



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Section 180 and Section 126 of the Housing Act 1996
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR GOOD PRACTICE IN HOMELESSNESS
GRANT 2007/2008

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|---|--|-----------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. Project Title | An all Wales approach to accommodating ex offenders and protecting the safety of communities | | | | | | |
| 2. Organisation applying for the Grant | WLGA, CHC and AWCHOP | | | | | | |
| 3. Contact name and position held in organisation | <table border="1"><tr><td>Sue Finch</td><td>Policy Officer</td><td>WLGA</td></tr><tr><td>Amanda Oliver</td><td>Policy Officer</td><td>CHC</td></tr></table> | Sue Finch | Policy Officer | WLGA | Amanda Oliver | Policy Officer | CHC |
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| Amanda Oliver | Policy Officer | CHC | | | | | |
| 4. Telephone number | <table border="1"><tr><td>Sue Finch</td><td>029 20468674</td></tr><tr><td>Amanda Oliver</td><td>029 20557404</td></tr></table> | Sue Finch | 029 20468674 | Amanda Oliver | 029 20557404 | | |
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| Amanda Oliver | 029 20557404 | | | | | | |
| 5. Briefly summarise what the grant is for | <p>The grant will fund an all Wales project to address the issues relating to housing for ex offenders, particularly those that are high risk. It is submitted jointly by Local Government and the Housing Association movement in Wales, and aims to address the significant and growing challenge they face in relation to housing ex offenders.</p> <p>This project will research the issues, identify UK wide good practice, develop appropriate models for housing and support services, identify training needs and produce a suite of good practice guidance.</p> <p>The project incorporates the following elements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. a research report which<ul style="list-style-type: none">• clearly identifies the key housing and support issues around housing ex-offenders, particularly high risk offenders subject to MAPPA & PPO arrangements, from the perspective of the various agencies involved. The issues are likely to include, suitability and availability of temporary and permanent accommodation, support/supervision provision, cross boundary & cross sector collaboration, | | | | | | |

communication, information sharing etc

- looks at levels of housing demand from ex offenders, their routes into housing and the supply of housing for this group across the spectrum of temporary and permanent accommodation, including bail accommodation, approved premises and 'move on'.
- reviews current practice and provision and identifies UK-wide notable practice, including models in other related areas such as victim protection programmes
- sets out current legal duties and powers of all partners
- identifies training needs across all sectors
- identifies a range of models of provision to address housing, support and supervision issues and arrangements to improve collaboration
- identifies policy developments in Wales and by the Home Office and their potential implications

2. A report that identifies a range of provision options to address current housing, support and supervision issues, and arrangements to improve cross sector/ Authority collaboration

3. Six practical guidance notes to support improved service provision, prevent homelessness and increase public protection. At this stage, we suggest the following topics:

- information sharing & partnership working including a suggested structure for an information sharing protocol
- housing management
- tenancy management
- strategic planning
- training resources
- guidance note for elected members

The development of these outputs will be informed by:

- substantial research with all stakeholders,

	<p>involving a detailed questionnaire survey, focus groups/seminars and interviews with service users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research to identify effective practice from across the UK (see work programme for more detail) <p>It is hoped that the models of good practice, training and collaborative arrangements developed by this all Wales project will be implemented at the regional level with support from the regional homelessness networks.</p>
<p>6. Expected start date of the project (NB: Project life is 1 year only)</p>	<p>September 2007</p>
<p>7. Other organisation/partnerships involved in the delivery of the project</p>	<p>All four Probation areas in Wales NOMS accommodation pathway Regional Local Authority homelessness networks</p>
<p>8. Additional sources of funding i.e. grants, fundraising, local authority</p>	<p>Contribution of staff time from all partners, across Wales</p>
<p>9. Annual cost of running the project from 1st April 2007 – 31st March 2008.</p> <p>Please note that management costs must not exceed 10% of overall costs.</p>	<p>The total cost of the project is £43,300. The WLGA & CHC will contribute the management and evaluation costs .</p>
<p>10. How much funding would you require from the Welsh Assembly Government annually. (The Assembly Government will provide up to 100% of the total approved costs subject to performance.)</p>	<p>£39,700 ie 91%</p>

Supporting Information.

