

Report Title	Rough Sleeping Funding and Investment in Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme round 2
Portfolio Holder	Housing and Spatial Planning
Summary of decision being sought	Approval to accept and allocate funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC): - Approval to invest £100,000 of capital into Resonance's National Homeless Programme Fund 2 Approval to spend funds via the funding period of 2022-2025 through relevant processes.
Is this report exempt? No	Reason for exemption Not applicable
Is this a Key Decision	Yes
Local Authorities affected	Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral
<u>Impact and implications of this report</u>	
Financial impact	Yes, see paragraph 6.1
Delegation of decision sought and details of approval	Yes to Executive Director of Investment and Delivery in consultation with Executive Director - Corporate Services and the Monitoring Officer in respect of awarding contracts post procurement
Supporting the Corporate Plan <i>(Tick as appropriate)</i>	A Fairer City Region <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Stronger City Region <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Cleaner City Region A Connected City Region A Vibrant City Region
Climate Change Implications	Yes, see paragraph 6.3
Equality and Diversity implications	Yes, see paragraph 6.4
Social Value implications	Yes, see paragraph 6.5
Human Resources implications	Not directly, see paragraph 6.6
Physical Assets implications	No
Information Technology implications	No
Legal implications	Yes, see paragraph 6.9

Risk and Mitigation Implications	Yes, see paragraph 6.10
Privacy implications	Yes, see paragraph 6.11
Communication and consultation implications	Yes, see paragraph 6.12
Contact Officer(s)	Katie Fleeman, Homelessness Commissioning & Contract Lead katie.fleeman@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk 07748 180562 Victoria Kell, Strategic Policy Lead for Homelessness victoria.kell@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk 07584 145226
Appendices	No
Background Documents	

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: LCR Combined Authority

Meeting: 10 June 2022

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENT AND DELIVERY AND THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING AND SPATIAL PLANNING

Rough Sleeping Funding and Investment in Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme Round 2

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To notify the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority of the different funding streams being progressed by the Homelessness and Housing First service. The report seeks the Combined Authority's approval to accept the funding and agree to allocate and spend the funding as outlined in the report. The funding will be applied to the following areas of work: the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme and the Resonance National Homelessness Property 2 Fund; the Trailblazer Service and Housing First Psychology Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority:
- (a) approve the acceptance of the following funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC):
 - i. up to £900,000 in capital funding from the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme;
 - ii. up to £261,189 in revenue funding from the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme;
 - iii. up to a maximum of £1,272,191.64 services for Trailblazer services from the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) 5; and
 - iv. up to a maximum of £351,000 for Housing First Psychology Services.
 - (b) agree to invest £100,000 from SIF funding into the Resonance National Homeless Property Fund 2 as part of the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme funding proposal, as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of this report;
 - (c) delegate authority to the Executive Director of Investment and Delivery in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Monitoring Officer to approve the award of a contract following a procurement process for the services element of the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme and to approve any extensions of funding awarded by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC);

- (d) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Investment and Delivery in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Monitoring Officer to award the Contract for Trailblazer Services, following completion of a procurement process, to the successful bidder/service provider;
- (e) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Investment and Delivery in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Monitoring Officer to enter into Grant Agreements directly with the Local Authorities delivering the Trailblazer Services in the amounts as follows:
 - Halton Borough Council - £144,983.34
 - Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council - £140,433.00
 - Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council - £225,874.30
 - St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council - £257,977.00
 - Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council - £238,407.00
- (f) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Investment and Delivery in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Monitoring Officer to pay providers up to £45,000.00 of the training budget and up to £22,500.00 of the Personalisation budget; and
- (g) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Investment and Delivery in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer to award the contract for Housing First Psychology Services, following completion of a procurement process, to the successful bidder/service provider.

