

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 05 September 2022

Portfolio:	Housing
Subject:	Social Inclusion (homelessness) Services Contribution
Report of:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Priorities:	Providing Housing Choices

Purpose:

To seek Executive approval to allocate funds from the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rough Sleeping Initiative funding to ensure the continuation of homelessness support services in Fareham following the reduction in funding for Social Inclusion (homelessness) Services by Hampshire County Council.

Executive summary:

In June 2022, Hampshire County Council (HCC) agreed a £360,000 reduction in the Adults' Health and Care budget for Social Inclusion Services. These services provide support for homeless people living in supported housing schemes across the county together with community support for those moving on from supported housing schemes or are sleeping rough/at risk of sleeping rough.

The decision by HCC to reduce funding for Social Inclusion Services from April 2023 was part of a set of broader savings options to achieve a reduction in their overall spending on Adult Social Care and Health of £40.6m by 31 March 2023.

Although HCC has no direct statutory responsibility for the elimination of homelessness (as this sits with the 11 District, Borough and City Councils), the County Council is responsible for ensuring eligible Adult Social Care needs can be met. The existing Social Inclusion Services are funded through the County's Adults' Health and Care budget, with additional funding from District, Borough and City Council contributions in some areas enhancing the service offer. The current HCC annual budget for these services is £2.4m.

In September 2021, HCC set up a Social Inclusion Advisory Group, comprising representatives from Adult Social Care, Mental Health and Substance Misuse, Public Health, Probation, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Community Rehabilitation Company, CCGs, DWP and 1 representative from each District/Borough/City Council. This group has been the main forum for statutory agencies to be involved in the co-production and agreement of proposed solutions for Social Inclusion Services from April 2023.

Following a period of public consultation, a decision was made by HCC in June 2022 to reduce the annual budget for Social Inclusion Services by £360,000 from April 2023. This report sets out the changes that will take effect from April 2023 and how the proposal for additional investment by Fareham Borough Council will ensure the continuation of homelessness support services for our most vulnerable residents.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive approves:

- (a) the commissioning of Social Inclusion Services in partnership with HCC from 1 April 2023; and
- (b) a budget allocation of £78,000 per annum from the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rough Sleeping Initiative funding to fund the additional investment required to ensure the continuation of homelessness support services in the Borough.

Reason:

To secure the provision of homelessness support services in Fareham for those in greatest need.

Cost of proposals:

A successful bid to the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative fund together with sufficient reserves in the Homelessness Prevention Grant mean there are sufficient funds for these proposals.

Appendices: None

Background papers: None

Reference papers: Hampshire County Council (Adult Services & Public Health)
Decision Report 16/6/22

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	05 September 2022
Subject:	Social Inclusion (homelessness) Services Contribution
Briefing by:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Portfolio:	Housing

INTRODUCTION

1. In June 2022, Hampshire County Council (HCC) agreed a £360,000 reduction in the Adult Health and Care budget for Social Inclusion (homelessness) Services to take effect from April 2023. This followed a £2m reduction agreed in November 2017 and a further reduction of £1.8m from August 2019. These services provide support for homeless people living in supported accommodation schemes across the county and for those who are sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough and have complex needs which mean they are unable to access support from other sources.
2. Although HCC has no direct statutory responsibility for the elimination of homelessness (as this sits with the 11 District, Borough and City Councils), the County Council is responsible for ensuring eligible Adult Social Care needs can be met. The existing Social Inclusion Services are funded through the County's Adults' Health and Care budget, with additional funding from District, Borough and City Council contributions in some areas enhancing the service offer. The current HCC annual budget for these services is £2.4m.
3. In September 2021, HCC set up a Social Inclusion Advisory Group, comprising representatives from Adult Social Care, Mental Health and Substance Misuse, Public Health, Probation, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Community Rehabilitation Company, CCGs, DWP and 1 representative from each District/Borough/City Council. This group has been the main forum for statutory agencies to be involved in the co-production and agreement of proposed solutions for Social Inclusion Services from April 2023.

CURRENT SERVICES

4. HCC currently spends £2.4m per annum funding Social Inclusion Services across the county through the direct commissioning of three main types of service:
 - a) Intensive 24/7 supported housing schemes (known as **Stage 1 accommodation**) for people who are sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough. It is important to note here that only support such as managing money, improving physical and mental health,

managing and addressing drug and alcohol issues, finding employment etc is paid for by HCC. The housing costs and support for managing tenancies are paid for by rent which, for most service users, is covered by Housing Benefit.

- b) 'Lower' level and/or 'move-on' supported housing schemes (known as **Stage 2 accommodation**) for people who are homeless but have less critical needs or who are ready to move on from the more intensive supportive Stage 1 accommodation.
 - c) **Community Support** (including Street Outreach for people rough sleeping) services for those moving on from supported accommodation or are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping and have complex needs which mean they are unable to access support from other sources.
5. In Fareham, HCC currently funds the support at 101 Gosport Road (**Stage 1 accommodation**). We receive no funding for Stage 2 accommodation however, our existing provision at Acton Lodge is funded through the Community Support element together with some of the Outreach provision. These services are provided across Fareham and Gosport and both Councils currently contribute £42,000 per annum towards them.

