

**Cabinet Member for Housing, Strategic Assets and Asset Transfer
Cllr Phil Alford**

Property & Support Service

Officer Contact: Nicole Smith – Head of Housing, Migration and Resettlement –
Nicole.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

Reference: HSAAT-01-24

Grant Agreement to fund two Building Bridges Officers

Purpose of Report

1. Approval to enter into a grant agreement with Community First to deliver two dedicated Building Bridges Officers to work with Rough Sleepers and single homeless clients who are accommodated in housing related supported accommodation as part of the Council's Rough Sleeper Initiative funded by central government

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. This proposal fits within the council's mission to ensure that the people of Wiltshire are empowered to live full, healthy and enriched lives and we have the right skills to prosper.

Background

3. On 29 September 2023, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) wrote to Wiltshire Council to inform us that we have been awarded funding under the Rough Sleeper Initiative's 'Move on and Prevention Funding'. As part of this award, Wiltshire Council had to obtain approval from DLUHC on how they would utilise this funding as its a ring fenced grant and any underspends are required to be returned to DLUHC.
4. On 23 October 2023, DLUHC wrote to Wiltshire Council to authorise the use of the 'Move on and Prevention Funding'. Wiltshire Council was given approval to utilise the grant funding to assist with meeting the revenue costs of a Building Bridges Officer to be delivered by Community First. The officer will enhance the Council's ability to promote a positive recovery following a period of rough sleeping and positively impact former rough sleeper's ability to obtain employment, education, volunteering or training opportunities.
5. Due to anticipated underspends of the 'Targeted Funding' which was given approval by DLUHC on the 7 June 2023, Wiltshire Council submitted a request to DLUHC to repurpose existing budget as part of that funding, for grant funding to assist Wiltshire Council in meeting the revenue costs of a second Building Bridges Officer to be delivered by Community First.

6. Confirmation has been provided that Wiltshire Council is able to instruct Community First to deliver two Building Bridges Officers from the 'Move on and Prevention Funding' and 'Targeted Funding' but is subject to the terms of the funding agreement. The allocated amount agreed with DLUHC must be spent on this intervention.

Main Considerations for the Council

7. It is DLUHC's intention to eradicate rough sleeping across the country therefore, the Department are providing Council's with grant funding opportunities to support enhancing local response to rough sleeping.
8. As part of Wiltshire Council's Ending Rough Sleeping plan, there is a focus on preventing rough sleeping wherever possible and where it does occur, it is rare, brief and non-recurrent.
9. Two of the key areas of focus for Wiltshire Council is the prevention of rough sleeping and promoting a quick recovery for those that have rough slept.
10. It is important that the individuals who have experienced homelessness and rough sleeping are provided with targeted support to empower them to access education, training and employment. Developing an individual's employability improve their chances of recovering by providing them with an opportunity of meaningful occupation as well as enabling them to afford accommodation in the private and social rented sector.
11. Community First already deliver Building Bridges Officers across Wiltshire therefore have the skills and knowledge to deliver this support to the Council's rough sleeping cohort.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

12. Given the nature of this proposal, Overview and Scrutiny Engagement is not considered necessary. They have however been engaged with the Homeless Strategy action plan which includes objectives around reducing rough sleeping in Wiltshire which has been fully supported

Safeguarding Implications

13. There are no safeguarding implications of this decision as it relates to an existing function delivered by Community First and separate grant agreements are already in place with the Council.

Public Health Implications

14. Any positive steps made by a rough sleeper to move on into more suitable accommodation and be engaged with work or training programmes will of course help reduce the negative impacts on health whilst rough sleeping. This programme will therefore help to improve the health outcome for rough sleepers

Procurement Implications

15. The procurement team have been consulted on this proposal and have confirmed that there are no procurement implications.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

16. There are no equality implications of this decision as the Council already has grant agreements in place with Community First and the grant funding from government can only be used for the benefit of rough sleepers.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

17. There are no environmental or climate change implications of this decisions.

Workforce Implications

18. There are no workforce implications of this decision.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

19. If approval is not received, and the Council are unable to proceed with delivering an intervention which promotes DLUHC's and the Council's aim to prevent rough sleeping and promote recovery for those who have rough slept. The grant funding will need to be returned to DLUHC.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

20. There are no risks that will arise as a result of this decision.

Financial Implications

21. There are no financial implications of this decision as this relates to ring fenced, grant funding specifically for this intervention.

