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| SUBJECT: | SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME GRANT 2018/19 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS |
| MEETING: | Individual Cabinet Member Decision |
| DATE: | 13th June 2018 |
| DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: | All |
| CABINET MEMBER: | Councillor Penny Jones |

1. PURPOSE:

To consider the Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) spendplan for 2018/19 in advance of the initial application for the release of funding by Welsh Government, as outlined in their Final Allocation Letter Allocation (Appendix 2)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the spendplan is approved. It basically reflects a status quo situation in terms of the projects and schemes being funded, as a result of the funding available being the same as in 2017/18 and that the majority of projects and schemes are under on-going contract covering this financial year.

3. KEY ISSUES:

The funding of the Welsh SP programme is under review at the present time with funding levels having been “guaranteed” for 2018/19 and 2019/20. At the same time, considerations are being given to the introduction of an Early Intervention, Prevention and Support flexible funding initiative (Appendix 3). 6 local authorities are piloting control over 10 separate, but collated funding streams and the remainder, including Monmouthshire, have the flexibility to determine up to 15% transfers of funding between SP, Flying Start, Families First and Communities for Work Plus.

Monmouthshire’s allocation by Welsh Government of SPPG remains unchanged in 2018/19. Spendplan proposals have been submitted to Welsh Government following RCC approval (Appendices 3 & 4), as required by SPPG guidelines. It is against these submissions that the first application to draw down funds will be made at the end of June.

It is accepted, and expected, that during the course of 2018/19 there will be amendments to this plan implemented that may, or may not, include the involvement of the flexibility capability.

From Welsh Government’s perspective it is important to be assured that Monmouthshire will utilise all its allocation and that any variances are understood. Appendices 4 & 5, the original submissions to Welsh Government, demonstrate this.

For 2018/19 the main variance from the 2017/18 spendplan relates to the ending of the Monmouthshire Housing Association Older Persons’ Floating Support service and the introduction of funding for a Young Person’s Accommodation Officer within the Housing/Gateway department.

The ending of the MHA age-related services reflects Welsh Government's objective to make our SP services more age neutral and has enabled us to concentrate on place-based services. The Younger Person's Accommodation Officer addresses an identified weakness in our provision for younger people.

Further rationalisation of very small regional and alarm service contracts will reduce the numbers of contracts we need to monitor (a business efficiency), and releases funds that will enable us to joint fund services with Children's services, ultimately enabling us to increase support for those affected by welfare reform.

4. REASONS:

Whilst our spendplan submissions have been approved by those consulted below, it is necessary to ensure that our proposals meet the Council's requirements. In particular there is the need for assurance that all the SPPG will actually be used for the benefit of those in Monmouthshire. The plan accounts for all of the £2,039,175.00 allocation.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no other financial implications at this stage, either through the application of the flexibility component or through the revenue grant applicable to administering and management of SP.

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

In Appendix 1 it will be seen that there are no significant adverse impacts. Whilst age-related services have been reduced, the residents concerned have place-based services available to them. A positive impact is the increase in support for younger people, especially in the area of finding themselves appropriate accommodation.

The impact assessments are reviewed with the submission of each annual spendplan proposal.

There are no significant impacts with respect to Future Generations.

7. CONSULTEES:

Directorate Management Team; Supporting People and Housing Planning Group, Regional Collaborative Committee and Supporting People Regional Officers Group.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

9. AUTHOR:

Chris Robinson, Lead Commissioner Quality Assurance and Supporting People Lead

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

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