

9<sup>th</sup> January 2008 2pm

## **Present**

Janine Edwards – Leaving Care Manager  
Kate Elmer – Housing Strategy and Review Manager  
Kevin Fortey – Housing Enabling Officer  
Beverly Harrison – Planning Manager Children's Services  
Malcolm Topping – Supporting People Manager  
Steve Roberts – Housing Allocations and Advice Manager  
Chris Edmunds – LHB Development Officer

## **Apologises**

Clare Lane - Children and Young People's Framework Officer (Lead on Young People 11-25)  
Janet Sandercock – Housing Advice Manager

### **1. Update on SPOP priorities on 29<sup>th</sup> September meeting**

MT fed back result of Adult Joint strategic Planning Group meeting where the three priorities agreed by this group were discussed i.e.

- Family Homeless hostel
- Supported lodging scheme
- Extension of existing floating support service for young people.

The redistribution of supporting people funding has now been delayed until April 2009 and the formula for redistribution will be consulted on in summer of 2008. (It is envisaged that this process will release significant additional funding to Caerphilly to develop services to meet the needs identified in Supporting People Operational Plan)

A final decision on what new services will be prioritised will now be made in the Autumn of 2008 by the AJSPG. The implications of the redistribution of funding will be modelled for Caerphilly and the predicted additional funding can be allocated to those new schemes that need to be most urgently developed.

#### *Updates*

#### Family Homeless hostel

KF confirmed that a bid had been made for Social Housing Grant to construct a 12-bed Family hostel in Caerphilly. A number of sites are being considered and initial indications are that WAG will approve the bid. Confirmation should be received by end of February.

The construction of this project will allow the existing 8 bed hostel to be utilised to cater for temporarily accommodating single homeless people.

#### Supported lodging scheme

JE confirmed that an advert for the post of Leaving Care supported accommodation/lodging officer was to appear on 17<sup>th</sup> January Western Mail. This is fourth attempt to recruit and the concern is that the funding may be utilised elsewhere if this recruitment is not successful! The job descriptions have been altered to appeal to someone from a supported housing background rather than social care. It was envisaged that the post would be involved in all aspects of accommodation for care leavers including developing a supported lodgings scheme and possibly setting up a 'nightstop' scheme where youngsters would be provided with safe emergency

accommodation for homeless young people aged 16-25 in the homes of approved volunteers.

#### Extension of existing floating support service for young people.

Currently Llamau provide a floating support service for young people that supports 12 units, the intention is at some stage to retender this contract and at that point additional funding could be utilised to increase the number of units and the specification could be structured to incorporate additional features for the service, such as the provision of 'out of hours' support.

### **2. Update on role of group – Terms of reference**

It was agreed that MT would draft terms of reference for the group and distribute them for comment.

### **3. Supporting People Budget forecast 2008/2009**

Final figures for Supporting People funding in 2008/2009 have not yet been formally released by Welsh Assembly Government, though initial indications are that there will be an increase of 2.8% on the current allocation.

It is envisaged that a 2% increase will be given to current providers as an inflationary uplift; this will leave approximately £80,000 for development of projects/infrastructure of the supporting people programme.

In addition to the above, a further £35,000 of Supporting People Revenue Grant funding will be available due to the cessation of a project. This funding is ring fenced for homeless type services and WAG will need to be informed and approved of its proposed reuse.

Initial indications are that it could possibly be utilised to supplement the floating support scheme for young people. Further discussion would take place, when the final SP budget for 2008/2009 was confirmed.

### **4. Option of bid for homeless Grant**

WAG has invited bids for The Homelessness Grant Programme for 2008/09 ([See appendix 1](#)) which will have two main elements. Part of the programme will be allocated for fixed term projects lasting a maximum of two years. The other part will be allocated to projects, which will be funded for initially three years and may be eligible for continuation funding, subject to review.

The Grant themes are

- Improving access to the private rented sector
- Improving access to health services
- Youth Homelessness
- Continuous monitoring of rough sleeping

Date for final submission of bid is 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008

It was noted that the bid would have a greater chance of acceptance, if an element of matched funding could be attached.

The increasing difficulty of young people in accessing accommodation due to lack of suitable properties and the under 25 housing benefit regulations have been identified by the Caerphilly Housing Forum. This is a problem for many young people and not just those threatened with homelessness.

