

Heading: Funding to Support Homelessness Prevention and Reduction	
Ward: All	Cabinet lead: Paul Smith
Author: Carmel Brogan	Job title: Contracts & Commissioning Manager (Homelessness)
City Outcome overview: Tackling Bristol's homelessness crisis is one of the key objectives of the 2017 – 2022 Corporate Strategy. The services to be delivered will fit with Bristol existing strategic approach to preventing homelessness. The Preventing Homelessness Strategy has 6 key objectives – four of these are directly relevant to the programmes being funded by the DCLG. The bids also align with the Early Intervention approach - one of the three key objectives in the Housing Strategy.	
Equalities Outcome overview : The EQIA for the Housing Strategy and the Preventing Homelessness Strategy provides a useful overview. A revised EQIA is not required as the DCLG funded projects are subject to detailed monitoring including equalities monitoring. This will enable us to report on the beneficiaries of the projects and the positive impacts delivered.	
Impact / Involvement of Partners overview: The initial applications were supported by a range of external bodies, agencies and providers. Key partners include: Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group (potential co-commissioner), Bristol Supported Housing Forum, Golden Key, Bristol Mental Health, Bristol ROADS (Recovery Oriented Alcohol and Drugs Services), National Offenders Management Service, Avon and Somerset Police, Bristol Learning City Partnership, Bristol and Bath Regional Capital CIC and Public Health. Key partner agencies remain involved in the delivery of the grant funded projects – as set out in Appendix A	

Approx Cost: £2.559M	Revenue:		Saving			
Proposed budget: Housing Options (with a new cost centre 15047 for SIB)						
Finance narrative:						
BCC has been successful with three separate funding awards from the DCLG for tackling homelessness in the City. The amounts and profile of this funding is set out in the table below:						
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer	£100,000	410,000	415,000			£925,000
Rough Sleeper Grant	£42,542	£170,162	£170,162			£382,866
Entrenched Rough Sleeping Social Impact Bond, set up, quality monitoring and evaluation	£90,000	£20,000			£16,000	£126,000
Entrenched Rough Sleeping Social Impact Bond – payment by results*						£1,125,000
TOTAL						£2,558,866
*the payment by results will be drawn down from DCLG upon achievement of outcomes and therefore has not been profiled across financial years at this stage.						

The 2016/17 grant payments of £100,000 for the Trailblazer, £42,542 for the Rough Sleepers Grant and £90,000 of the £126,000 set up, quality monitoring and evaluation costs for the Social Impact Bond have been determined under a section 31 grant. It is currently being clarified when the £36,000 balance of the setup, quality monitoring and evaluation costs will be determined and at this stage it has been assumed to be as per the table above, based upon the application made by BCC. Unspent amounts in 2016/17 have been requested by the Service to be carried forward to 2017/18 to be utilised for the purpose as set out in this report and Appendix A.

Amounts for future years are assumed to be received in accordance with the basis of the application as set out in the table above. The total amounts of funding awarded have been confirmed by the DCLG bid announcement communication, however the precise timing of these grant payments will be confirmed for planning purposes.

The mechanism for drawing down the £1,125,000 funding for the payment by results element of the Entrenched Rough Sleeper Social Impact Bond is set out in Appendix 2. In summary payments will be made from DCLG on the basis of evidenced outcome claims submitted over a quarter. DCLG will make payment to the local authority for outcomes the quarter after they have been submitted. BCC will need to build into the contract with the provider back to back arrangements such that BCC is only paying the provider after it has received the funding from DCLG.

Across all three initiatives there are no financial implications for the general fund in 2017/18 or thereafter given that the activity is to be solely supported by the DCLG funding award.

Finance Officer: Robin Poole: Finance Business Partner

Summary of proposal:

To update on three successful bid submissions to the Department of Communities and Local Government. The total amount awarded is £2.559M. The awards are for:

- Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers Grant
- Rough Sleepers Grant
- Social Impact Bond

These programmes are fully funded through the bids and no additional or matched BCC funding is required.

The Social Impact Bond, a joint initiative with Bristol CCG and Safer Bristol, requires approval for the selection process to decide on a partner to deliver the programme. There is a recommendation to enter into a contract with the partner to ensure that the programme is in place by October 2017.

Key background points:

Homelessness, including rough sleeping, is increasing in Bristol.