Objectives and performance measures of the scheme must be **SMART**,
i.e. **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic, and **T**ime-bound)

11(i) What aspects of homelessness practice does this project aim to enhance

Rehousing high risk ex-offenders presents increasing challenges for Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords. The research will enhance understanding of the issues for housing, community safety and criminal justice partners and will provide a basis for developing guidance notes to enhance the following areas of practice:

- cross sector and cross authority arrangements to provide appropriate sustainable housing and outreach services for ex offenders including those subject to MAPPA and PPO arrangements
- pan Wales arrangements to accommodate high risk offenders (MAPPA) who must be housed out of home Authority
- cross sector and cross authority collaboration to deliver services and share information
- models of effective outreach services, including support and supervision
- information sharing arrangements and protocols
- cross sector/ cross boundary collaboration to commission/provide housing and outreach services
- appropriate housing management and tenancy management to prevent homelessness and maximise public protection
- understanding across housing and criminal justice agencies of the legal powers and duties of all partners
- application of current protocols
- identify training needs and resources to improve service delivery and facilitate collaboration
- provision of sustainable 'move on' accommodation and move on arrangements
- strategic planning to prevent and address homelessness amongst offenders, particularly those that present a high risk
- sharing good practice
- increasing elected member knowledge and understanding

The outcomes will be

- more sustainable homelessness prevention
- reduced repeat homelessness
- reduced rough sleeping
- increased community safety
- more effective collaboration

- more effective models of housing, support and outreach services

11(ii) Describe the Good Practice tool being developed/delivered and how this relates to the themes in the Grant criteria.

The outcomes from the study will contribute to the prevention of homelessness and development of suitable and sustainable housing and support options for Ex- Offenders through guidance and good practice in the form of:

- A research report scoping the key issues relating to the housing and outreach for ex-offenders, notable practice and policy implications
- 6 good practice guidance notes on options for appropriate services, and protocols, information sharing, housing management, training resources, tenancy management, partnership working and strategic planning. There will also be a guidance note for elected members.
- An options document for housing and outreach service provision and collaboration arrangements

These will be produced in CD Rom format

1(iv) How will the effectiveness of the project be evaluated

The project will be evaluated one year after the guidance notes have been produced. The evaluation will focus on the application and impact of the guidance and the options report. WLGA and CHC will carry out the evaluation.

12. Has the organisation submitted a project budget plan and action plan with start to end time-scales?

Yes, an outline action plan and budget is attached. A full action plan will be developed should the bid be successful.

13. How will this project assist the implementation of the National Homelessness Strategy 2006 – 2008.

This project will support the following objectives of the National Homelessness Strategy:

- services are focused to prevent homelessness wherever possible
- people who are homeless, or threatened with homelessness, are provided with the information and advice they need to minimise the risk of losing their home or to secure alternative housing
- repeat homelessness is reduced through constructive interventions which support sustainable solutions
- homeless people should have access to suitable temporary accommodation
- the support and other needs of homeless people are identified and provided for and agencies work together to aid their sustainable resettlement

The National Homelessness Strategy Action Plan expects local authorities and criminal justice agencies to “work in partnership with local planning arrangements to secure appropriate housing and support for ex-offenders, including adoption of protocols in line with Assembly guidance.” It also highlights the requirement for housing associations to be full partners in tackling homelessness and for “local authorities and housing associations to establish strategic move-on planning arrangements as part of their Supporting People Operational Plan and local homelessness strategies”.

This project will identify:

- specific barriers and challenges to the effective delivery of accommodation and services for ex offenders, particularly high risk offenders subject to MAPPA and PPO arrangements
- models of good practice and collaborative arrangements to address the issues and improve partnership working between the relevant organisations

The project therefore supports a number of WAG priorities identified in the national Homelessness Strategy as well as the NOMS 'Joining Together in Wales Reducing Re-offending Strategy' and action plan which aims 'to ensure that all Welsh offenders in the community and leaving custody can access suitable and sustainable accommodation with support where appropriate'.

