

# Report to Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda  
Item:  
**A.3**

Meeting Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Portfolio: Economy, Enterprise and Housing  
Key Decision: No  
Within Policy and Budget Framework YES  
Public / Private Public

Title: Homeless Accommodation Service Restructure (Supporting People)  
Report of: Director of Economic Development  
Report Number: ED.24/16

## Purpose / Summary:

To brief members of Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the local changes to Supporting People contracting; outlining how issues identified are being addressed.

## Recommendations:

Members are asked to note the amended structure / ways of working within Carlisle City Council s Homeless Accommodation service following the end of the Supporting People contract on 31.03.16; and acceptance of a grant from Supporting People on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## Tracking

Executive:	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
Overview and Scrutiny:	
Council:	

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** Up until 31.03.16, Carlisle City Council Homeless Accommodation Services was a commissioned provider of Supporting People funded Housing Related Support for women and families experiencing homelessness; with a contract value of £126,000.
- 1.2** The County Council at its Cabinet meeting on 24 September approved a 25% reduction to the current county wide budget of £2.36m PA to £1.76m PA for Housing Related Support linked to Supported Temporary Accommodation effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. Carlisle was allocated 20% of the county wide budget resulting in a reduction of 85 units for people experiencing homelessness; and a reduction of 10 units for young people across Carlisle and Eden.
- 1.3** Consideration was given whether to retender, however due to changes in re-contracting terms (from block contracting to spot purchasing); the potential high risks posed as a result including TUPE; and the limited availability of local provision, it was decided not to do so.
- 1.4** Following this decision, the service restructured to ensure that the City Council continues to meet its statutory obligations, anticipating increased demand in relation to Homelessness; at a minimal cost to the council.
- 1.5** Following the end of the County Councils procurement process, the County Council approached the City Council with the offer of a grant to deliver support services in line with the allocated budget for Carlisle to meet the shortfall in provision (as outlined in 1.8 below).
- 1.6** An addendum report was presented to Executive on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in addition to ED 15/16 which concerned releasing funding allocated within the budget report to support the implementation and delivery of the Homeless Accommodation staffing structure from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016; following the end of the Supporting People contract on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.
- 1.7** The addendum concerned the agreement of the formal offer of an annual grant of £75,712 from the County Council (available for four years) to be utilised to increase staffing in line with the support and grant requirements.
- 1.8** The aim of the grant allocation is to support households who are homeless or at serious risk of homelessness in Carlisle and district; to access appropriate housing related support linked to accommodation which equates to:

- 4 households linked to generic placements
- 4 households linked to young person's placements
- 5 households linked to domestic violence placements

**1.9** Carlisle City Council Homeless Hostel Services have 50 units of accommodation within its emergency homeless accommodation portfolio, and currently support a range of households with differing needs including those identified above.

**1.10** John Street temporary accommodation for single men remains closed temporarily pending reinstatement as a result of flooding in December 2015. Males experiencing homelessness who the City Council has a statutory responsibility to accommodate are residing within dispersed units within the temporary accommodation portfolio. Additional units are currently being sourced to increase capacity and minimise risks.

#### **Update from Louise Elsworth-Barnes**

#### **Cumbria Advice and Support Team Leader – Cumbria County Council**

**1.11** The County Councils current Short Term Accommodation Support service is designed to meet a range of housing support needs presented by young people and adults across the county. Having conducted a thorough review of Short Term Accommodation Services, Cumbria County Council concluded that there remains a need for continued provision, especially in relation to the Care Act 2014. The Act places key duties on the County Council to prevent or postpone the need for support, while focusing on the promotion of wellbeing.

**1.12** In response to the Care Act 2014, Service Specifications and contracting terms have changed to reflect an increased emphasis on:

- Equitably and flexibly allocating support for Service User types across the County
- Maintaining a joined up multi-agency approach to supporting Service Users once they enter Short Term Accommodation
- Service Users completing a pathway to independent living
- Staff work hours flexibly meeting the support needs of Service Users
- Service Users having 'personalised support plans that are actively monitored, holistic in approach and focus on the achievement of outcomes
- Service Users being supported to successfully maintain a tenancy after leaving Short Term Accommodation

- 1.13** Contracted providers will provide quarterly data on outcomes achieved; districts who have been awarded grant money will provide 6 monthly data. All contracts will be managed through the County Councils contract management process.
- 1.14** Cumbria County Council will continue to facilitate a Supporting People officers group; where the review of the contracted Supported Temporary Accommodation will be discussed as an agenda item and outcome/activity reports will be produced which can be shared with members of Community Overview and Scrutiny in future.
- 1.15** Referral panel meetings are currently being established to ensure that limited resources are used efficiently; a district officer will sit on the panel.
- 1.16** Table 1 below profiles the current providers and number of current Supporting People funded units in Carlisle:

Client Group	Terms	Service Provider	No of units (funded by Cumbria County Council)
Generic	Contracted	Turning Point	20 units
	Contracted	Imagine Independence	13 units
	Grant Agreement	Carlisle City Council	4 units
Young People (aged 16-25)	Contracted	Impact HA	15 units
	Grant	Carlisle City Council	4 units
Domestic Violence	Grant	Carlisle City Council	5 units

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1** The Supporting People grant funding will 100% fund 2 x FTE additional staff on fixed term contracts from 2016 – 2020; to provide housing related support services in line with the grant requirements.

- 2.2** The grant funding will also be utilised to cover a management contribution and an exit strategy.

### **3. CONSULTATION**

- 3.1** Staff directly affected and the wider teams within Homeless, Prevention and Accommodation Services have been consulted on all aspects of the restructure changes and implementation; including the additional posts funded by the Supporting People Grant.

### **4. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1** Members are asked to note the amended structure / ways of working within the Homeless Accommodation service following the end of the Supporting People contract on 31.03.16; and acceptance of a grant from Supporting People on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

### **5. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES**

- 5.1** Meeting Carlisle's Housing Needs

**Contact Officer:** Tammie Rhodes

**Ext:** 7217

**Appendices  
attached to report:**

**Note:** in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None