



## Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will not make a decision on this item before 11 June 2018.

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Broadhurst, Service Director Health and Wellbeing	Cllr Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	31 May 2018

### Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer Funding for Complex Needs Support and Tenancy Training

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to commission services from Creative Support and The Salvation Army using funding awarded from a successful Fylde Coast Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer bid awarded by The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government).

#### 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 We will work with our partners to support prevention, early help and raise aspirations.
- 2.2 We will improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

#### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer funding be used to fund two full time support workers (via Creative Support) within our Housing Options Team.
- 3.2 That Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer funding be used to fund a tenancy training scheme run from George Williams House in Fleetwood (Salvation Army) to assist those in need of assistance with sustaining a tenancy.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1** Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Council's successfully bid for funding from DCLG under the Homeless Prevention Trailblazer initiative; an initiative to establish a network of ambitious areas across England to fundamentally reform the response to homelessness.
- 4.2** DCLG want trailblazer areas to go further and faster with homelessness reform and for areas to develop innovative new approaches to preventing homelessness. The funding was awarded for prevention activity to be conducted earlier and with a wider group of people – not just those who are owed the main homelessness duty.
- 4.3** Bids were supported that involved collaboration with other services to identify at-risk households and target interventions well before any individual or household are threatened with eviction.
- 4.4** The number of clients with multiple and complex needs who present themselves as homeless or threatened with homelessness in Wyre has increased significantly over recent years. This local picture, together with correlating national evidence, supports the acknowledgement of a strong overlap between homelessness and other support needs such as substance misuse, physical and mental ill health, cycles of physical and emotional abuse and involvement with the criminal justice system.
- 4.5** To respond effectively to this multiplicity of need there is a need to collaborate and cut across funding streams, organisations, expertise and knowledge areas. There is a need to ensure that mental health support is a core part of an integrated model of support for those with multiple and complex needs.

## **5. Key issues and proposals**

- 5.1** Creative Support are an established supported housing provider that manage Warrenhurst Court in Fleetwood, a supported housing facility that supports clients with mental health needs. Partnership working between the council and Creative Support is strong and with their expertise in supporting clients with complex needs, Creative Support are well placed to support the Housing Options Team.
- 5.2** Homelessness applications and approaches for homelessness prevention will continue to be dealt with by the Housing Options Officers. The complex needs support workers will engage with relevant service users under the supervision of the Senior Housing Options Officer to deliver any missing additional support and signposting needs that are currently not being met.
- 5.3** The Wyre Homelessness Trailblazer Bid included funding of £50,000 per year, for two years, for two complex needs support workers. It is proposed that these workers be recruited via Creative Support.

- 5.4** The Salvation Army operate George Williams House on Broomfield Road in Fleetwood. This scheme, in operation since 2004, provides six single units of accommodation for young people and nine family units of accommodation. The scheme is funded through the Supporting People budget at Lancashire County Council and a contribution from the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant. The scheme is an invaluable resource and provides temporary accommodation to a wide range of service users who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Wyre Council has established an excellent relationship with The Salvation Army in this regard.
- 5.5** The Wyre Homelessness Trailblazer Bid included funding of £5,000 per year, for two years, for a tenancy training and accommodation finding programme. It is proposed that the training and accommodation finding programme for those at risk of homelessness be run by the Salvation Army.

## **6. Delegated functions**

- 6.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To consider matters relating to homeless people and vulnerable people in the Borough."

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	In total £592,000 of funding was awarded for the Fylde Coast via the DCLG Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer initiative. This included £50,000 per year, for two years for Complex Needs Support and £5,000 per year, for two years, for a tenancy training and accommodation programme for Wyre. No additional funding will be required from the Council.
Legal	The funding of these officers/services will assist the Council in its legal duties under homelessness legislation, including the additional relief duties required under the Homelessness Act 2017. The funding will enable the Council to ensure it meets its statutory obligations under Homelessness law.

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	✓
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
N/A		

arm/ph/ne/cr/18/0005dm2