

Dear Nick Ramsay AM,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed twin-stream approach to housing and community support grants proposed in the Welsh Government budget 2019/20.

Community Housing Cymru (CHC), alongside Cymorth Cymru, proposed a twin-stream approach to Welsh Government shortly after the publication of the Welsh Government draft budget for 2018/19. This approach was based on the overly broad range of services that would be funded through the, at the time, proposed Early Intervention, Prevention and Support (EIPS) Grant.

We believe that services providing housing related support and the prevention of homelessness are significantly different to those supporting families and children, both in the services themselves and the structures through which they are funded and governed.

The Housing Matters proposal provided further detail on how we believed a twin-stream approach should be implemented, which CHC and Cymorth Cymru were joined by eight additional organisations in endorsing. This suggested the combination of the Supporting People Programme Grant and homelessness prevention funding, with the remaining grants falling under the EIPS umbrella, such as Families First, combined into a separate communities grant. The Welsh Government draft budget 2019/20 essentially proposes a three-stream approach, with the following streams proposed, in place of the EIPS grant.

- Housing Support Grant
- Supporting Communities
- Homelessness Prevention (incorporating Homelessness Prevention Grant and majority of homelessness prevention funding).

We welcome the approach to retain Homelessness Prevention as a discrete budget line, as the Homelessness Prevention Grant is administered nationally, whereas the grant streams combined into the Housing Support Grant are administered by local authorities.

Welsh Government have indicated that the proposed arrangement will stay in place until at least the end of this Assembly term. We welcome this approach as it provides stability for providers and landlords of services during a period of rising homelessness and allows a minimum of two years in which to evaluate the new grant streams.



We are working closely with Welsh Government to ensure that the governance structures and guidance for the new Housing Support Grant are fit for purpose going into April 2019 and beyond, to ensure that service users are receiving the best possible service and the taxpayer is receiving value for money.

Kind regards,

Stuart Ropke