3. ROUGH SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

- 3.1 In January 2022, as part of the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP), the Combined Authority approved investment of £1,500,000 in the Resonance National Homeless Property Fund 2. This investment, alongside £4,500,000 investment from the Government Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Resonance (a social investment company) is securing a minimum of 60 properties across the City Region for people who are, or are likely to be, rough sleeping.
- 3.2 In February 2022, DLUHC announced a further round of the RSAP and a bid for a further investment in the Resonance National Homeless Property Fund 2 has been submitted by officers. The outcome of this bid is not yet known.
- 3.3 The bid seeks £900,000 capital investment from DLUHC alongside £100,000 capital from the Combined Authority and £1,000,000 from the Resonance National Homeless Property Fund 2. The contribution from the Combined Authority of £100,000 has been identified through capital receipts generated from the repayment of SIF loans. The total investment is intended to secure approximately 18 properties specifically aimed at females who have, or are likely to, sleep rough. Support for households in the properties is intended to be provided through the use of the revenue ask in the bid for £261,189.

- 3.4 The need for these properties has been determined through discussions with Local Authority Housing Officers during the last quarter with requirements for this bespoke offer being requested and evidenced by Liverpool City Council.
- 3.5 Members will recall details of the RSAP grant conditions as well as the terms and conditions of the Resonance National Homeless Property Fund 2 were considered at a recent meeting of the Combined Authority on 21 January 2022.

4. TRAILBLAZER SERVICES

- 4.1 Since March 2018, the Liverpool City Region has been receiving funding from DLUHC as part of their Trailblazer Programme. The City Region has provided grant funding to Local Authorities which develops and implements innovative approaches to homelessness prevention. Across the City Region, the services are delivering advice and assistance to people at risk of homelessness as an early intervention strategy reflective of the needs in the local area.
- 4.2 Through the provision of continued funding from DLUHC and the subsequent distribution of part of this funding to a successful supplier/service provider, it is anticipated that this will ensure continuity of this service within the Liverpool City Region area. The current providers are the Whitechapel Centre, Riverside, and Creative Support.
- 4.3 The funding for the Trailblazer Service as well as the oversight and reporting to DLUHC is managed by the Homelessness Strategy Team within the Combined Authority. This ensures co-ordination across the City Region, the sharing of best practice and consistency of approaches to prevention.
- 4.4 The most recent funding programme, the Rough Sleeping Initiative 5 (RSI5) covers three years, 2022-25, for which a funding proposal was submitted to Government in February. The funding proposal will continue some of the services previously delivered as well as developing new services to reflect current needs in Local Authority areas. Grant funding for the delivery of those services by City Region Local Authorities, will be provided by the Combined Authority to them following approval of receipt and allocation of the funding.

5. HOUSING FIRST PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

- 5.1 A funding request was submitted to DLUHC as part of the RSI fund, and through the separately identified Housing First fund to continue the psychology service which is currently commissioned as part of the Housing First service. The psychology service supports staff and wider services to develop psychologically and trauma informed care. The service supports direct intervention on mental health and behavioural issues for service users to help them engage with the programme and move off the streets, reducing homelessness.
- 5.2 With allocated funding from DLUHC for 2022-25, a procurement process will be carried out to appoint a new supplier/service provider so as to ensure continuation of the Housing First Psychology Service.

- 5.3 Across the current provision, the Housing First Psychology Service has developed in line with wider Housing First demand and is now an integral part of service delivery and wider systems change in relation to reducing homelessness for individuals with complex needs.
- 5.4 Through the provision of funding from DLUHC, and the subsequent awarding of this fund to a successful provider, we are hoping to ensure the continuation of this service within the Liverpool City Region.

6. IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial impact

Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP): The revenue grant of up to £261,189 will allow for the procurement of quality tenancy related support to ensure individuals moving into the properties secured through the capital fund will be able to positively sustain their tenancies.

The capital grant will require £100,000 of investment from the Combined Authority to be added to the Resonance contribution of £1,000,000 in order to attract the £900,000 investment from DLUHC. This is due to the match funding requirements of the grant which operate on a 55/45 ratio – 55% of locally sourced finance with 45% provided from Central Government. The CA contribution of £100,000 has been identified through capital receipts generated from the repayment of SIF loans.

