

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SUPPORTING PEOPLE – WELSH GOVERNMENT AUDIT</b>
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	<b>Social Care and Health</b>
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Adult Select</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19 January 2016</b>
<b>DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>

**1. PURPOSE:**

To make members aware of the conclusions and recommendations made by Welsh Government following their audit of Monmouthshire's (MCC) Supporting People (SP) provision, and to provide assurance that appropriate actions are in hand to address issues as appropriate.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That members consider the recommendations and the outline management responses, appreciating that the audit and its recommendations are very recent and the actions proposed are very much 'work in hand'.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

Welsh Government conducted an audit of MCC's SP programme in November, 2016. This was based on the Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) as delivered in 2014/15. [Report attached in Appendix I]

The audit's overall conclusion was that it could only be partially concluded that MCC's SPPG is being spent for the purposes for which it is intended. There are concerns that insufficient resources are being applied to the management and commissioning of SP services. That being said, the audit also concluded that the SP services are being adequately managed given the resources available.

The audit cites the level of resources as having a direct impact on the robustness of the key procedures:

- Services being commissioned using a generic contract that does not reflect specialist service specifications.
- The volume of contract monitoring has not assured that services comply with grant funding conditions nor that services are improving appropriately.
- The accreditation of providers, and the updating procedures associated with this, is insufficient to mitigate the risks associated with financial sustainability failures.
- SPPG record keeping procedures have been insufficient for effective commissioning and contract management.
- The SPPG planning group has insufficient involvement from the providers.
- There is insufficient service user involvement influencing commissioning decisions.
- There is insufficient separation between processing invoices and grant claims and the payment procedure.
- Without a detailed desk instruction manual (outlining the procedures and processes for managing SPPG), the Authority is at risk of funding being used inappropriately and at risk of key personnel leaving/not being available.

- Where a service combines SP and SC&H services, there is a risk that the SP service is delivering a portion of statutory services (ineligible for SPPG).

The draft report was forwarded to MCC on 23 December 2015, with a requirement to respond by 8 January, 2016. The management responses are included in Appendix I.

#### **4. REASONS:**

The Minister required assurance that SPPG is being used for best effect and being spent appropriately, the results from the audits of all the Welsh Authorities' provisions being used to inform wider and more detailed considerations for the future of SPPG.

In 2003, Welsh Government increased MCC's Revenue Grant by £100k as a contribution towards managing the SP programme. Until 2012 the SP team comprised 3.4 FTE staff. Since the Commissioning re-structure in 2012, the SP management and administration budget (H064) still reflects this level of funding. However, the actual staffing resource being applied to the SP management is circa 1.5FTE – the remainder of the resource being utilised in other SC&H-wide commissioning requirements.

Achieving the improvements required by Welsh Government will have to be achieved within the current financial envelope and will therefore necessarily involve improvements and streamlining of procedures and prioritisations and some further access to the SC&H commissioning support resources.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

In the current economic environment, the financial resources available are finite and under pressure. It is not envisaged that any increase in the budgetary provision is possible.

#### **6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

At this time there are no equality or sustainability impacts to be considered. However, managing SPPG more effectively will have positive impacts across all the vulnerable protected characteristics.

#### **7. CONSULTEES:**

Head of Adult Services – management responses to the audit's draft report

#### **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None

#### **9. AUTHOR:**

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#### **10. CONTACT DETAILS:**

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