



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th JULY 2022

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL –
DRAFT HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME STRATEGY 2022/26**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR – PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION &
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CLLR. ROBERT
HARRIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the draft Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022 - 2026 to Cabinet for consideration and approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve the Rhondda Cynon Taf Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022 -2026 as set out at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Subject to approval of the Strategy, support the development of a comprehensive Delivery Plan and Investment Strategy to secure achievement of the Strategy priorities over the next 4 years and specifically to identify the financial requirements and funding opportunities to deliver the development of additional supported housing schemes, including a new scheme to replace the Mill Street Hostel, and to offer further shared housing provision throughout RCT to reduce use of bed and breakfast accommodation.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Approval of the Strategy will ensure the Council complies with the legal requirements of Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. In order to ensure the commitments set out in the Strategy can be achieved, there are significant capital and revenue funding implications. Achievement of the Strategy will need to be secured through a realistic and financially viable Delivery Plan and Investment Strategy that identifies

the financial requirements and seeks to use both existing and new funding opportunities through sources including the Welsh Government's Social Housing Grant and Housing Support Grant Programmes, Registered Social Landlord funding and private sector investment where appropriate. Where new funding cannot be identified, the Delivery Plan and Investment Strategy may need to consider any requirements to decommission services currently being delivered in order to recommission new services to meet the new and emerging needs. Any opportunities from or impacts on the Social Housing Grant Programme for the next three years will also need to be considered.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Housing Support Grant (HSG) is a revenue funding stream and an amalgamation of three existing grants; Supporting People Programme, Homelessness Prevention Grant, and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement.
- 4.2 The HSG is an early intervention grant programme to support activity, which prevents people from becoming homeless through stabilising their housing situation, or helps potentially homeless people to find and maintain their accommodation.
- 4.3 The HSG does not fund the statutory duty on local authorities to prevent homelessness, instead HSG funded services augment, complement and support the statutory service. The purpose of the HSG is to prevent homelessness and support people to have the capability, independence, skills, and confidence to access and/or maintain a stable and suitable home.
- 4.4 The HSG supports the aim of working together to prevent homelessness and where it cannot be prevented ensuring **"it is rare, brief and un-repeated"** To do this we need to tackle the root cause of homelessness and work together to enable people to stay in their own homes longer.
- 4.5 The HSG seeks to secure "A Wales where nobody is homeless" and everyone has a safe home where they can flourish and live a fulfilled, active and independent life".
- 4.6 Any person in need of support to prevent them becoming at risk of homelessness, to address homelessness or achieve a more stable housing circumstance, is eligible to receive housing support. If they are eligible to receive help under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2014, regardless of their tenure or lack of tenure.

5. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 5.1 This strategy incorporates the wider vision of the Council and is aligned with our wider corporate plans to ensure the Housing Support Programme supports us to meet our overall ambitions for RCT, particularly through our Corporate Plan. Promoting independence through information and advice and support services and extending the choice of housing available for the most vulnerable are common themes across the Council's policy portfolio relevant to homelessness and housing support. The causes of homelessness and the solutions to it are complex and there are several corporate policy areas that are working collectively to help us deliver this strategy.
- 5.2 Our Corporate Plan, **Making A Difference**, sets out our priorities and directs everything we do. Our vision is to make Rhondda Cynon Taf

'The best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy and prosperous.'

The Council's Housing Strategy Team are currently undertaking a **Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)**. The needs identified within the LHMA will cover some of the need areas addressed in the Housing Support Grant Programme Strategy and this will enable us to consider accommodation of all tenure types including supported housing provision.

6. THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

- 6.1 There is a legal requirement to develop a single strategy called the "Housing Grant Support Programme Strategy" (HSP). This incorporates the local authority's statutory duty to produce a Homelessness Strategy and the strategic planning requirements for the HSG, becoming the single strategy for homelessness prevention and support. These mechanisms to develop the strategy have been used to inform the entirety of our Housing Support Programme' that encompasses both the statutory homelessness duty funded through the revenue settlement and non-statutory preventative services funded through the HSG.
- 6.2 The Housing Support Programme Strategy as the single strategic document on housing support and homelessness prevention, also satisfies the existing statutory requirements for a homelessness strategy under Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 with the requirement not to produce a separate strategy as required in previous years.
- 6.3 A requirement also of the strategic planning process is the need carry out a comprehensive needs assessment which must be undertaken

every four years, with a light touch review every two years. This should provide a single strategic view of our approach to homelessness prevention and housing support services.

