder engagement.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are requested to consider the strategy and agree with its single strategic

direction for housing related support and homelessness prevention.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Housing Support Programme Strategy is produced in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders including Probation, Providers, Landlords (private and social), Housing, Social Services (adults and children) and Service Users. The strategy and action plan (Annex A within the strategy), has been agreed by our Housing Support Planning Group.
- 4.2 The strategy provides a single strategic direction for the local authority.
- 4.3 All services within the portfolio are evaluated regularly, are in line with procurement standing orders, and are currently meeting the needs of individuals.
- 4.4 The strategy lays out a plan of how to address unmet need in the short term and long term in line with Welsh Government vision and principles.
- 4.5 All partners, service users and wider stakeholders have been fully engaged with the process of developing the needs assessment.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The strategy is written in line with the Welsh Government template and feedback from the team has been incorporated into this version.
- 5.2 The strategy provides an outline of the single strategic direction for Caerphilly's approach to homelessness prevention and housing support services for the next four years.
- 5.3 The vision is "All citizens of the Caerphilly borough have safe homes to live in, can easily access integrated support services to meet individual needs, prevent homelessness and ensure all lives are healthy, successful and independent"
- 5.4 A comprehensive needs assessment has been completed via a multi-tiered targeted approach, including desktop research, analysis of local and regional information and a variety of stakeholder engagement processes, the strategy provides focused evidence to support the key findings that follow:
 - Additional staffing within current provision to increase the levels of need and/or risk we can accept across all services.
 - Return to our multi partner triage hub within at least one of our emergency housing projects.
 - To develop an Abstinence Led "wet" Accommodation Based Scheme in the borough. This is 24-hour staffed provision for service users who are dependent on or experience significant problems with alcohol. The term "wet" is a recognised Welsh Government term for accommodation projects where residents can continue to drink within their accommodation while being supported to reduce, control or stop drinking.
 - To develop a Co-Occurring / Dual Diagnosis or complex needs accommodation

in the borough. This is a staffed provision for service users who have multiple needs and cannot access schemes where we have separate defined mental health or substance misuse for example.

- Further transitional/Rapid Rehousing across the borough to begin to meet the needs of our most vulnerable clients.
- Settled Accommodation, additional one-bedroom affordable properties to be delivered.

5.5 Detailed evidence can be found in our Statement of Needs and a brief within the strategy.

5.6 There are four main strategic priorities identified:

- Adopt a rapid Rehousing Approach (includes Increase Housing Supply, Review Temporary and Supported Accommodation, Decrease Emergency Accommodation, Undertake A Multi-Agency Approach)
- End Rough Sleeping
- Increase Early Intervention and Targeted prevention
- Invest In Workforce Development

5.7 Annex A shows details of the activities and outcomes to achieve these four priorities, and this will be updated quarterly.

5.8 A wide range of stakeholders were included in our engagement process, including Health, Probation, Internal Services across children and adults, landlords, providers and those individuals who use the service as well as their carers and families.

5.9 Details of the current work with the partners is highlighted in the strategy which covers a wide range of stakeholders and plans for further engagement and collaboration in included.

5.10 **Conclusion**

The report outlines key elements of the strategy for Members to consider in order to agree the strategic direction for Caerphilly's approach to Homelessness Prevention and Housing Related Support Services.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 The strategy has considered many stakeholders feedback.

6.2 The cohort of people requiring these support services is always changing and this creates difficulty with long-term future planning for service demand and delivery, however based on the evidence we have to date, the priorities within the report will remain and the needs assessment shows this to be the case for the near future.

6.3 For all accommodation developments we consider exit strategies prior to any in-depth discussion.

6.4 The costs within the strategy are in line with the grant received from Welsh Government and quarterly monitoring and evaluation, along with submissions to Welsh Government take place to ensure these are updated and in line with the terms and conditions of the grant.

6.5 The total Housing Support Grant is £8.435,365.71

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Local Authorities have been requested to develop a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy every four years, with a mid-point review every two years. The document outlines the strategic direction of the Local Authority for Housing Related Support Services providing a single strategic view of the approach to Homelessness prevention and Housing Support Services.

7.2 Local Authorities have also been requested to develop a Delivery Plan annual to set out how they intend to deliver the relevant strategic priorities identified in the HSP strategy and any ongoing requirements. The IIA has not identified any negatives impact except those that are outside the scope of the grant.

7.3 This is unavoidable; the age restriction is set out in WG grant terms and conditions. The Housing ACT (Wales) 2014 states that no individual under 16 can legally hold a tenancy.

[Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment.](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications as the services are funded via a Welsh Government Grant.

8.2 Quarterly finance returns are completed along with annual spend plans, signed off by the Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer and reported directly to Welsh Government.

8.3 A breakdown of the Housing Support Grant for 2021/2022 is included in Appendix 2.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Currently there are no personnel implications.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 All consultee comments have been included within the report.

10.2 The report was presented and discussed at the Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on the 8th March, where members unanimously supported the recommendations

11. Statutory Powers

11.1 Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

11.2 Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Author: Shelly Jones, Supporting People Manager, jonessl@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Christina HARRY, Chief Executive
Dave Street, Corporate Director Social Services & Housing
Jo Williams, Assistant Director Adult Services
Cllr Shayne Cooke, Cabinet Member for Social Care
Councillor Donna Cushing, Chair - Social Services Scrutiny
Councillor Carmen Bezzina, Vice Chair - Social Services Scrutiny
Viv Day, Commissioning Service Manager
Kerry Denman, Housing Solutions Manager
Social Service Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Caerphilly Housing Support Programme Strategy
Appendix 2 Housing Support Breakdowns