



DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HOUSING SERVICES MANAGER	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	30 JANUARY 2023	13

FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE – DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The Environment, Health and Housing Committee, at the meeting to be held on 24 January 2023, will receive a report updating work of the service towards meeting the new Statutory Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Part IV to provide support in safe accommodation within their Local Authority Area. Fylde Council work in partnership across Wyre Council and Fylde Coast Women's Aid (FCWA) to support victims and their children. A Housing Outreach Worker has been appointed to engage and support female and male victims and their children, employed by FCWA working across both Authorities.

Funding for year two, 2022/23 has been awarded at £33,224 from MHCLG New Duties funding to undertake new Part IV duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Fylde Council intend to continue to work in partnership with Wyre Council and Fylde Coast Women's Aid (FCWA) and extend the project for a further 12 months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is requested to:

1. Approve a fully funded revenue budget increase for the total of £33,224 to be met by MHCLG New Duties funding (£2,768 2022/23 and £30,456 in 2023/24 to continue Part IV duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021).

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

[Homeless Reduction Act 2018](#)

[Fylde Coast Homelessness Trailblazer Evaluation 05/06/18](#)

[Final update on Fylde Homelessness Strategy 2013-18 06/11/2018](#)

[Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 draft for consultation 03/09/2019](#)

[Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 07/01/2020](#)

[MHCLG Next Steps Funding to support homeless households 19/10/2020](#)

[Update Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Dec 2020 05/01/2021](#)

[Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding 15th June 2021](#)

[Domestic Abuse Act 02/09/2021](#)

[Accommodation Project for Ex-Offenders and Rough Sleepers 02/11/2021](#)

[Update Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Dec 2021 05/01/2022](#)

[Lancashire Changing Futures Programme 05/01/2022](#)

[Update Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025](#)

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker

1. Local Authorities have new Statutory Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The four main objectives of the Act are to promote awareness of domestic abuse, protect and support victims, transform the justice process and improve performance from agencies in the response to domestic abuse. Tier 2 Authorities have new Part IV duties to provide support in safe accommodation within their local authority area.
2. Fylde Council, in order to take forward the new Part 4 duties work in partnership across Wyre Council and FCWA to support victims and their children.
3. A Housing Outreach Worker has been appointed to engage and support female and male victims and their children, employed by FCWA from November 2021. This enables signposting to support services and work jointly with each local authority housing service for re-housing options.
4. Fylde Council have a commissioned Sanctuary Scheme to support households experiencing domestic violence. The service enables victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so and where it is their choice. The service also ensures that when clients move into their new home security measures can be installed.
5. Fylde Council were awarded funding for 2021/2022 totalling £33,196. Funding is paid on an annual basis in the form of un-ringfenced grants under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 by MHCLG for a period of three years.
6. Funding covers 50% of the Housing Outreach role and a contribution towards legal costs totalling £18,500. The current project will be extended till the end of February 2023, due to a delay in the project being established and the project being suspended following the original worker leaving and waiting for the new Outreach Worker to be appointed.
7. Clients who approach the service as homeless as a result of Domestic Violence are referred to the Housing Outreach Worker for support. Since the project began in November 2021 a total of 34 clients to the end of September 2022 have received support.
8. The remaining funding £14,696, is placed in a separate fund, Domestic Abuse Act Initiatives, to support clients into accommodation. To date this funding has been used for storage and removals, Sanctuary Scheme measures, white goods, carpets and rent bond or rent in advance.
9. Funding for year two, 2022/23 has been awarded at £33,224 from MHCLG New Duties funding to undertake new Part IV duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
10. Fylde Council intend to continue to work in partnership with Wyre Council and FCWA to support victims and their children and commission a Housing Outreach Worker to engage and support female and male victims and their children, employed by FCWA with the remaining funding being used to enhance other support services in place, for example assistance with legal costs, above that budgeted in the project and

financial support for victims to move into new accommodation.

11. The 2022/23 funding will enable the extension of the project for a further 12 months. At the time of writing this report we are awaiting confirmation of costs for the Housing Outreach Worker and contribution to legal costs from FCWA, however a fully funded budget increase is requested to continue the Domestic Abuse Act initiatives and Housing Outreach role.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The committee is requested to approve a fully funded revenue budget increase for the total of £33,224 to be met by MHCLG New Duties funding (£2,768 2022/23 and £30,456 in 2023/24).
Legal	Statutory duties under the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 and Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025	January 2020	Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025
Fylde Council Tenancy Support Policy	January 2020	Fylde Council Tenancy Support Policy
MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy	August 2018	MHCLG The Rough Sleeping Strategy
Lancashire Changing Futures Programme	September 2022	Lancashire Changing Futures Programme
Domestic Abuse Act 2021	September 2022	Domestic Abuse Act 2021
Domestic Abuse Act Duty	February 2022	2022 to 2023 Allocations