Legal Implications

22. The Service has engaged in conversations with the Council's Legal Service and following a Subsidy Control Assessment, the definition of subsidy has not been met. There are no other legal implications of this decision as the Council already has grant agreements with Community First.

Options Considered

23. DLUHC have offered Wiltshire Council grant funding to promote the Council's interventions relating to the prevention and recovery of rough sleeping. The Council had considered that they had sufficient resources to support rough sleepers to move into and sustain a tenancy however, there is little targeted intervention available for rough sleepers to support them into work, education, training or volunteering.

Conclusions/Proposal

24. On the basis that DLUHC are promoting the prevention and recovery of rough sleeping, coupled with the grant funding approved for this intervention, it is recommended that this proposal proceeds.

Emma Legg – Director of Adult Social Care

Report Author: Nicole Smith

Head of Housing, Migration and Resettlement

8 February 2024

Appendices –

Appendix 1 – DLUHC confirmation of Move on & Prevention Funding

Appendix 2 – DLUHC confirmation of repurposed funding



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

November 2023

UNDER EMBARGO: Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-25 Move On & Prevention Funding 2023/24

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for working with your Rough Sleeping adviser and confirming your delivery plans for your RSI Move On & Prevention 2023/24 allocation.

We appreciate your engagement with the process and your commitment to supporting vulnerable people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough, as demonstrated through your plans to end rough sleeping in your local area.

RSI 2022-25 - Move On & Prevention 2023/24 – Wiltshire County UA

Following a review of your Move On & Prevention delivery plan, I am pleased to inform you that you have been successful in securing a total additional allocation of **£92,818** for 2023/24 of the RSI 2022-25 fund.

For payment and reporting purposes, this funding will be represented as a single "Move On and Prevention" intervention. This is outlined in Annex A below, alongside any new funding conditions relating to delivery.

The funded services awarded in this letter are in addition to your current RSI 2022-25 services and have been allocated in recognition of the ongoing challenges local authorities face. Our intention is that this funding will support issues surrounding accessing options for off the streets, move-on and longer term accommodation options.

The Move On & Prevention payment will be made in a single payment on the 1st December 2023, in accordance with the principles and conditions set out in your original grant letter.

As part of the regular quarterly reporting, for the quarter 3 report you will be required to provide the total number of beds and staff that this funding will provide in your area. You will also be required to provide an end of year declaration of spend for your total RSI 2022-25 funding, which will include this additional funding. An end of year declaration form will be issued to you in March 2024 and is required to be signed off by your S151 officer or equivalent and returned by **10th April 2024**.

This letter is issued under strict embargo until further notice of a public announcement. This should not prevent or delay you from commencing the necessary steps to mobilise your funded services upon receipt of this letter. We will write to you to update you on plans for a formal announcement in due course.



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

January 2024

Dear Colleague,

Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-25 Repurposing – Wiltshire County UA

We are pleased to confirm that your request to repurpose part of your RSI 2022-25 funding has been agreed. A breakdown of changes to funding of individual services, as a result of this repurposing, is detailed in Annex A, along with any specific funding conditions relating to delivery.

We have re-shared the key principles for RSI 2022-25 in Annex B, as per the guidance we provided in your RSI 2022-25 confirmation of funding letter, sent in May 2022. These principles set out how we will continue to support you and monitor your success.

We expect you to continue to engage fully with us to develop annual delivery plans and operational targets, and to report on progress, risks, and issues in a timely and candid manner for all of your services funded through the RSI. An overview of programme management arrangements and details of the payment schedule can be found in Annex C.

All RSI funding is subject to the conditions set out in Annex D, which will also be set out in the grant determination.

Thank you for your work to support people sleeping rough. We look forward to continuing to work with you on your plans to support vulnerable people and end rough sleeping in your area.

Kind regards,

Isabella Connell, Deputy Director, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Directorate