

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

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| Report to: | Cabinet |
| Date of meeting: | September 7 th , 2021 |
| Title: | Securing premises for delivery of Substance Misuse Services in Ceredigion. |
| Purpose of the report: | To obtain Cabinet approval for Ceredigion Local Authority to act as Local Banker for Welsh Government Capital Funding to support the delivery of Substance Misuse Services in Aberystwyth. |
| For: | Decision |
| Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member: | Councillor Dafydd Edwards, Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services, Housing and Customer Contact |

Background

Offices at 25 North Parade, Aberystwyth have been used as a base to deliver Substance Misuse Services for a significant number of years supported by Ceredigion County Council. At present Barod, specialist substance misuse organisation (previously known as Drugaid) has been based there since 2015 and in 2016 Cabinet supported the decision to secure funding from Welsh Government for 5 years to secure the lease for the premises.

The base in North Parade is a multi-agency substance misuse centre based in the town centre of Aberystwyth. The building houses DDAS (Dyfed Drug and Alcohol Service) which provides integrated criminal justice and generic substance misuse services aimed at adults. They also provide support and advice to “concerned others”, family or friends of those misusing substances. Cyfle Cymru are also based in the building and are a peer mentoring project designed to work with DDAS’s Recovery team to support individuals who have been through substance misuse treatment back into volunteering, education and employment. Choices staff are also located at North Parade, who are the substance misuse professionals for individuals under the age of 18. Choices are also a service led by Barod. The building currently also houses staff from Supporting People’s Floating Support team and regular meetings held by mutual aid groups including Alcohol Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

Services provided from North Parade include:

- Needle exchange
- Blood Borne Virus Testing
- Safer Injecting Advice
- Brief Interventions
- Harm Reduction interventions
- Screening for Alcohol Related Brain Damage

- Group work such as Moving on “In My Recovery”
- Mindfulness Based Relapse Prevention
- Parent and Carer Training etc

The North Parade base aims to achieve multiple community benefits. All of the core work benefits the local community. The aim is to address the health, harm and criminal costs associated with problematic substance use, and to get economically inactive and often vulnerable adults into education, training or employment and to support other health and community initiatives and campaigns.

Present situation

The funding for rent ends on the 24th December 2021 and in order to secure the premises a Capital Grant funding application has been made to the Welsh Government by the Area Partnership Board on behalf of Barod to secure a further 3 years in this building.

The Area Partnership Board are requesting that Ceredigion County Council act as Banker if this application is successful as we have previously done 5 years ago.

The application to Welsh Government Substance Misuse Action Fund (SMAF) Capital Programme is for a 3 year lease of North Parade, Aberystwyth requesting a total funding of £183,600.00.

Conclusion

The significance of not having a secure base to delivery substance misuse services in Aberystwyth would have a direct impact on local residents and the wider community. The longer term ambition of both the Area Partnership Board and Ceredigion County Council would be to secure permanent premises but that would be dependent on securing ongoing funding, finding a suitable property and your approval.

Ceredigion County Council has previously successfully handled and administered this grant acting as the local banker.

Recommendation:

Cabinet approve the acceptance of the role of Local Banker by the Local Authority in respect of the handling of Capital Funding relating to the premises at 25, North Parade, Aberystwyth and acceptance of the grant, if given;

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?

No/ Not applicable

If, not, please state why

Summary: This decision does not require developing a new service, new policy or a reduction or closure of a service rather the support of an existing service provision.

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| Wellbeing of Future Generations: | Long term: Collaboration: APB, Barod and Ceredigion County Council Involvement: 3 rd sector Prevention: Preventative substance misuse services Integration: Statutory Social Services and Health and 3 rd sector collaboration |
| Recommendation(s): | Cabinet approve the acceptance of the role of Local Banker by the Local Authority in respect of the handling of Capital Funding relating to the premises at 25, North Parade, Aberystwyth and acceptance of the grant, if given; |
| Reasons for decision: | To support the delivery of Substance Misuse Services in Aberystwyth. |
| Overview and Scrutiny: | This issue relates to process and does not involve actual service commissioning or delivery by the Local Authority |
| Policy Framework: | The commissioning and actual delivery of services is undertaken by the Hywel Dda University Health Board in conjunction with Service Providers, and does not directly involve the Local Authority. However, the following Strategic Objective may be pertinent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ceredigion will provide services that contribute to a healthy environment, healthier lives and protect those who are vulnerable in the county |
| Corporate Priorities: | Priority 3: Enabling Individual and Family Resilience Priority 4: Promoting Environmental and Community Resilience. |
| Finance and Procurement implications: | This matter relates solely to the handling of WG Grant funding, and will serve to secure further financial protection for our Authority when discharging the role of Local Banker in respect of WG Capital Funding, and ensure that any attendant risks and liabilities are minimised. |

Legal Implications: As regards the position in relation to Ceredigion Local Authority discharging the role of Local Banker in relation to the WG Capital funding for the delivery of Substance Misuse Services in Aberystwyth, the APB were advised that the matter had been considered by the Ceredigion Leadership Group, and this approval would require a decision by Cabinet.

Staffing implications: None

Property / asset implications: None

Risk(s): Risk to delivery of Substance Misuse Service provision in Aberystwyth.

Statutory Powers: National Health Service (Wales) Act, 2006. Crime & Disorder Act, 1998.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Corporate Lead Officer: Sian Howys, Director Social Services and Corporate Lead Officer Porth Cynnal

Reporting Officer: John Callow, Corporate Manager Substance Misuse Porth Cynnal

Date: 10/08/2021