Trailblazer: The funding of £1,272,191.64 from DLUHC will enable the continuation of the delivery of the Trailblazer service in delivering their response to early intervention and prevention of homelessness. Resource coordination and contract monitoring is included in this.

Funding for any extension of the service after the initial term will be confirmed closer to the time by DLUHC.

Housing First Psychology: The funding of £351,000 from DLUHC will enable the continuation of support for support workers and service users.

6.2 Supporting the Corporate Plan

All of the programmes being delivered via this funding align with Priority 1 of the corporate Plan: A Fairer City Region and will fall within Objective B to increase the range of support available to people experiencing poverty, exclusion and inequality.

6.3 Climate Change

It is not foreseen that there will be any implications for Climate Change through these services.

6.4 Equality and Diversity

For the Trailblazer funding, each Local Authority is responsible for delivering the service as part of their homelessness response and have therefore individually considered the equality and diversity implications as part of their funding ask.

As part of the data reporting, all commissioned services will be required to provide information on protected characteristics. The services proposed to be delivered through these funding sources ensure that access to services is fair and equitable whilst promoting inclusion in mainstream systems for those who may otherwise be excluded due to their social status.

The Homelessness Strategic Team operate within the framework of the LCRCA Equality and Diversity policies and procedures. Some of the most vulnerable people in society are being supported in all services, and staff ensure service users have their voice heard and needs addressed.

6.5 Social Value

This funding will improve the wellbeing of individuals within their communities and the community as a whole. It will support and enable service users to develop sustainable approaches to managing their tenancies and improving their wellbeing. It has the potential to enable service users to access employment opportunities, improve their health, both physically and mentally, and enable them to feel part of a community.

6.6 Human Resources

There are no Human Resource implications for any of these proposals. The trailblazer and psychology services will be commissioned out / procured and staff will therefore be directly employed by the successful supplier/Service provider. The only exceptions will be for the contract management and commissioning roles which shall be undertaken by the LCRCA Homelessness Strategic Team, whose roles have financial contributions from Housing First funding.

The Trailblazer services in Halton, Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral Boroughs will be delivered using Grant Funding Agreements. Each Local Authority delivering these Services will recruit and employ any staff delivering these Services.

6.7 Physical Assets

Not applicable

6.8 Information Technology

Not applicable

6.9 Legal

This funding is ring-fenced and is for the expenditure incurred in relation to the delivery of each of the funds outlined in this report. All Grant Funding Agreements will be prepared and/or reviewed by Legal Services.

All procurement activity will comply with both LCRCA Constitutional requirements and the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

6.10 Risks and Mitigation

The Department for Levelling up, Housing & Communities have co-produced all funding proposals alongside officers.

Any risks associated with failure to achieve the contractual outcomes are mitigated and managed with the level of contract monitoring. Monitoring meetings are held

with each Local Authority and service, regular regional team meetings are held where staff can share good practice and learning. Monthly performance updates will be submitted to DLUHC.

6.11 Privacy Implications

Both the successful supplier/service provider of the services described through the report and the LCRCA will be collecting data under their data protection procedures.

Under GDPR Regulation, a Data Protection Impact Assessment Impact (DPIA) must be in place prior to the award of the Contract. A DPIA will therefore be in place prior to awarding of any contracts.

6.12 Communication and Consultation

As the awarding of the grant will be under embargo until notified by DLUHC, we may be asked to not communicate widely but only to those who are in receipt of the funding. The embargo will be removed as soon as publication of the awards is placed on gov.uk.

7. **CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 This paper seeks a number of approvals to receive funding and allocate in line with the needs of that programme. Parameters of those funds are described through individual Memorandum of Understandings with DLUHC. The paper outlines the pre-approvals which officers are seeking agreement to proceed with.

DR AILEEN JONES
Executive Director of Investment and
Delivery

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