



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL CARE HEALTH & WELL-BEING CABINET BOARD**

**16 September 2021**

**Report of the Head of Adult Services – A. Thomas**

#### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected** All Wards

#### **GRANT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SEED FUNDING**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To request that the Head of Adult Services be given delegated authority to award monies comprising the Welsh Government's Transformation Fund and enter into grant agreements with a number of organisations to "Seed Fund" a range of early intervention and prevention services across the Neath Port Talbot Area.

#### **Executive Summary**

In order to support Neath Port Talbot Council's ("The Council") objective of building safer and resilient communities, Officers have invited Public and Third Sector organisations to apply for Seed Funding to establish early intervention and prevention services.

In order to allow prompt allocation of Seed Funding to successful applicants, permission is requested for the Head of Adult Services to be given delegated authority to enter into grant agreements with those organisations who applications best meet the Seed Funding requirements.

## **Background**

The Council have been allocated a significant amount of additional money via the Welsh Governments Transformation Fund. This one year grant is to support Local Authorities and Health Boards develop new ways of working that will transform health and social care.

Building safer and resilient communities has been a Social Services Health & Housing Directorate (“the Directorate”) priority for a number of years and this priority supports achievement of the Councils Corporate Plan Objectives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated that local communities play a key role in supporting vulnerable people, with many people undertaking volunteering activities and community groups adapting to support the COVID-19 response.

There is a need to support local communities to build on their strengths and assets, in order for them to develop sustainable community services that will support the Council in meeting its early intervention and prevention agenda. Promoting the resilience of local communities will help to reduce the numbers of people requiring statutory services and assessments.

The Transformation Fund gives a unique opportunity to work with partners such as local community groups, voluntary and third sector organisations, to support the development of community based early intervention and prevention services.

The Directorate has established a funding opportunity to support the public sector or any not-for-profit community, voluntary or third sector organisation (including service user led groups, co-operatives and

social enterprises), that wish to provide services to residents of Neath Port Talbot to support early intervention and prevention.

This will be achieved by allocating £300,000 of Transformation Fund money to Seed Fund projects that will support the Council in meeting its early intervention and prevention objectives.

Seed Funding is the provision of a one off grant payment to an organisation to help them establish a service. The aim of Seed Funding is to support small groups, who may not be in a position to attract funding from other sources, to set up community based services. This type of funding is an important way of enabling the development of community led interventions and supporting community resilience.

Seed Funding is not the same as pilot funding. Pilot funding is to implement a time limited service in order to test its impact/outcomes. Seed Funding is intended to be a one-off grant to support organisations in meeting their necessary start-up costs for a project and the organisation/project needs to be self-sustaining after this grant is utilised.

The application process was launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021, with the closing date being 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The opportunity was advertised through a range of established networks and was accompanied by a social media campaign to raise awareness throughout Neath Port Talbot.

Applications will be evaluated by a panel against a set criteria that links to the application form (Appendix 1). This panel will consist of representatives from across the Council, including the Social Services, Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Education Directorate, the Area Planning Board (APB), the Environmental Health Team and the Housing Options Team. Other strategic partners outside of the Council that will form the panel include representatives from NPT Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), Swansea Bay University Health Board (SB UHB), a carer's representative and a service user representative.

For an organisation to be successful in being awarded Seed Funding, their application will need to demonstrate that:

- The service/activity are specifically focused on either preventing or reducing the need for statutory social care support.
- The organisation is financially sustainable and can be self-sustaining after the Seed Funding has ended.
- The bid is either for a new service/activity, or to expand existing services/activities.
- The service/activity will help the Council meet at least one of its Corporate Plan priorities (Background Paper 1) and at least one priority in its Plan for Adult Social Care (Background Paper 2) or Plan for Children and Young People Services (Background Paper 3).
- The proposed service/activity will reduce demand on Council services.
- They can provide evaluation information in order to assess the impact of the service/activity.
- The Service/activity will be delivered to Neath Port Talbot residents, preferably at a local or community level.
- The proposed service/activity is accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities and care and support needs.
- There is a need for this activity.

Successful applicants will be issued with a grant agreement. It will be a condition of the grant to for organisations to submit proportionate data and update reports in order for Officers to evaluate the impact of the service. An evaluation of the services will take place in January 2022 and a report will be brought back to Members providing an overview of the projects achievements and impact.

The Transformation Fund needs to be fully allocated by the end of the 20/21 financial year. In order to allow organisations optimum time to establish and deliver their services, there is a need to allocate the funding to successful applicants and enter into the relevant grant agreements by the end of September 2021. This will provide organisations with six months to establish and deliver their projects. In order to support this timescale, it is requested that the Head of Adult Services be granted delegated authority to award funding to, and enter into grant agreements with, those organisations that the panel have evaluated as best demonstrating the Seed Fund requirements.

### **Financial Impacts**

Approval of these proposals will not have an adverse impact on the Councils base budget as the successful bids will be allocated monies from the Welsh Governments Transformation Fund.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

A first stage impact assessment (Appendix 2) has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below:

- Early intervention and prevention services are designed to support individuals to address many of the challenges experienced by groups referred to within the equality legislation.
- The proposal brings additional resources to support vulnerable people and there will be no reduction in services already provided.

- Bidders need to demonstrate how they will ensure that the service/activity is accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities and care and support needs.
- Bidders will be assessed against how their proposal will impact on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and its equal treatment with English.
- Biodiversity not applicable to this proposal.
- The proposal is in line with the 5 ways of working.

### **Valleys Communities Impacts**

No impact – the proposed bids has no spatial impact on our valleys communities and does not link to the impacts identified in the Cabinet’s response to the Council’s Task and Finish Group’s recommendations on the Valleys.

Although this proposal is not linked to the above policy, the proposal will give an opportunity to valley communities to submit applications for services/activities that will strengthen their community assets.

### **Workforce Impacts**

No implications.

### **Legal Impacts**

The Transformation Funding is subject to Welsh Government grant conditions, with which the Council is obliged to comply. The process of the award of the funding by the Council via the Seed Fund will be in line with the grant conditions. The allocation of the funding will require a grant agreement which will oblige the recipient to comply with the grant conditions. The grant agreement will entail the recipient only being permitted to use the grant monies for the specific purposes for which they are made available by the Council. The Council will have the right to claw back to monies if they are not used or if misused.

Grants are outside of the procurement regime and are excluded from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules under rule 7.1.21.

### **Risk Management Impacts**

No risk management impacts.

### **Other Impacts**

The application process is open to a wide range of stakeholders and was advertised through a range of networks including the CVS, CSP and APB. As such, organisations may submit applications for projects that could have a positive impact on the Council meeting its wider general duties such as, Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

### **Consultation**

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

### **Recommendations**

For the Head of Adult Services to be provided delegated authority to award monies comprising the Welsh Government's Transformation Fund and enter into grant agreements with organisations whose applications for Seed Funding has been evaluated as best meeting the Seed Fund application requirements.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

To maximise the benefits of the Transformation Fund to the residents of Neath Port Talbot by awarding Seed Funding in a timely way to the successful applicants.

## **Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Application Form

Appendix 2: First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment

## **List of Background Papers**

Background Paper 1: Corporate Plan <https://www.npt.gov.uk/19450>

Background Paper 2: Plan for Adult Social Care

<https://www.npt.gov.uk/media/14700/adults-plan-2019-22.pdf?v=20201112120224>

Background Paper 3: Plan for Children and Young People Services

<https://www.npt.gov.uk/media/14702/cyps-plan-2019-22.pdf?v=20201112120100>

## **Officer Contact**

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