



Report to: South Yorkshire Armed Forces Covenant Board

Date: 23rd February 2021

Title: Sheffield City Region Funding update

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1. Purpose of the report

To provide members an update as to the allocation of funding received from the Sheffield City Region.

2. Progress

The Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority has agreed the remaining funds, £65,000 will be split equally between each of the four local authorities for the delivery of local schemes in each area to support homeless veterans.

The existing grant agreement with Barnsley and South Yorkshire Authorities will be terminated. Specific documentation is needed from the City Region detailing the progress made and their agreement to re-purpose the remaining funds. This is currently in progress, although delayed due to annual leave of Sheffield City Region staff.

In the meantime, each local authority was asked to provide details directly to the City Region, detailing how the allocated funding will be used locally to support veterans and their families.

2.1 Barnsley Proposal

Details of Barnsley's proposal have been submitted and it is proposed funds will be allocated to the Housing Options team and aligned to the Barnsley Homeless Prevention fund and Local Welfare Assistance scheme (LWA).

The purpose of the veteran funds aligns closely to the aims and objectives of homeless prevention and LWA, and will provide specific funding to those individuals in need who are identified as veterans. Alignment to an existing provision allows the funds to be used to enhance and complement the existing offer specifically for veterans.

2.2 Doncaster

The proposal submitted by Doncaster is to provide 'Non-essential' items that are often not funded with other schemes. The aim of the scheme is to provide one off items to veterans that have been at risk of homelessness or are currently homeless and are moving into housing provision, which will benefit their health and wellbeing and prove to have overall value to them. This will be an addition to local funding schemes and will compliment not duplicate these schemes, the purpose being to develop sustainability independence and aspiration for the surrounding elements of the individual's quality of life. For example, funding a laptop to enable a person to job search and undertake online courses.

2.3 Rotherham

Rotherham's proposal seeks to offer financial support to veterans to set up a home and provide a safe base and allow a return to employment (if appropriate) education or training and rebuild lives.

It is intended this will include such things as the provision of bond and rent in advance for private rented accommodation. Personalisation budget for carpets, furniture, household items and financial support to gain employment, training, or education. In addition, the scheme will consider payments of former tenant debt dependent on circumstances.

2.4 Sheffield

Sheffield would like to use the SCR funding to recruit someone on a six months contract to revise, review and expand the current Armed Forces Directory of local support. Whilst this proposal might not be described as innovatory it is necessary and is of direct benefit to the Armed Forces Community. Revising the content of the directory is not something that can be finance from within existing resources and a draft proposal has been submitted to the City Region for consideration.

Barnsley continue to hold the remaining funds and once the new grant agreements are in place each local authority will have £16,250 transferred to their specified budgets.

3. Alignment to the Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan

Making a home in civilian society

4. Approvals required from the AFC Board

No specific approvals required, for information only.