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**DRAFT SUPPORTING PEOPLE LOCAL COMMISSIONING PLAN 2016-19**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2016-19, attached at **Appendix A**, and provide comments and recommendations to the Cabinet, prior to their consideration of the draft Plan at Cabinet.
2. The indicative funding for Cardiff for 2016/17 shows that the budget for 2016/17 remains unchanged from 2015/16 at £16.2 million but that there has been some realignment to better reflect the need to provide preventative services.

**Background to Supporting People**

3. Supporting People was implemented in 2003 as a U.K. wide government initiative, providing the policy, monitoring and funding framework for delivering housing-related support to vulnerable people. The Welsh Government provides additional Directions, Guidance and Grant. A review in October 2010 led to the Welsh Government putting in place a new delivery structure for the Supporting People Programme in Wales, including redistribution of funding and the establishment of Regional Collaborative Committees.
4. Supporting People is intended to provide high quality and strategically planned housing-related support services which are cost effective and reliable. Supporting People services should be provided in a complementary fashion alongside other care or other services. It cannot be used to fund nursing or personal care but is to fund support schemes to enable people to live independently and to maintain a tenancy. In Cardiff, Supporting People provides nearly 7,000 units of housing-

related support to vulnerable individuals to assist them to live independently and to prevent homelessness.

### **Overview of Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan**

5. The development of a Local Commissioning Plan is a requirement of the Welsh Government. The Plan has to set out the strategic priorities for Supporting People in Cardiff and how these will be achieved within budget. The Local Plan is then used to inform the development of the Regional Plan, which is subject to Welsh Government approval.
6. The draft Plan 2016-2019, attached at **Appendix A**, places Supporting People within the strategic context of What Matters and the Cardiff Housing Strategy 2012-2017. It contains details of:
  - a) the methodology of the review process, including principles and eligibility criteria.
  - b) An analysis of need, supply and service gaps.
  - c) Consultation evidence.
  - d) Priorities for development.
  - e) Savings and reductions proposed for 2016/17.
  - f) Equality Impact Assessment.
  - g) Spend for 2016/17.
7. The indicative funding for Cardiff for 2016/17 shows that the budget for 2016/17 remains unchanged from 2015/16 at £16.2 million but that there has been some realignment to better reflect the need to provide preventative services, particularly for Older People, such as Community Alarm, as well as to provide more 24 hour supported living for younger people, which was a Corporate Plan commitment last year.
8. The Plan identifies the savings and reductions proposed for the current year, by client group, at **page 23-24 Appendix A**. The following are the top five reductions in terms of difference in funding between 2015/16 and 2016/17:

Spend Category	Proposed total funding 2016/17	Difference 2016/17 from 2015/16	Difference as %
People over 55 years of age with Support Needs (this category must be exclusive of alarm services)	£290,770.84	-£159,718.20	-35.45%
Young People who are Care Leavers	£181,480.00	-£66,507.48	-26.82%
People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV/AIDS)	£34,964.00	-£8,716.00	-19.95%
People with Learning Disabilities	£2,239,347.24	-£54,597.83	-2.38%
Families with Support Needs	£915,772.52	-£26,554.48	-2.82%

9. The Plan also identifies where funding is being increased, by client group, at **page 23-24 Appendix A**. The following are the increases in terms of difference in funding between 2015/16 and 2016/17:

Spend Category	Proposed total funding 2016/17	Difference 2016/17 from 2015/16	Difference as %
Expenditure which does not directly link to the spend plan categories above (includes Homeless service)	£2,874,124.76	£206,414.52	+7.74%
Alarm Services (including sheltered/ extracare schemes)	£649,881.76	£131,663.31	+25.41%
Generic Floating Support to prevent homelessness (tenancy support services which cover a range of service users needs but which must be exclusive of fixed site support)	£2,842,640.00	£30,000	+1.07%
People with criminal offending history	£386,100.00	£12,740.00	3.41%

### Previous Scrutiny

10. This Committee scrutinised the draft Plan 2015-2018 at their meeting 7 January 2015, following which the then Chair, Councillor Groves, wrote to the Cabinet Member, Councillor Susan Elsmore, on 9 January 2015, stating:

*'Members note that there will be a strategic review early in 2015/16 to inform the future direction of Supporting People in Cardiff and were pleased to hear that this review will actively involve service users. Members agree with internal and external witnesses that a strategic approach is essential, particularly as providers are clear that further 'salami- slicing' is not an option as many schemes have reached tipping point and will not survive further cuts. Members received the clear message that providers feel they are at the 'thus far and no further' point. Given this, it is clear that strategic prioritisation is needed. Members also note that competitive tendering will be considered as part of the strategic review; we re-iterate our concerns about the need to avoid competitive tendering leading to a 'race to the bottom', by ensuring specifications are correct and avoid unintended consequences. Members note that a report on the outcome of the strategic review will be taken to Cabinet and request that this is scheduled to enable timely pre-decision scrutiny by this Committee.'*

*Members note that, in 2015-16, officers expect there to be fewer ex-offenders eligible for homelessness support and fewer out-of-county homeless applicants eligible for support that needs to be provided in Cardiff. Members are not entirely convinced of this and wish to receive assurance that these elements will be monitored to ensure trends can be identified.'*

11. This Committee also scrutinised the Supporting People Spend Plan 2016/17 at their last meeting on 15 February 2016, following which the Chair, Councillor McGarry, wrote to the Cabinet Member, Councillor Susan Elsmore, on 16 February 2016, stating:

*'Members note that further work is underway with regard to floating support for Older People with a view to new arrangements being in place by April 2017; Members wish to be kept informed of this work.'*

*Members sought assurance that it is acceptable to set a Spend Plan without agreeing the Local Commissioning Plan, a situation that has come about as a consequence of the delay in Welsh Government settlement caused by the timing*

*of the Spending Review by UK Government. Members were pleased to hear that there would still be scope to influence the detail of some elements in the Local Commissioning Plan, such as Older People floating support, albeit that some of the elements such as Community Alarm will have been set.'*

## **Way Forward**

12. Councillor Susan Elsmore (Cabinet Member, Health, Housing and Well Being), Sarah McGill (Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services) and Jane Thomas (Assistant Director of Communities and Housing) will be in attendance to answer Members' questions.

## **Legal Implications**

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications

at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2016-19 and the information provided at the meeting,
- ii) Agree any comments, observations and recommendations that they wish to send to the Cabinet Member, regarding the content of the draft document and the current approach of the Plan and
- iii) Agree the way forward with regard to future consideration of this issue.

**MARIE ROSENTHAL**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**26 February 2016**