

# CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Healthier Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Title:** Update on the Housing Support Grant(HSG) – Programme Plan

**Purpose of the report:** For information and update on the delivery of the HSG Programme Plan

**Reason Scrutiny have requested the information:**

Progress report on the delivery of the HSG Programme Plan approved in September 2022.

**Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:**

Councillor Matthew Vaux

**Background**

The HSG programme plan was endorsed by the Council in September 2022 and provided the 4 year objectives to develop existing services as well as align work to the overall Housing Strategy, complimenting the Authorities own Strategic Objectives. Overall, the programme plan was focused on key areas to develop, specifically;

1. Ensure appropriate monitoring and control of HSG services covering volume, quality and costs of services
2. Develop and update service delivery through Re-Commissioning of all HSG services, reflecting current demands as well as improved support tools & techniques
3. Integrate HSG services with existing Social Care and Housing Services, providing early intervention and preventative solutions, reducing the burden on core budgets
4. Align pathways with the TAW model, ensuring easier access and supporting wider initiatives such as Well-being hubs and Information, Advice and Assistance.

Since the publication of the Programme Plan, WG have provided some additional funding to HSG and associated guidance for administration of the fund. Most notably is a further focus towards the “Fair Work/Fair Pay” agenda across HSG services.

**Current Situation & Progress Update**

**1.HSG Monitoring & Service Management**

Overall, HSG is monitored via an appointed Steering Group, chaired quarterly by the

CLO Porth Cymorth Cynnar, with representation across the Pwrth's as well as elected members and key internal teams including Procurement, Finance and Audit. This ensures that any developments are properly monitored, ensuring alignment to Corporate Objectives and maximisation of grant spend.

In addition, the introduction of the HSG Gateway and single pathway through the Abritas system has provided on-going contract monitoring information that provides significant benefits, namely;

- On-going monitoring of needs and case numbers to inform spend plan allocations as well as identify changes in needs across Ceredigion for future development in a timely manner.
- Accurate contract monitoring to ensure value for money and where required, remedial action.
- Alignment to the TAW model and pathways, ensuring individual cases are filtered, and only where essential, escalating for Social Care support via Porth Gofal.

Examples of the monitoring and reporting for 2024 are summarised at Annex A

## **2. Service Commissioning**

It was recognised that HSG services had not been re-commissioned for a number of years, largely as a result of the Covid19 pandemic, with a clear need to update rates in line with inflation effects as well as changes in needs and guidance. At the outset the Steering Group approved the commissioning strategy, noting;

- Increased provider costs
- Support to achieve and exceed the Real Living Wage minimum
- Alignment to the TAW model and integration of services
- Need to make economies across Homeless services following the reduction of WG funding by £270k for services transferred to HSG.

Progress with the overall Commissioning plan is progressing well, with a number of services now operational. A key element of the commissioning is a full update of the providers terms & conditions, and also providing longer term contracts to ensure stability. In addition, significant changes in the contract conditions, enables on-going service development throughout the contract lifetime, to enable alignment and support for Co-Funded (Social Care) services such as Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Learning Disabilities. The re-commissioning has also introduced new services to support the Authority's Housing & Homelessness team and reducing the demand on Temporary Accommodation capacity.

A summary of the contracts commissioned and progress to date is shown at Annex B.

## **3. Service Integration across TAW Model**

HSG provides joint funding already across a number of Core services specifically, Supported Living, Bespoke Contracts, Complex MH support and Extra Care accommodation.

HSG is actively participating in additional developments, working closely with Social Services across Mental Health and Substance Misuse, VAWDASV and Offender Resettlement.

#### **4.Alignment to Corporate Strategies**

A key element of the Programme Plan is focused on developing improved “Day Centre/Drop-in Support” across the County, particularly for people who have historically avoided engagement with Council services. In addition, there are now plans to provide Information/Advice/Assistance service at regular community events at a number of venues, notably Wellbeing centres. In addition, HSG operates High St advice in both Aberystwyth and Cardigan, operated by The Care Society, to enable drop-in advice and support. As part of the re-commissioning, all providers will also offer Drop-in IAA at each of their locations across Ceredigion.

Future planned developments include participation in “Age Friendly” and Carer’s events, where participants can access initial advice and information as well as apply for longer term support with Housing and tenancy related issues.

#### **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

#### **Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment was completed at submission of the HSG Programme Plan

#### **Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

**Long term:** Development of contract management and provider reviews ensures continued and on-going data and information for future service planning and integration with core Social Care and Housing Services.

**Collaboration:** On-going collaboration with internal and external service partners through quarterly reviews with Health, Police and Probation

**Involvement:** Through 6 monthly outcome reports and analysis, continued service development to reflect services user needs and views.

**Prevention:** On-going development of Day / Drop in services to enable early intervention and prevention of escalation. In addition, development of provider guidance for all new contracts enables co-delivery across community and carers services.

**Integration:** Service commissioning and integration is monitored through the HSG Steering Group, to ensure positive engagement and on-going alignment to the TAW model.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

For information only

#### **Reasons for decision:**

N/A

**Contact Name:** Llŷr Hughes

**Designation:** Corporate Manager – Housing Services

**Date of Report:-** 31/01/2025

**Acronyms:**

HSG – Housing Support Grant

WG – Welsh Government Homelessness Team

**Annexes**

Annex A – HSG Key Performance Indicators Report



Annex A - Healthier  
Communities Scrutiny

Annex B – HSG Commissioning Programme



Annex B - Healthier  
Communities Scrutiny