

Distribution Sub-Group (2014) Paper 09 – Social Care for Prisoners

This discussion paper has been written by officials of the Welsh Government. Ministers have not had an opportunity to comment on the contents. Exemplifications of changes are provided simply to inform discussion by DSG members. They are not Welsh Government proposals or statements of Government policy for or against changes.

Funding of Social Care for Prisoners in the secure estate in Wales.

Summary

1. This paper looks at a possible transfer of funding into the Settlement for the provision of care and support to adults and children in the secure estate and considers the potential distribution of funding on transfer in.

Views sought

2. The DSG is asked to consider a proposal to transfer this funding into the Settlement and the distributional basis of the possible transfer.

Background

3. Under the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act, from 6 April 2016, Welsh Local Authorities are responsible for the provision of care and support to adults and children in the secure estate in Wales. This is a new statutory duty for Local Authorities and additional funding has been provided by the Welsh Government to meet these duties and to be delivered initially through a hypothecated grant for 2016-17, and possibly 2017-18.
4. Wales currently has four functioning prisons, with HMP Berwyn due to open in Wrexham in February 2017. LAs currently with prisons are Cardiff, Swansea, Bridgend and Monmouth.

Analysis

5. The allocation of funding to the LAs with existing prisons is as follows:

Social Care for Prisoners - Ongoing LA Allocations	
Prison	Ongoing Allocation 2017-18 (£)
Cardiff (Cardiff)	52,855
Parc (Bridgend - Western Bay)	217,448
Swansea (Swansea - Western Bay)	32,629
Usk & Prescoed (Monmouthshire - Gwent Collaborative)	109,068
Total	412,000

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6. A further £258,000 is to be allocated for social care at Wrexham prison once that is up to full capacity.
7. The funding will be issued from the Welsh Government to the four LAs above as a hypothecated grant in 2016-17. There is the option to transfer this funding into the Settlement for 2017-18, although the funding for Wrexham will remain outside of the Settlement until 2018-19 at the earliest.
8. On transfer into the Settlement, distributional options for inclusion are as follows:
 - a. Specific distribution to just those LAs with prisons as a fixed Indicator Based Assessment (IBA) indefinitely
 - b. Distribute on a sector total until the underlying Revenue Outturn data catches up with the Settlement year
 - c. A phased approach starting with option *a* above and moving to option *b* over 2 years, once the RO data catches up with the Settlement year.

Conclusion

9. Members are asked, in the first instance, to consider whether they feel the partial transfer in of this grant is suitable for 2017-18 or whether the full amount should be transferred in the future once the service is more fully embedded.
10. The DSG is also asked to discuss a preference with regards to the basis of distribution on transfer of this funding into the Settlement.

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