

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 DECEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS GRANT

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval from Cabinet to enter into an agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (“RCT”), the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council regarding the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant 2019/20.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/other corporate priorities

1.2 The report links to the following improvement priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- **Supporting a successful economy** - we will take steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
- **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – we will take early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

1.3 The Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant 2019/20 (“ALN Grant”) is a Welsh Government grant funded scheme to support the delivery of the additional learning needs transformation programme, including the preparation for and management of the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2019 (“ALNET Act”).

3.2 RCT, acting as Lead Authority, submitted an application to Welsh Government for the ALN Grant on behalf of the council, the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council and third party providers (who are further education sector and local health boards in the regions of the councils).

- 3.3 The purpose of the ALN Grant is to support local authorities to develop and promote innovative, multi-agency and cross-sector working practices to support learners with additional learning needs (ALN) in readiness for the implementation of the ALNET Act
- 3.4 The ALN Grant must be used to support partnerships between local authorities and other agencies involved in supporting learners with ALN such as schools, further education institutes, early years providers, specialist post-16 providers, local health boards and the third sector.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The application for ALN Grant was successful and an award of funding for up to £949,656.00 was made to RCT as Lead Authority which will be allocated to each Council in accordance with the ALN Transformation Plan.
- 4.2 As Lead Authority, RCT is required to accept the terms and conditions of the ALN Grant as set out in the offer letter from Welsh Government. In order to deliver the project and ensure compliance with the terms and conditions set out in the offer letter, RCT requires the Council, along with the 3 other local authorities listed at paragraph 3.2, to enter into an agreement in relation to this ALN Grant. This agreement shall set out the roles and responsibilities of the councils and how the funding shall be allocated.
- 4.3 The Inclusion Service leads from each local authority meet on a monthly basis with the ALN Transformation Lead at the Transformation Board. During this meeting, the ALN Implementation Plan and grant spend is monitored.

5 Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no impact on the Council's policy framework or procedure rules

6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 It is considered that there will be no negative impacts from this report.

7 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

- 7.1 A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

Long-term

Supports the development of training needs and preparation for the implementation of the ALNET Act.

Prevention

The focus of the ALNET Act is meeting needs of learners with ALN at an early stage and preventing situations escalating resulting in needs not being met.

Integration

The integration of all stakeholders is promoted with the introduction of the ALNET Act.

Collaboration

The ALNET Act and the preparation of its introduction promotes places an emphasis on collaboration in order to achieve a person-centered approach.

Involvement

There is diversity concerning the involvement of stakeholders such as schools, parents/carers, Central South Consortium, local health, further education institutes, early years providers and specialist post-16 providers.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The total value of the grant is £949,656 however the amount available to local authorities is £824,656 as there is a retained element of £125,000 for the employment of the regional ALN Transformation Lead and associated costs and administration and finance support. This relates to the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Bridgend County Borough Council could expect to receive £70,350.
- 8.2 The funding is awarded to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as the designated lead authority and on behalf of the Central South Region which also includes Bridgend County Borough Council, Cardiff County Borough Council, Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - 9.1.1 Approves the Council entering into the agreement with RCT, the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council;
 - 9.1.2 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Education and Family Support in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Head of Legal and Regulatory Services to negotiate and agree the terms of the agreement and enter into the agreement.

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Background Documents:

ALN Transformation Plan