

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Contribution to Multi Agency Group on Homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic
Divisions Affected:	All divisions
'Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

A Multi Agency Group (MAG) has been formed across Surrey County Council, District & Borough Councils, Surrey Police and other partner agency to review and address issues relating to homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This group is exploring ways to reduce homelessness and in doing so reduce the risk of spreading the virus in the community.

This includes securing suitable accommodation for both suitable social isolation for positive cases and cross sector coaching and care in the community for people with complex needs to help them settle into new accommodation and prevent a return to homelessness.

The initial costs of the work of the new MAG is estimated to be £200k for the period through until the end of March 2021.

It is proposed Surrey County Council makes a £100k contribution towards these costs. This funding would be paid to local partner agencies and providers including housing, mental health and substance misuse via Public Health who are acting as the lead coordinator for the project.

Other funding for the work is expected to come from Office Police and Crime Commissioner and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government via the local collaborative bids that are currently being developed.

A longer term plan and funding for this work will be reviewed based on the outcomes of the findings of this work and pilot schemes.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was agreed that SCC pay £100,000 to housing, mental health and substance misuse via the Council's Public Health service who are acting as the lead coordinator for the delivery of the homelessness schemes being taken forwards by the new MAG.

Reasons for Decision:

To support COVID-19 infection control across Surrey and also to ensure some of Surrey's most vulnerable residents receive critical support to help reduce homelessness in the longer term.

Decision taken by:	Simon White – Executive Director for Adult Social Care Sinead Mooney – Cabinet Member for Adults
Decision taken on:	22 nd July 2020
To be implemented on:	Payments will be made as required through agreement with local partners and providers.

Alternative options considered

SCC could have chosen not to make a contribution. However, this would have left residents vulnerable and delayed action to help control the spread of the virus.

Summary of any financial implications

It is intended that SCC's £100,000 contribution will be funded out of the COVID-19 grant monies that government has provided to SCC.

Delivery of the projects planned by the MAG should have positive knock on financial impacts for supported housing, substance misuse and mental health services funded by SCC's Adult Social Care service.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

Decision taken in consultation with the members of Multi Agency Group (MAG) formed to tackle homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Directors for Adult Social Care and the Cabinet Member for Adults.

Background Documents

<p>Cabinet report 31st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.</p>	 <p>SCC Response to COVID-19</p>
<p>Surrey Multi-Agency Homeless Support Plan</p>	 <p>Surrey Multi Agency Homeless Support pla</p>
<p>Weekly surveillance monitoring for COVID-19 triage within homeless (Sensitive)</p>	 <p>Updated Weekly Surveillance Report.xl:</p>