7. RHONDDA CYNON TAF HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME STRATEGY

7.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf Housing Support Programme Strategy was developed further to a review of homelessness services in the area, undertaken between October and December 2021. The approach taken has been one of co-production. An independent consultant was commissioned to undertake the Homelessness Review which offered an independence from the Council and a fresh perspective to inform the Strategy.

7.2 There is no single reason why someone can end up without a home. Often someone facing homelessness approaches the Council for housing assistance for many reasons. The pandemic has changed the landscape across all aspects of our lives in Wales. The Everyone In approach by Welsh Government has led to the removal of the Priority Need Order significantly increasing the number of homelessness presentations and placements in temporary accommodation, particularly for single homeless people who have multiple support needs including mental health, substance dependency and an offending history.

7.3 The new RCTCBC Housing Support Programme Strategy builds on the success of the previous Homelessness Strategy and proposes to continue to focus on prevention and early intervention, whilst also undertaking targeted work on the identified issues highlighted in the Needs Assessment. The new strategy clearly sets out the practical and many ways the Council will achieve its aims and objectives in preventing homelessness and commissioning and delivering housing related support services in partnership.

8. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

8.1 A comprehensive **Needs Assessment** (Appendix 2) was undertaken and this key finding are summarised in the **Statement of Need**, at Appendix 3. It identifies the key issues that need to be addressed through the HSP strategy and specific imperatives for RCTCBC in discharging its statutory duties to prevent and alleviate homelessness. The Needs Assessment was undertaken in line with Welsh Government guidance and combines a wide range of quantitative data with intelligence gathered through extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders. A consultation exercise was conducted with partners and stakeholders seeking their comments on the homeless services in

RCT. The key findings from this exercise have been incorporated into the Strategy but include:

- 8.2 **524** individuals, families and groups were placed in temporary accommodation in 2020/2021. **40%** of the **524** were placed in temporary accommodation multiple times, leading to a total of **852** placements in 2020/2021. **852** placements represent an increase of nearly **257** placements year-on-year, from **595** in 2019/20
- 8.3 The highest percentage of placements in temporary accommodation relates to **single person male households (62%) with an offending background**, which has been a pattern throughout the last two years following the removal of the Priority Need Order in 2020
- 8.4 In 2020/21 homeless **applications by single people accounted for 782 of the 1025 homeless presentations received**. This is particularly relevant to male applicants aged 25+ who made up 60% of homelessness presentations in 2021/22. Many of whom also presented with high support needs linked with a history of offending and substance misuse issues. However, it is pleasing to note that **young people aged 16 and 17 represented only 2% of our cohort** placed in temporary accommodation in 2021.
- 8.5 **Breakdown of relationship with family and friends, leaving prison and loss of rented accommodation**, are the three main reasons for homelessness presentations in RCT over the past three years.
- 8.6 The **complexities and high support needs of clients** presenting as homeless is of concern and has caused significant challenges in trying to secure suitable temporary placements and longer- term move on housing options particularly for our increasing offender cohort
- 8.7 A review of repeat homelessness applications identified **most of the repeat homelessness cases in RCT are made up of prison leavers**. Many of whom have complex needs linked with alcohol and substance misuse addiction.

9. RAPID REHOUSING PLAN

- 9.1 The Rapid Rehousing Plan forms a key element of the Housing Support Programme Strategy and is provided at Appendix 4. This plan within the overall Strategy is a specific requirement of Welsh Government and outlines how we will help meet the needs of clients presenting with complex needs, through the transition of a rapid rehousing approach. As well as supporting our Housing First project, the Plan will seek to enhance our homelessness prevention work and help develop alternative forms of temporary accommodation by moving

away from the use of bed and breakfast accommodation. It is clear the success of the Rapid Rehousing Plan is highly dependent on the wider Council response and other key strategies which impact on the social and economic conditions locally. There are no short-term solutions to many of the challenges faced which will take time and both capital and financial resources and effective joined up working to make the changes required.