KE proposed the setting up of flat/houseshare scheme utilising a website for young single people. A coordinator would be employed to coordinate all aspects of the programme including liaising with landlords, ensuring compatibility of applicants and prioritising those in greatest need.

Possible linkage into: -

- Tenancy bond scheme
- Assistance with housing benefit/housing allowances
- Access to floating support services
- Access to benefit maximisation services
- Utilisation of community furniture enterprise scheme
- Access to homeless prevention fund/ Discretionary housing payments

It was agreed that Jackie Shorte would be asked to look at examples of similar schemes in the UK and that KE would complete the application form and distribute for comments.

#### **5. Reporting on initial reviews of providers**

It was agreed that the Supporting People review and monitoring officer would present initial review reports on the following projects to the next meeting of the group.

- Victory Outreach
- Caerphilly and Cwm Rhymini Homestarts
- Caerphilly Homeless hostel
- Llamau floating support
- Trothwy Cyf floating support

MT to schedule next meeting for March 2009

## **Homelessness Grant 2008/2009 - Criteria and Themes**

The Homelessness Grant Programme for 2008/09 will have two main elements. Part of the programme will be allocated for fixed term projects lasting a maximum of two years. The other part will be allocated to projects, which will be funded for initially three years and may be eligible for continuation funding, subject to review.

All projects will be expected to address the objectives in The National Homelessness Strategy 2006-08, and bids should look to facilitate cross boundary working in line with the recommendations detailed in Sir Jeremy Beecham's Review of Local Service Delivery.

Schemes under the Homelessness Grant Programme can apply for grant for 1-3 years starting from 1 April 2008.

### **Fixed Term Projects**

Bids are invited from projects which involve organising / reconfiguring services for homeless people which join up service delivery across organisational and service boundaries. Also which provide solutions to prevent homelessness or improve opportunities for homeless people to access the service. Bids are also invited for projects, which disseminate or promote the application of proven good practice across Wales. Consideration will be given to other bids, which do not reflect the themes outlined below but meet the priorities on partnership working and regional working within the Welsh Assembly Government's Delivering beyond Boundaries agenda

Assessment of bids will take account of priority within this part of the programme for projects, which focus on the following aspects of homelessness:

- Improving access to the private rented sector
- Improving access to health services
- Youth Homelessness
- Continuous monitoring of rough sleeping.

### **Longer Term Funding**

Bids are invited for projects to provide services which address priorities in the National Homelessness Strategy.

Assessment of bids will take account of priority within this part of the programme for projects which focus on the following aspects of Homelessness:

- Improving Access to the private rented sector
- Youth Homelessness

### **General Criteria for Projects**

- Bids can not be submitted for existing projects.
- All Welsh local authorities are invited to submit bids for projects working with homeless people in Wales. Local authorities are also invited to co-ordinate and submit bids from voluntary organisations working with homeless people in Wales.
- Bids undertaken by voluntary organisations must secure (for other than 'all Wales' bids) a firm commitment from the local authority.
- Local authority endorsement of all applications is essential and there must be evidence of unmet need. Where a local homelessness strategy is in place this should identify the need and prioritise the scheme. Schemes should demonstrate that they work as part of a co-ordinated approach with other statutory or voluntary agencies.

- Funding is not available for capital expenditure i.e. new build, renovation etc. Application forms should indicate where any capital funding for the project is being obtained and give assurance that the capital funding is available.
- All projects must ensure that objectives, targets and performance measures are '**SMART**' (ie **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic and **T**ime-bound) and contain a timed project plan which includes milestone objectives. The Welsh Assembly Government will monitor performance against these and continued funding will be conditional on satisfactory performance.
- Any bid for a project aiming to tackle substance misuse must be accompanied by a letter from the Substance Misuse Action Team in the Community Safety Partnership.

In assessing eligible applications, priority will be given to:

- projects which form part of a local strategy for addressing the needs of homeless people and are aiming to meet identified unmet needs;
- projects which involve other appropriate agencies and strategies in addressing the underlying problems of homelessness;
- projects that build on existing successful work;
- projects which make best use of Assembly Government resources by matching with resources available from other sources.

The closing date for applications is 25 January 2008.

