HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

| Decision Maker: | Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health |
|-----------------|---|
| Date: | 28 March 2023 |
| Title: | DLUHC funded grants to Tier 2 Authorities to deliver elements of the Whole Housing Approach |
| Report From: | Director of Public Health |

Contact name: Simon Bryant

Tel: Email: Simon.bryant@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health approves the grant scheme offer to Tier 2 Authorities to undertake work which contributes to meeting the County Council's statutory duty and local need, up to a total value of £600,000 for 2023/24 and 2024/5.
- 1.2. That the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health delegates authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member, to approve the grant awards to individual Tier 2 Authorities for 2023/4 and 2024/5.
- 1.3. That the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health delegates authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member, to approve continuation of the scheme and of grant awards for years 2025/26 onwards, or ceasing of the scheme, taking into account national funding received as outlined in this report.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on Hampshire County Council to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation, and to improve the types of safe accommodation accessible to adults and children experiencing domestic abuse.
- 2.2. In April 2021, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) allocated £2,300,222 to the County Council with a further £2,306,590 allocated in 2022/23 to deliver the new statutory duty. In December 2022, confirmation was received that further allocations had been agreed of £2,352,731 for 2023/4 and £2,397,120 for 2024/5. In addition, all Tier 2 Authorities in Hampshire received circa £30,000 per annum in 2021/22

- and 2022/23, and a similar allocation has been confirmed for 2023/24 and 2024/5.
- 2.3. The proposed grant will enable activity, framed by the Whole Housing Approach, that will support the objectives of the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy. This could include:
 - Flexible Funding (direct payments to victims to support them to move away from domestic abuse).
 - An increase in the number and accessibility of dispersed accommodation units as an alternative to refuge accommodation.
 - Developing a Coordinated Community Response to address the needs of those under-served and under-represented populations (as identified in the Council's Domestic Abuse/Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment). This is a recognised approach adopted by the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board which seeks to bring services together to ensure local systems keep victims/survivors safe, hold abusers to account and prevent domestic abuse.
 - Improving responses to the management of perpetrators.
- 2.4. This grant fund is to enable delivery of the second phase of our safe accommodation objectives. It follows the grant fund offer to Tier 2 Authorities to achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation. The phase 1 fund was approved by the Executive Lead Member for a total of £226,470 in 2022/23

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. The other option considered was not to offer the grant allocations to Tier 2 authorities. This would result in national funding aligned to the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) not being available to Tier 2 authorities to improve accommodation options for victims/survivors of domestic abuse and was therefore rejected.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.
- 5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: N/A
- 6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: N/A

7. Statement from the decision maker:

| Approved by: | Date: |
|--|---------------|
| Councillor Liz Fairhurst Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health | 28 March 2023 |