The challenges to delivering a rapid rehousing approach include:

- 9.2 **Temporary Accommodation** - There are currently around 138 households in temporary accommodation as at 29/06/22. There is a need to improve move-on options and develop new housing options to help prevent long stays in accommodation and to develop a rapid rehousing approach, so that single people and families can exit homelessness quickly. However current housing market pressures including increasing demand to provide accommodation for households seeking asylum and fleeing war torn countries are compounding the significant challenges in meeting the accommodation needs.
- 9.3 **Demand for Social Housing** - There are over **4,952** households on the RCT Homefinder Waiting List. It is important to note that social housing will not be able to meet the needs of everyone going forward with demand for social housing outstripping supply with **4,952** applicants currently registered on Homefinder RCT as at 31st March 2022 with **2,448** of those applicants requiring a 1- bedroom property and **138** placed in Band A of which **104** have a 1- bedroom need. Out of necessity, we are already allocating a high proportion of our social housing to homeless clients placed in Band A. In 2020/21 over 50% of general lets were made to homeless clients which has also led to a reduction in the average waiting time for these clients.
- 9.4 We recognise there are many applicants who are not homeless who are in significant housing need and therefore demand for social housing cannot be met by the current supply despite our ambitious new build plans
- 9.5 **Private Rented Sector Accommodation** - Access to the private rented sector in Rhondda Cynon Taf has historically been challenging for single person households. The availability of properties to rent in the private rented sector dropped dramatically during the Pandemic particularly for households in receipt of welfare benefits. In consideration of the current housing market pressures which has led to an increased demand for private rented accommodation, private landlords can pick and choose their tenants, particularly where persons can afford to pay market rent and offer advance rental payments.

- 9.6 The Rhondda Cynon Taff Needs Assessment highlights a lack of accommodation for people to move into or to move on from supported or temporary accommodation. A key part of the move on accommodation market is the Private Rented Sector (PRS) but since the pandemic and the increase in house values in RCT. Many private landlords no longer want to work with Council referred clients, preferring to find their own tenants.
- 9.7 Affordability remains a significant challenge with the gap between Local Housing Allowance (LHA) and the average private rent being totally unrealistic and out of reach for many people. This is an issue for all parts of Rhondda Cynon Taff, but is a particular challenge for the Taff area which has higher rents but grouped in the same Broad Rent Market Area (BRMA) as the Rhondda area which has lower rents. It is therefore impossible to secure properties in the Taff area within the LHA rate making all private rented accommodation in most parts of Taff unaffordable particularly for those in receipt of welfare benefits and low incomes.
- 9.8 Many single homeless people are frozen out of the private rented sector, limiting housing options and placing even more pressure on the already high demand for social housing. For families requiring access to larger properties there is a benefit cap This particularly affects household on a low income and/or entitled to benefits which are assessed on the LHA rate making the private rented sector less affordable for these groups.
- 9.9 **The development of specialist provision** for a small cohort of individuals in the homelessness system with high support needs who are unable to sustain a traditional tenancy is both challenging and complex. This will require a wider corporate and partnership approach with Health and Adult Social Care.

10. VISION FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION IN RCT

- 10.1 Our vision for homelessness prevention, relief of homelessness and housing related support services is directly aligned to the vision set out in our Corporate Plan, and its three underpinning principles.

The **vision** is that:

‘Statutory, third and private sector partners work effectively together to make sure that people in Rhondda Cynon Taf have access to suitable housing and can stay within their local communities. The right support is available within local communities, to prevent those at risk of becoming homeless from losing their homes. We strive to secure appropriate accommodation as swiftly as possible for those that have become

homeless, along with the right kind of personalised support, helping them to a secure future and optimising their wellbeing. Rhondda Cynon Taf is a place where homelessness is prevented or rare, brief and unrepeatable'.

- 10.2 Providing the right accommodation and high-quality support to people who are or may become homeless are principles that run through our approach. We will continue to develop our offer, building on what we have already established and what we have learnt through the Covid-19 pandemic.