CHANGES TO SERVICES IN FAREHAM

6. As a member of the County's Social Inclusion Advisory Group, senior managers from FBC have been working to establish a mutually acceptable "core service" offer for the provision of HCC funded Social Inclusion Services in Fareham from 1 April 2023. The Group developed and agreed a set of principles for HCC, which aimed to consider risks, whilst enabling the delivery of services within their reduced budget. These principles include:
- Enabling investment that prioritises the needs of the most vulnerable service users
 - Protecting and prioritising accommodation-based services
 - Balancing local need against available resources
 - Ensuring that HCC budgets are utilised in a way which best meets the need of people with care needs
7. Four options for achieving the budget reductions agreed by HCC were reviewed by the Group and are summarised below:
- 1) Remove the community support element from the funding – whilst some of risks associated with removing community support could be mitigated (improved engagement with other services for example), this option was dismissed as it would lead to inequitable cuts in some areas. Additionally, it would leave some areas with no services at all. Under this option, the funding for Fareham and Gosport would be reduced by £102,031.
 - 2) Reduce all existing contract values by 15% - this was the preferred option as it was felt by all districts and boroughs, that it would not impact significantly on accommodation-based services. However, concerns were raised that in areas where there are currently low levels of funding, some services would no longer be viable. Under this option, the funding for Fareham and Gosport would be reduced by £65,498.

- 3) Funding distributed via a grant to each district/borough/city – this option was dismissed as the majority of authorities confirmed they would not have the capacity to design, procure and manage the services themselves. Additionally, it was felt that it could result in differing services and access arrangements, existing services could become unsustainable, would not achieve value for money and may lead to an increase in street homelessness.
- 4) Funding distributed via a formula – this was the least preferred option as it was felt that it would result in greater reductions in some areas and may impact unfairly on those boroughs who have chosen to invest in services themselves. Additionally, service users may be disadvantaged due to the transient nature of individuals and the availability of accommodation in certain areas.
8. Using the agreed principles above and conversations with partner organisations, a 5th option was developed as a hybrid model of options 1 and 2, which would protect accommodation-based services. Option 5 was agreed and has resulted in a reduction in funding for Fareham and Gosport of £66,031.
9. The following tables outline the changes to the services funded by HCC from April 2023 and the proposed additional investment to be made by Fareham Borough Council to secure the provision of services to our most vulnerable residents.

Table 1: Existing services/funding

Current annual HCC spend on Social Inclusion Services across Fareham and Gosport	£436,651
Current annual contribution made by Fareham and Gosport Borough Councils	£84,000
Current total annual spend on HCC-commissioned Social Inclusion Services across Fareham and Gosport	£520,651
Description of services currently delivered	101 Gosport Road (18 bed, 24/7 Stage 1 supported accommodation) Acton Lodge (10 bed Stage 2 supported accommodation) 1.5 FTE Street Outreach

Table 2: Future services/funding (HCC only)

Reduced annual HCC spend on Social Inclusion Services across Fareham and Gosport from April 2023	£370,620
Description of services to be delivered	101 Gosport Road (18 bed, 24/7 Stage 1 supported accommodation) Small amount of Community Support.

Table 3: Future services/funding (HCC and proposed contributions from FBC/GBC)

Reduced annual HCC spend on Social Inclusion Services across Fareham and Gosport from April 2023	£370,620
Proposed annual contribution to be made by FBC	£61,500
Proposed annual contribution to be made by GBC*	£61,500
Proposed annual contribution from Rough Sleeping Initiative funding	<u>£33,000</u>
Total	£156,000
Proposed total annual spend on HCC-commissioned Social Inclusion Services across Fareham and Gosport	£526,620
Description of services to be delivered	101 Gosport Road (18 bed, 24/7 Stage 1 supported accommodation) Acton Lodge (10 bed Stage 2 supported accommodation) 1.5 FTE Street Outreach Small amount of Community Support

*Subject to GBC decision-making process

PROPOSALS

10. It is vital that supported 'move-on' opportunities remain to ensure there is an effective pathway out of rough sleeping and into independent living. Therefore, it is proposed that Fareham Borough Council supplements HCC's 'core service' funding and co-commission the support services at Acton Lodge and Street Outreach.
11. Due to the Council's prudent financial planning, the Homelessness reserves (comprising ring-fenced central government grants), Rough Sleeping Initiative funding and the annual Homelessness Prevention Grant allocation are sufficient to meet this cost.
12. The Council has a positive working relationship both with the County Council and the local service provider, Two Saints, and the partnership successfully prevents and relieves homelessness for vulnerable people. Following the pandemic, it is vital that the local area continues to be geared up to meet the needs of single people who may become homeless, and with the on-going high demand for housing and related services, social inclusion services will continue to be greatly needed.
13. The recommendations in this report are intended to continue to meet locally identified priorities, support our vision as set out in the Council's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and maintain the strong partnership arrangements in the interests of meeting the needs of vulnerable people in our community.

CONCLUSION

14. HCC's decision to further reduce their investment in Social Inclusion Services, whilst disappointing, has been developed in partnership with officers and stakeholders. The County recognises that although the statutory duties to prevent and relieve homelessness sit with district and borough councils, housing alone cannot meet the

needs of such complex individuals. Despite housing offers, people continue to sleep rough because they have significant unmet needs relating to their health and social care requirements therefore it is appropriate for the County to continue investing in social inclusion services as they have a very real positive impact on adult social care pressures for such a challenging cohort.

15. The recommendations within this report do not create any new equalities concerns and falls within the scope of the Council's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy. The proposed investment will mitigate the potential negative impacts resulting from the reduction in funding by HCC.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Caroline Newman (Ext 4645)