

To: The Scrutiny Housing Panel

Date: 3rd April 2014

Report of: Head of Housing and Property

Title of Report: Adult Homeless Pathway – Update following County Council budget process for 2014/15

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To report provides the Panel with an update on the Adult Homeless Pathway budget following the setting of the 2014/15 County Council budget.

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Mark Mills

Executive Lead Members: Councillor Scott Seamons

Recommendation: To note the update and that a further detailed update would be given at a future meeting of the Panel.

Introduction

- (1) This report updates the Panel on the initial outcomes of the County Council budget setting with regard to the Adult Homeless Pathway service provision.

Adult Homeless Pathway service

- (2) The Adult Homeless Pathway budget of £3.8m purchases 186,600 hours of support per year, to approximately 900 people at any one time, in the following ways:
 - Accommodation based support (including the three large homeless hostels in Oxford City) - £2,157,072
 - Floating support - £1,211,311
 - Support for people fleeing domestic abuse - helpline, outreach, refuges and resettlement - £332,594
 - Treatment for substance misuse - £147,421

Budget decision and next steps

- (3) The County Council agreed to cut the budget for the Adult Homeless Pathway by £1.5m at meetings in February. This reduces the budget to £2,854,302 in 15/16, and £2,354,302 in 16/17.
- (4) A paper setting out some options for the reduction of funding for these housing related support services in Oxfordshire, was been prepared by the County, for a meeting of the Oxfordshire Chief Executives on 13th March 2014. The options were developed in collaboration with stakeholders from each of the key agencies at two workshops. The agencies involved were the County Council, City and District Councils, Public Health, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Thames Valley Police, Thames Valley Probation and the Community Safety Partnership. This paper is requesting that the Chief Executives provide a steer, in advance of a closed discussion at the Health Improvement Board on 8th April 2014. It is hoped that wider consultation, not least with providers, can commence after that.
- (5) City Council officers and lead members are engaged in this process, and are seeking to ensure sufficient services are provided to meet the current and future needs of these vulnerable groups. Additional work is also being undertaken in the City to pilot new innovative approaches to providing support, and to review options for change that could attract funds from other sources.

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List of background papers: None

Version number: 1