11. HSP STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 11.1 In delivering our vision the following strategic priorities will be adopted by the Council and partners and include:

Priority 1: Strengthening early intervention and prevention approaches and specialised support to prevent homelessness

- 11.2 Prevention is core business in homelessness services and fundamental to our approach is to return to business as usual with a focus on homelessness prevention and improvement on pre-pandemic performance levels. We have a strong track record in prevention of homelessness with the number of households receiving prevention assistance and resulting in homelessness halving from 2015 to 2017.
- 11.3 Our prevention activity reduced slightly due to the limited housing and support options available during the Pandemic. Also linked with the main reasons for homelessness presentations in RCT during this time, being a significant increase in the **breakdown of relationship with family and friends** and the number of single people presenting as homeless **due to leaving Prison**.
- 11.4 Going forward we recognise early and timely intervention aims to reduce undue escalation to avoid crisis with a knock-on impact to health and independence. We will focus on the following areas to strengthen our approach to prevention:
- I. Ensuring there is a seamless corporate approach to prevention through the review of our Housing Solutions Service.
 - II. Review existing temporary accommodation arrangements to reduce our use of bed and breakfast accommodation to provide a high-quality provision based on our existing community support accommodation models.
 - III. Improve marketing and promotion of prevention and early intervention assistance.

Priority 2: Ensuring people who are homeless or threatened with Homelessness access the right home at the right time and in the right place, as part of our Rapid Rehousing approach

- 11.5 Fundamental to the Housing Support Grant Programme is being able to help people live independently in the community. This includes not just access but assessing and influencing the supply of suitable accommodation. Housing supply, particularly single bedroom accommodation is in particularly high demand in RCT including a difficult private rented market compounded by private rented sector rents set above the Local Housing Allowance rates and many private landlords leaving the market.
- 11.6 Lack of affordable / social housing in the borough remains a significant issue and will impact on our ability to prevent homelessness and to continue to effectively deliver Rapid Rehousing approach. We will focus on the following areas to strengthen our approach to rapid rehousing:
- I. Despite our accommodation challenges. We aim to build on the success of our Housing First project which assisted in 2021/22 34 single homeless people 25+ and 6 young people (aged 16-24) with complex needs through a rapid rehousing approach to access and sustain accommodation through intensive specialist outreach support provision.
 - II. We will ensure there is a seamless corporate approach to prevention activity and improving data sharing between Health, Housing, Probation, and support providers - including use of data for planning services. This will include the development of complex needs panel to offer more joined up service provision particularly those who have multiple support needs and often fall out of traditional service provision.
 - III. Increase generic supported accommodation provision duplicating existing models i.e., Abertonllwyd House and Martins Close helping us to reduce the use of B&B, particularly for service users with complex needs.
 - IV. Review our supported accommodation provision to respond to the increasing level of complex presentations through a multi-agency approach to targeting and managing risk.
 - V. Improving assessment and accessibility for single homeless people through the development of an Assessment Centre.
 - VI. Reducing reliance on the use of bed and breakfast and develop alternative temporary accommodation options, including

extending our shared private rented housing model by 15/20 units over the next three years, to offer more smaller more sustainable community-based provision.

- VII. Relocate Mill Street Hostel over the next two years (subject to the identification of a suitable building and funding) in order to increase the units of accommodation provision in a purpose built facility with multi agency service provision for single homeless people.
- VIII. Improve access to the private rented sector accommodation through the work of the Social Letting Agency.
- IX. Ensure new homes are built to improve move on from temporary accommodation and review local letting requirement

Priority 3: Providing high quality support to people who are or may become homeless, fully utilising available technology and ensuring effective cross-agency working

11.7 We know that timeliness and suitability of support is something that our service users depend upon. We will continue to innovate our offer as more becomes known of user needs, and as new technologies unlock the ability to support people in new and responsive ways. We will build on providing the right service to people with high, medium, and low support needs. This will include:

- I. Review how technology can be used to support people in their own home.
- II. Increase awareness of domestic abuse and develop earlier innovative support options for victims of domestic abuse.
- III. Develop new support provision for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- IV. To better address services for people with complex needs, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Outreach Health Team commissioned with Bridgend County Borough Council and Merthyr County Borough Council in partnership with Health and Barod Support workers. The Team is made up of a dedicated Substance Misuse and Mental Health Nurses, a General Nurse covering physical needs, Substance Misuse Support workers and trauma / counselling services.
- V. The continued input of the of the specialist outreach team is having a real and long- lasting impact on homelessness across Cwm Taf Morgannwg; supporting 166 individuals over the last

12 months who were placed in temporary accommodation or working with Housing First projects. Additional complex needs funding has been secured over the next 3 years to further develop the Outreach Health Team to ensure clear pathways are in place to support clients who move on from temporary accommodation into longer term accommodation and who may fall out of services.