It also supports wider policy objectives of the Assembly such as **Making the Connections** and the Beecham Review which place significant emphasis on the provision of citizen centred services and partnership working.

14. **Status of organisation**

Please Tick

Incorporated Associations - Company Limited by Guarantee

Friendly Society

Unincorporated Associations - Registered Charity

Trust

Society, Club or Group

**(PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE ORGANISATION'S CONSTITUTION,
AND IF APPROPRIATE, DETAILS OF CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTRATION)**

15. Briefly state the aims and objectives of the organisation

Community Housing Cymru (CHC) is a membership body serving housing associations and associated support providers in Wales. We exist to enable our members to work effectively and flourish in Wales by:

- Positively **promoting housing associations** as non-statutory, non-profit, ethical providers of affordable housing, support and community regeneration services
- Seeking to develop a **political, regulatory and financial framework** that supports housing association activities
- Developing, supporting and disseminating **good practice**
- Encouraging and enabling members to provide **accessible homes in sustainable communities** throughout Wales
- Working in **partnership** with key bodies in Wales.

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

Aims :

To promote, protect, support and develop democratic local government in Wales and the interests of Welsh Unitary Authorities.

To promote better local government and to support authorities in the development of policies and priorities which will improve public services and democracy.

All Wales Chief Housing Officers panel (AWCHOP)

AWCHOP represents all Local Authorities in Wales and has the following aims :

Key Objectives

1. To be recognised as the official voice of senior Welsh Housing professionals.
2. To act as the consultation body for housing Chief Officers in Wales.
3. To promote the achievements of the housing movement in Wales and to act, when required, as a professional catalyst for change to improve the Welsh housing movement including the development of policy, good practice, housing education and training.
4. To develop and maintain a high profile for Local Authority housing activity and purpose within Wales and promote continuous improvement in the sector.

5. To act as a scrutiny and discussion forum, to review and develop Welsh housing policy and to influence the legislative and verification bodies to adopt the organisation's proposals.

16. Please tick the documents enclosed with this application form

Detailed project plan

Charity commission registration

Other documents (please specify)

Completed forms should be returned to:-

**Andrea Cleaver
Grants Team
Housing Directorate
Welsh Assembly Government
Merthyr Tydfil Office
Rhydycar
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1UZ**

Tel: 01685 72 9211

NO LATER THAN Friday 2nd March 2007

Planned actions, outputs and milestones	Quarter 1 September- November	Quarter 2 December- February	Quarter 3 March-May	Quarter 4 June-August	Costs
2007 - 2008					
Quarter 1					
Inception Steering Group meeting	√				
Identify range of stakeholders to be involved in the research and those who need to be kept informed of its progress	√				
Desk research/literature review including notable practice, pilots, legislation, issues, current provision and arrangements, current and future policy etc	√				
Meeting with representatives of regional homelessness groups and RSL representatives to further inform the questionnaire	√				
Questionnaire survey to RSLs, LAs (homelessness, community safety and housing management), Probation, Police, Prisons, Prison Link, Community Safety Partnerships etc and analysis of results	√				
Identification of training needs	√				
Quarter 2					
Steering group meeting to discuss initial findings		√			
3 regional focus groups/seminars for criminal justice agencies in North, South West /Mid and South /South East Wales.		√			
3 regional focus groups/seminars for social housing landlords, in North, South West /Mid and South /South East Wales.		√			
Interviews with service users		√			
Case study material from 2 local Authorities and		√			

their partners, one in North Wales & one in South Wales					
Dissemination of findings to regional groups		√			
2008 - 09					
Quarter 3					
Draft Research report produced			√		
Steering group meeting to monitor progress and discuss overall findings and feed into report on options and guidance notes			√		
Quarter 4					
Draft report on options				√	
Draft guidance notes produced				√	
Consultation with stakeholders/regional groups on draft research report and guidance notes				√	
Final Steering Group meeting to agree report and guidance notes				√	
Production and dissemination of CD rom				√	