The three successful DCLG-funded initiatives fit with current work to understand and improve our approach to preventing and/or reducing homelessness and the associated wider impacts.

Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers

Bristol's Housing Options service is reinvigorating its approach to preventing homelessness in the first place and has completed a service redesign as part of that aim. The first successful application – Trailblazer bid – aligns well with this work. Helping us to work much more closely with private landlords, the families of young people and debt advice organisations to tackle the most common causes of homelessness, which intelligence tells us is private rental (assured) tenancies coming to an end and people being asked to leave the family home. And will analyse the routes into homelessness amongst our cohort to help to prevent people at an earlier stage from becoming homeless.

The services will be provided by the Council through the establishment of a new prevention team within

Housing Options (building on the success of the Advice Plus project) and voluntary sector advice agencies.. BCC redundancy costs, if necessary at the end of the funding period, have been factored into the staffing level/duration so that there will be no financial implications for the general fund in 2017/18 or thereafter.

Housing Benefit and Think Family data will be used to identify households at risk of homelessness and then trial early intervention actions to see if we can prevent homelessness.

The targets for the new service include to:

- Increase the number of Prevention cases by 20% over 2 years: we currently achieve approximately 1,000 prevention outcomes per quarter.
- Decrease the number of homelessness duty accepted cases by 10% over 2 years: improved prevention will lead to fewer households having a duty accepted.
- Decrease by half the total number of households in spot purchased private sector Temporary Accommodation (TA) - to 150 by 2020. This includes work to prevent family homelessness and reduce the number of households accommodated by Early Help. We are currently accommodating 300 households in this form of TA.

Rough Sleeping

The rough sleeping grant provides additional funding resources to help those new to the streets, or at imminent risk of sleeping rough, to the rapid support they need.

The target for the Rough Sleepers Grant is to help over 600 individuals avoid a night on the streets (and associated risks associated with sleeping rough). It is anticipated this will be achieved through:

- 15% (90 people) helped to secure accommodation with friends or family.
- 15% (90 people) helped to access the private rented sector;
- 30% reconnected to where they have accommodation

And the remaining 30% (155 individuals with support needs) being referred directly into temporary supported accommodation.

Entrenched Rough Sleeping – Social Impact Bond

Through the Entrenched Rough Sleeping Social Impact Bond funding, we aim to commission a service specifically targeted at a named cohort of 125 rough sleepers who the current system is failing - providing personalised support to these individuals who are currently entrenched within the homelessness system.

The outcome payments criteria and rates are already set up – with a 100% payment by results contract fully funded by the DCLG. The payments are linked to achieving better outcomes in three domains: accommodation, better managed health needs and entry into employment.

Grant Conditions

The Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers Grant, the Rough Sleeping Grant funding and the set up costs for the SIB have been awarded as Section 31 grant of the Local Government Act 2002.

The DCLG terms also state that:

Your acceptance of the funding commits you to becoming a Homelessness Prevention SIB/Trailblazer, which includes committing to work closely with the Department to improve our homelessness data and evidence base.

Further details on terms and conditions are set out in paragraph 31, Appendix A of this report.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to make the following decisions:

- Approve the establishment of a Social Impact Bond by procuring a provider and contracting with them to fund and deliver a service to reduce rough sleeping, all contractual payments will be based on the achievement of outcomes and funded by payments from the DCLG, to the value of £1.125M.
- To note the receipt of funding and any grant conditions, and note a delivery programme for all three elements of the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Homelessness Prevention Funding Programme.

Legal Issues:

The procurement of the provider will need to comply with the usual procurement regulations so far as applicable and the Councils own procurement rules. It is noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Safer Bristol and the CCG is proposed to secure appropriate information sharing arrangements.

Data protection issues will need to be addressed in both the MoU and the contract with the provider both generally and in order that the Council can meet its commitments to DCLG. There is a template contract for the SIB provider which we will review and adapt to meet our requirements.

Legal Officer: Eric Andrews

DLT sign-off	SLT sign-off	Cabinet Member sign-off
[Strategic Director] [15.2.17]	[CEO] [11.4.17]	[Cabinet Member] [date]

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	yes
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	yes
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	yes
Appendix D – Risk assessment	Yes – in appendix A
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	Yes – in appendix A
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	no
Appendix G – Exempt Information	no