

MEETING:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	14 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME GRANT BUDGET POSITION
PORTFOLIO AREA:	RESOURCES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

To report on the Supporting People Programme Grant budget.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT the Committee comments on the figures and text contained herein.

Key Points Summary

- To report on the current financial position within the Supporting People Programme Grant.

Alternative Options

1. To maximise the grant allocated and ensure that it complies with existing grant conditions.

Reasons for Recommendations

2. To ensure the grant is not reclaimed by central government and used to assist and support the people of Herefordshire.

Introduction and Background

3. The Supporting People programme is the government funding stream for housing support. It currently helps around a million vulnerable people to live independently in their homes or safely within supported accommodation – including older people, victims of domestic violence,

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Greg Evans, Management Accounting Manager on (01432) 261848

teenage parents and those with mental health problems. The delivery of successful housing support is monitored through two indicators in the national indicator set (NIs 141 and 142) and research has shown that the programme is more than paying for itself through reduced costs in health services, tenancy failure, crime and residential care.

4. The membership of Herefordshire Supporting People Partnership's Commissioning Body is Director of Resources, the Director of Integrated Commissioning, and Head of Strategic Housing, Area Manager, West Mercia Probation Trust (Paul Baker).
5. Advice and guidance to assist the Membership is the Cabinet Member for Older People, Social Care, Adults, Chair of the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee (Councillor PA Andrews), Board Member West Mercia Probation Trust (Mrs Libhin Bromley), Non-Executive Director, NHS Trust Board (Mrs Dianne Jones), and The Alliance Herefordshire (Andrew Strong).
6. The Supporting People Programme Grant has been in place since 2003 with strict guidance in place limiting use of funding to Housing Related Support. Over the last 6 years there has been an accumulation of underspend. Grant allocations were advised and received on an annual basis which made it difficult to agree longer-term contracts with providers. There was also a lack of clarity from the DCLG on the carry forward arrangements. From 2009/10 the Supporting People programme grant is paid under section 31 as an unringfenced named grant and from 2010/11 will be paid as part of the Area Based Grant. This removal of the ring fence provides councils with the opportunity to come up with flexible and innovative ways to support vulnerable people in a range of different situations.
7. The projected underspend for the grant is set out in the table below, and the figures assumes agreed contracts are fully utilised:

Year	Grant Allocation + Other Contributions	Expenditure	Balance
2003/04 (Actual)	£7,657,525	£6,681,522	£976,003
2004/05 (Actual)	£7,473,703	£5,941,765	£1,531,938
2005/06 (Actual)	£6,860,947	£5,445,104	£1,415,843
2006/07 (Actual)	£6,706,498	£5,749,536	£956,962
2007/08 (Actual)	£6,523,369	£5,722,676	£800,693
2008/09 (Actual)	£6,197,199	£7,047,862	(£850,663)
2009/10 (Budget)	£5,887,339	£7,869,539	(£1,982,200)
2010/11 (Budget)	£5,257,394	£6,785,829	(£1,528,435)
Total	£52,563,974	£51,243,833	£1,320,141

8. In 2008 the Commissioning Board received notification that the under spend could be used to meet housing related support under the existing grant conditions. This was taken forward by the implementation of pilot projects funded by the, underspend which, supported vulnerable clients where there was unmet need and increased demand for services.
9. The annual grant has been reducing since 2007-08 and the accumulated underspend has been used to assist with meeting current contract commitments. For 2009-10 carry forward underspend of £678k will be utilised.

10. In 2010-11 a total of £1.4m is expected to be carried forward to cover the funding gap. This assumes a reduction of 6% due to the top-slice on transfer into the Area Base Grant for 2010/11.
11. Current contract performance indicates that the, underspend could rise to £1.96m if current hours are not delivered. The Supporting People team are working with providers to address the current activity.
12. £500k expenditure within Adult Social Care has been identified which meets Supporting People criteria. The Supporting People Commissioning Board will consider if these costs can be funded by the, underspend. This would reduce the anticipated underspend to £820k.
13. Where local authorities have generated savings in the programme through their careful management, they will be allowed to roll forward these unspent funds from 2008/09 to 2009/10. However, these funds will be subject to the 2008/09 grant conditions. It will be each authority's responsibility to ensure they meet the conditions.

Key Considerations

14. Consideration should be given to;
 - a. The DCLG conditions of the roll forward of the grant.
 - b. The impact of taking the ring-fencing and flexibilities in 2009/10.
 - c. The current year grant allocation's ability to cover current contract commitments.

Financial Implications

15. To consider the current projected underspend on the programme and the implications of the grant going into the Area Based Grant in 2010/11.

Legal Implications

16. None.

Risk Management

17. No applicable.

Consultees

18. Not applicable.

Appendices

19. None

Background Papers

- Notification from DCLG