

Urgent Approval for Public Health to Submit External Bid to Warm Homes Fund on 8th Sept 2017

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health approves the submission of a Grant Funding bid to the Warm Homes Fund on behalf of the County Council in connection with Public Health's Warm and Well in Warwickshire programme of work.

1.0 Outline of Bid

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the County Council's procedures that Portfolio Holders approve Grant Funding Bids submitted on behalf of the County Council.

This report seeks urgent approval in relation to a bid connected with the Warm and Well in Warwickshire programme of work. Public Health have been unable to follow the regular approval process due to the short turnaround time for this funding stream. Bidding was opened on 7th August 2017 and closes on 8th September 2017, at peak annual leave time, with further clarifications required around funding scope and exclusions, therefore leaving only a short period of time for Officers to complete the bid writing.

1.2 Warm and Well in Warwickshire

The Warm and Well in Warwickshire programme is delivered by our commissioned provider Act on Energy to enable Warwickshire residents to be safe and well during cold weather. They provide advice, information and guidance to all Warwickshire residents around fuel bills, tariff switching, and energy efficiency via a Freephone helpline. They also work with vulnerable citizens who are experiencing fuel poverty, the elderly and those with long term health conditions to look at benefit maximisation, and where eligible, provide physical measures to move people out of fuel poverty and into a warm home. There is strong evidence that shows living in a cold home can exacerbate existing health conditions, increase pressure on health and care services and lead to excess winter deaths. Act on Energy also deliver a 'Boilers on Prescription' work stream, which seeks to evaluate the health and wellbeing benefits of providing efficient boilers to eligible residents with long term health conditions, assessing them pre and post installation.

The Warm Homes Fund is a partnership between National Grid and Affordable Warmth Solutions with £150m in funding to distribute to Local Authorities, Social Landlords and Third Sector partners working to address fuel poverty.

We are seeking to bid for £96,610 from the fund for-

- Enhancing and increasing work with identified GPs to enable staff to recognise people experiencing fuel poverty, increase referrals and offer advice sessions within Practices.
- Increase the information and advice element to people referred who are experiencing fuel poverty, including access to funding for physical measures and debt advice and benefit maximisation.
- Purchase of a housing stock database called UNO so information about Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings, the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and benefits data can be added which will enable us to monitor progress on the programme and also provide a strategic view of the areas where we have the highest need and demand, so we can target future resources most effectively.
- The proposed £96,610 bid is broken down into
£26,220- Act on Energy delivery costs including staff.
£28,020- Capital cost for UNO database
£6,000- Marketing costs
£30,000- Income maximisation costs (Warwickshire Welfare Rights costs to send out mailings to identified households and offer advice via telephone or face to face contact)

The proposed bid will cover two delivery years, starting November 2017.

2.0 Financial Implications and Risks

There are no inherent financial implications for the County Council in terms of submitting the bids other than the officer cost of working up and submitting the bids. The cost of activity will be met from within existing resources.

Background papers

None

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