



SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23RD JULY 2024

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES GRANTS 2024/25

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of grant funding available for social care in the 2024/25 financial year.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides details of current 2024/25 grant funding available for social care. 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 asked to note the content of this report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Appendix 1 provides details of the current grant awards for 2024/25, which are 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 Members should note that the grant funding is fully committed for specific purposes in line with the terms and conditions set by 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.

5.3 Where required, external auditors assess 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.

5.4 The external auditors produce a report annually summarising any issues that have been identified during their audit of the Authority's grants.

5.5 **Conclusion**

The report is provided to ensure that Members are aware of the social care grants available to fund services that fall under the responsibility of the Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing, along with their intended purpose. Any additional awards of grant funding made available throughout the 2024/25 financial year will be identified through the regular budget monitoring information reported to the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no assumptions included in this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered are for information purposes only.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 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 set by the awarding body. 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.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 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.

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated into this report.

11. **STATUTORY POWER**

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

12. URGENCY (CABINET ITEMS ONLY)

12.1 This report is for information only and as such does not require a Cabinet decision.

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Schedule of Social Care Grant Funding for 2024/25