

PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Purpose

1. To provide HPSG members with further information on the homelessness funding announcements made in the Programme for Government (PfG) on 3 September.

Introduction

2. In the PfG on 3 September the Scottish Government set out two new funding commitments for homelessness stating that this year we will:-
 - launch a fund of up to £4.5 million for third sector organisations on the frontline to innovate and transform the services they provide.
 - prevent homelessness for low-income families through supporting the work of social landlords to prevent crisis points with a new £1.5 million Homelessness Prevention Fund.

Third Sector Fund

3. This fund will be available from financial year 2020/21 and will support third sector organisations on the frontline to innovate and transform the services they provide in line with the direction set out nationally in our Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan and locally in Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans.
4. It is envisaged that the fund will have the option of providing multi-year funding, with £1.5m available a year for the next 3 years and the full parameters of the fund are in the process of being developed.
5. As part of the decision to introduce this new fund Ministers have decided not to open the Housing Voluntary Grant Scheme (HVGS) for bids in 2020/21. There were 11 organisations provided with grant funding through the HVGS that had some link to homelessness. SG officials are meeting with each of these organisations in the coming weeks, allowing them to feed in their views about the scope of the fund.

Homelessness Prevention Fund

6. This £1.5 million fund for RSLs will be available from 2020/21 to support families on low incomes and represents cross-government working, being jointly funded from the Ending Homelessness Together Fund and the Child Poverty Fund.
7. We know that Housing Associations already do a range of work with their tenants and are often well placed to build trusting, medium to long term relationships with families. It is proposed that this fund be targeted at small to medium sized social landlords on a test and learn basis initially to ensure that the good practice that already exists is spread across the sector and tests more innovative approaches.
8. Examples of the type of work that could be funded include the provision of easily accessible, proactive financial advice to maximise income from social security, reduce household costs and access employability support. Alternatively, it could

enable funding to be available to families directly in an emergency situation or to support families to make and strengthen social networks in the local community.

9. In addition to the Fund itself, we have also committed within the PfG to align Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans with Child Poverty Delivery Plans in every local authority area, reflecting the strong correlation between poverty and homelessness. We will also work with Job Centre Plus to see how they can better support families on low incomes when they access services, in light of the challenges they may face.
10. We have had initial discussions with SFHA about the framing of this fund and how we can seek to make the most of this pot of money, ensuring that it targets innovative projects and will continue conversations with them and other parameters as we develop the fund.

Ending Homelessness Together Fund

11. Given the announcement of additional funding for Rapid Rehousing made over the summer and the two new funds details in this paper, a table showing the amount of committed funding from the £50m Ending Homelessness Together Fund to date is provided for HPSG members information.

<i>£m – all funds are resource Committed funds only</i>	Year 1 18-19	Year 2 19-20	Years 3-5 20/21 – 22/23	TOTAL
Rapid Rehousing		8.000	16.000	24.000
Housing First pathfinders	1.250	1.250	1.250	3.750 ¹
RRTP – resource support	2.000			2.000
Third Sector Fund			1.800	1.800 ²
RSL Prevention Fund			0.750	0.750 ³
Frontline (winter) initiative	0.613	0.003		0.616
CHI – options appraisal	0.035			0.035
Action Plan publication	0.007			0.007
Streetreads	0.003			0.003
Consultation publication	0.001	0.001		0.002
Local Consultation analysis		0.007		0.007
Committed funds	3.909	9.261	22.500	32.970
Remaining funds				17.030

Discussion

12. We would invite HPSG members to share their views on how the scope and parameters of both the 3rd Sector Bid and Homelessness Prevention Fund should be set in order to achieve the objectives set out in PfG.

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¹ A total of £6.5m is being spent on pathfinders. £2.750m of funding is coming from health portfolio.

² Takes account that £2.7m of the £4.5m is former Housing Voluntary Grant Scheme funding.

³ A total of £1.5m is being spent on the RSL Fund. £0.750m of funding from the Child Poverty Fund.