Priority 4 – Work collaboratively to provide holistic person-centred support with effective specialist interventions

11.8 In order to deliver a more person-centred, holistic approach, we will focus on the following areas to strengthen our services:

- I. Identify joint funding arrangements with partners for the commissioning and delivery of services that require input from NHS, Social Services and Probation.
- II. Ensure closer working arrangements with Substance Misuse Area Planning Board to address complex/co-occurring challenges.
- III. Develop training, updates and briefings to staff and providers to keep abreast of service developments, good practice, innovation, and new practices via joint training sessions, HSG Planning Group, and local, regional, and national fora.

12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

12.1 The report identifies that full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is appended at Appendix 5. The purpose of the Equality Impact Assessment is to ensure that the Council has understood the potential impacts of the proposal in terms of equality so that it can ensure that it is making proportionate and rational decisions having due regard to its public sector equality duty.

13. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The report identifies that a Welsh language assessment has been carried out and is appended at Appendix 6 to ensure compliance with the [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#)

14. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

14.1 Stakeholders including service users were engaged in the development of the priorities for the HSPS through a series of on-line workshops,

one to one interview's and via questionnaires including a questionnaire to service users and group work.

- 14.2 The emerging findings of the comprehensive Needs Assessment (Appendix 2) were subject to scrutiny by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd November 2021 <https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=171&MId=50003732&Ver=4&LLL=0> The Committee also scrutinised progress with the Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022 and their feedback informed the development of the Final Strategy.

15. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 15.1 Delivery of the Strategy has significant financial implications, some of which can be met through existing grant programmes or Council resources. Achievement of the Strategy and in particular development of new housing provision to meet client needs, will need to be secured through a realistic and financially viable Delivery Plan and Investment Strategy.
- 15.2 It is anticipated that many of actions relating to support services which require revenue funding, as set out in the strategy can be met through a combination of existing general fund resources, Area Planning Board funding contribution, Health & Complex Needs Funding and Welsh Government Housing Support Grant (HSG). The level of Housing Support Grant awarded for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for 2022/23 has been committed and will remain at the current level for the next three financial years.
- 15.3 Despite additional Housing Support Grant funding made available by Welsh Government in 2021/22 and 2022/23, additional capital and revenue funding will be required in line with future ambitions a part of any plans for the relocation of Mill Street Hostel and development of new supported and temporary accommodation particularly for more specialist provision linked with accommodating individuals with high support needs. Where possible this will be considered through the Rhondda Cynon Taf Housing Support Grant Commissioning Plan and the RCTCBC Housing Support Grant Planning Group and the Social Housing Grant Programme. Where new funding cannot be identified, the Delivery Plan and Investment Strategy may need to consider any requirements to decommission services currently being delivered in order to recommission new services to meet the new and emerging needs. Any opportunities from or impacts on the Social Housing Grant Programme for the next three years will also need to be considered.
- 15.4 The continuing and long-term financial implications from Welsh Government's "No One Left Out" policy which was implemented at the start of the pandemic need to be kept under review as we continue to

manage the consequences of the change in legislation which has led to an increase in homelessness presentations and the number of people presenting with complex needs.

- 15.5 The impact of the **cost living crisis** is unknown at this time but will have an impact on our communities and vulnerable citizens and may lead to an increase in homelessness presentations which will place further demands on our homelessness prevention options and place additional financial pressures on the Council.

16. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 16.1 The below legislation also defines the environment in which the Housing Support Grant (HSG) is delivered and will need to be considered in delivering the activity funded through the Grant.

- Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
- Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 (VAWDASV (Wales) Act 2015).
- Equality Act 2010.
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and the Welsh Language Standards Regulations.
- General Data Protection Regulation, and the Data Protection Act 2018.

17. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 17.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Housing Support Programme Grant will contribute to the Council's Corporate three main priorities as followed:

Ensuring People are independent healthy and successful: Housing related support services in RCT help people live as independently as they can or move to more independent living through the provision of floating support and static accommodation. Additional specialist services such as the multi- agency Outreach Health Team and resilience / mental health programmes delivered through Cwm Taf Morgannwg Mind help all members of our communities to overcome and or manage their health needs to become healthy and independent and to lead successful lives.

Creating places: where proud to live work and play: HSG funded support services also play a crucial role in preventing homelessness and enabling people to manage their own lives and live confidently in

safe secure homes. The RCT Locality Based Floating Support Project supported in 2021/22 over 1,000 households to maintain their tenancies. Tackling loneliness and isolation is a key element of the work provided by HSG support services who help build up well-being personal confidence and self-esteem helping individuals to engage in activities their local communities. Our support services also work closely with other Council departments i.e., Communities for Work to assist clients who are part of our support pathways to access volunteering, training, and employment opportunities.

Enabling prosperity: creating the opportunity for people and businesses: to be innovative; be entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper: Housing Related Support services are available to help people gain the necessary life skills to enable them to prosper and seek their own personal goals. For some of our homeless young people this year, this has encouraged them to be part of national sports events such as the Homeless World Cup which has changed their lives and led them to prosper and maximise their personal opportunities.

- 17.2 The Sustainable Development Principle and the 5 ways of working have been fully considered throughout the development of the Strategy, which is heavily focused on homelessness prevention and meeting the long term needs of people, who are homeless or threatened with homelessness through sustainable housing and support options.

The strategy has involved all relevant partners and clients in all aspects of delivery of the strategy and will work in collaboration going forward to address the economic, social, and cultural challenges faced to find shared sustainable solutions.

- 17.3 The values underpinning the HSPS and the principles underpinning strategic planning for the prevention and relief of homelessness across public services are set out below: These and the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2014 should shape the overall approach used across the whole of the housing support sector.

- Tackling and preventing homelessness is a whole public services matter rather than simply a 'housing matter'.
- All services should place the individual at the centre, working to their strengths and supporting them to achieve their aspirations.
- Services should be commissioned and delivered in a psychologically informed way considering the impact of trauma on people who require support, to achieve a sustainable and long-term impact. This includes the five components of psychologically informed approaches: the psychological framework; relationships;

staff support and training; evidence generating practice; and physical environment.

- 17.4 In consideration of the wellbeing goals and the HSG principles underpinning strategic planning for the prevention and relief of homelessness for public services, the HSPS aims to improve the quality of life for many local people living in our communities in RCT through an early intervention and prevention approach. As well as improving the quality of life for our future generations through long term support interventions. These include highlighting clients who will need long term ongoing housing related support to help them sustain their home to prevent repeat homelessness through loss of accommodation.

18. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

- 18.1 The Housing Support Programme Strategy is a Strategic Plan with opportunities and implications across the whole County Borough to meet the goals set out therein.

19. CONCLUSION

- 19.1 Demand on our homelessness and support services is increasing with the needs of our clients are becoming more complex. In meeting these needs the Homelessness Support Grant Programme Strategy sets out our vision to offer earlier intervention options and services and increase the provision of more sustainable housing options for challenging clients. Over time, this aims to reduce the level of demand on homeless services and change the focus from crisis intervention to enable the Council to improve the life chances of the homeless and those at risk of homelessness and have a positive impact on our communities. There are significant financial implications associated with delivering the strategy and these need to be identified and outlined in a detailed Delivery Plan and Investment Strategy.

Appendices

The following appendices are attached:

Appendix 1 - RCTCBC Housing Support Grant Programme Strategy

Appendix 2 - Needs Assessment

Appendix 3 - Statement of need.

Appendix 4 – RCTCBC Rapid Rehousing Plan.

Appendix 5 - Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 6 - Welsh Language Impact Assessment

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18th JULY 2022

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CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

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Background Papers:

None

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