

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS TRANSFORMATION GRANT

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval from Cabinet for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to enter into an agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), Cardiff Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant 2021-2022.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study, and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications, and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 - **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy, and independent lives.
 - **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human, and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant 2021-2022 ('the ALN Grant') is a Welsh Government grant-funded scheme to support the delivery of the additional learning needs transformation programme, including the management of the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET Act).
- 3.2 RCTCBC, acting as the lead local authority, applied to Welsh Government for the ALN Grant on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), Cardiff Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Vale of Glamorgan 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) and in the management of 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.
- 3.5 Cabinet approved entering into a similar agreement on similar terms for the 2019-20 ALN Grant in December 2019 and in February 2022 for the 2020-2021 grant.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The application for the ALN Grant was successful and an award of funding for up to £943,845 was made to RCTCBC as lead local authority which will be allocated to each council in accordance with the ALN Implementation Plan.
- 4.2 As lead local authority, RCTCBC is required to accept the terms and conditions of the ALN Grant as set out in the offer letter from Welsh Government. To deliver the project and ensure compliance with the terms and conditions set out in the offer letter, RCTCBC requires BCBC, along with the three other local authorities listed at section 3.2 of this report, to enter into an agreement in relation to the ALN Grant. This agreement shall set out the roles and responsibilities of the councils and how the funding shall be allocated.
- 4.3 The ALN Implementation Plan is monitored by Group Manager(Learner Support) and is reported to senior management on a quarterly basis as part of the Education and Family Support Directorate Business Plan.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report; therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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

- 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 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 implementation of the ALNET Act.

Collaboration

The ALNET Act and its implementation places an emphasis on collaboration to achieve a person-centred 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 for 2021-2022 is £943,845. However, the amount available to local authorities, schools, further education providers and Health is £818,845 as there is a retained element of £125k for the employment of the regional ALN Transformation Lead and associated costs and administration and finance support. The allocation of grant spend for local authorities is £248,925 of which BCBC expects to receive £41,779.
- 8.2 The funding is awarded to RCTCBC as the designated lead authority and on behalf of the Central South Region which also includes BCBC, Cardiff Council, Vale of Glamorgan Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- approves the Council entering into the agreement with RCTCBC, Cardiff Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Grant 2021-2022; and
 - delegates authority to the Corporate Director Education and Family Support to negotiate and agree the final terms of the agreement with the other Councils and enter and arrange execution of that agreement, subject to such

delegated authority being exercised in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy.

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Background documents ALN Transformation Plan