

STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING: GETTING MORE OUT OF OUR SPENDING

Proposal 3: Support Funds Coordination

Portfolio Lead: Adult Social Care; Children and Families

1.0 Summary of Proposal

- 1.1 This proposal seeks to review discretionary and statutory support funds and grants offered to local citizens in need of additional help with a view to creating an efficient and consistent approach to the coordination of support funding.
- 1.2 A systematic review of Support Funds coordination across the Council which will consider:
- Removing the Stockport Local Assistance Scheme (SLAS),
 - Coordinating statutory, national and other local schemes to mitigate impacts where possible,
 - Further capitalisation against the Disabled Facilities Capital Grant (DFG),
 - Review of Direct Payments (including Independent Support Funds and Self Directed Support) to assess the current processes and systems that are in place for the equitable distribution of this across all service provision.

2.0 Proposal Update

- 2.1 This section provides an update on the three main review areas:
- SLAS
 - Disabled Facilities Capital Grant (DFG),
 - Direct Payments (including Independent Support Funds and Self Directed Support).

Stockport Local Assistance Scheme

- 2.2 SLAS was introduced in April 2013 when the nationally administered Social Fund was disbanded and the responsibility passed to Local Authorities. The purpose of the scheme was to help people with needs, which are difficult to meet from regular income. The scheme has been largely unchanged since April 2013.
- 2.3 The Government stated that it believes that local schemes enable better targeting and could be run more effectively locally, where they are linked to

other support services. Funding was transferred to Local Authorities to enable a more flexible response to unavoidable need, through a mix of cash or goods and aligning with the wider range of local support local authorities/devolved administrations already on offer. The cash transferred to Local Authorities was subsequently absorbed into the Revenue Support Grant and was no longer an identified funding stream.

2.4 The aim of SLAS is to:

- Provide a safety net in an emergency, when there is an immediate threat to health or safety
- Help people to settle into new accommodation after for example, a stay in hospital or temporary accommodation
- Help support people to continue to live independently when they are facing difficulties
- The current offer includes an extended offer for single people, which includes a double bed, full sized cooker and fridge freezer.

2.5 From 2015/16 SLAS has been totally funded by the Council, and despite significant budget pressures, Stockport has maintained a local assistance scheme.

Financial Year	Amount
2018/19	£490,414
2017/18	£593,144
2016/17	£647,503
2015/16	£640,270
2014/15	£887,500

**funded by DP Welfare Grant*

2.6 Comparatively, research by Church Action on Poverty identified that nearly a quarter of LA's have closed their local assistance schemes since 2013.

2.7 For 2018/19, it is estimated that 51.5% of the total SLAS budget is associated with running costs.

	Amount
Services expenditure	£287,375
Staffing cost	£189,609
Software	£12,618
Total	£489,602

- 2.8 The following table presents the financial position for SLAS in 2018/19. This includes an income of £43K from the Credit Union from the repayment of Credit Union loans underwritten by SLAS.

	2018/19		
	Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Outturn Variance
Services expenditure	£279,187	£340,080	£60,893
Staffing cost (including software)	£211,227	£177,100	(£34,127)
Gross Expenditure	£490,414	£517,180	£26,766
Income	£0	(£43,000)	(£43,000)
Net	£490,414	£474,180	(£16,234)

- 2.9 Of the £279,187 services expenditure budget, 88.1% is set aside for resettlement support.

Support	Item	Budget
Emergency Assistance	Utility voucher	£8500
	Food Bank referral	£0
	Pantry 4 week referral	£405
	Travel (Food Bank, hospital)	£284
	Clothing (prison leavers, medical conditions, weight loss/gain, fire, flood)	£3000
	Secondary School uniform	£21,000
	Travel (starting work)	Negligible
	Two-weeks Mega Rider	Negligible
	Clothing (starting work)	Negligible
	Total	£33,189
Resettlement Support	Furniture package (beds, fridge freezer, cooking facility)	£187,878
	Kitchen Starter Pack	£7,000
	Carpet	£35,000
	Bedding	£7,000
	Rent in Advance	£9120
	Total	£245,998
Running Costs	Staffing Costs	£198,609
	Admin and licences	£12,618
Grand Total		£440,414

2.10 The EIA highlights the following:

- Total of 13,379 applications for support since 2012/13
- Over half of applications (54%) are from families with children. The proportion of applicants with children has increased from 35% in 2013/14 to 67% in 2018/19
- People aged 25 – 39 years account for the majority of applicants (47.5%)
- Almost a third of applicants identify as disabled (32.6%)
- Majority of applicants are female (70.9%)
- Majority of applications are from residents living in Brinnington and Central. However, the proportion has reduced from 33.7% in 2016/17 to 26.0% in 2018/19. In part, this is due to the majority of the boroughs temporary accommodation being within the Brinnington ward and is therefore linked to spend on resettlement.
- Almost a half of all applicants (45.6%) live in Council-owned properties managed by Stockport Homes
- 67% of applications are approved, which represents a slight reduction compared to previous years
- The majority of reasons for rejection is no customer response, although this has decreased since 2016/17 from 50.7% to 32.3%. Additionally, the proportion of repeat applications has reduced from 4.2% in 2016/17 to 1.9% in 2018/19
- The majority awards of support is related to resettlement (70%)
- Between April and September 2018/19, almost two thirds of awards (64.3%) have been made to people returning from care, accounting for 80.5% of total amount spent
- In October 2018, 20.3% of resettlement support was to people in a relationship breakdown. Care leavers accounted for 8.7%.

Delivery Model Option

2.11 The Cabinet is very much committed to listening and learning from its communities and in light of the extensive amount of feedback on the proposal to cease SLAS (see Appendix 1 Consultation Report and Appendix 2 Focus Group Report); the Cabinet are proposing to retain SLAS for 2019/20.

2.12 However, the Council is committed to reforming the delivery of support to vulnerable people. A number of alternative options will be identified and consulted upon during 2019/20 so that the full savings will be achieved in 2020/21.

Alternative Provision

2.13 Further work is required to identify potential alternative models. At this stage, this may include:

- Operating a slimmed down scheme with reduced support, a reduction in staff numbers and a change to providers
- Reduced offer i.e. single bed, under-the-counter fridge freezer, table-top cooker
- Explore opportunities for a third sector provider to deliver scheme on behalf of the Council
- Explore opportunities to offer furnished tenancies. The increased rent to cover the cost of furniture would be covered by Housing Benefit.

2.14 Additional resources of £0.175m identified as part of the review of Council Tax Discounts will be utilised to support the SLAS budget at current levels during 2019/20. This will mean that a budget saving of £0.175m can be realised against the original plan of £0.490m while alternative options are explored during 2019/20 for implementation in 2020/21.

Disabled Facilities Capital Grant

2.15 A review of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) has been undertaken to identify the opportunities to further capitalise costs from within Adult Social Care against the grant. The purpose of the DFG is to support people to live independently in their own homes. The review has identified areas where the Council is able to expand the use of the funding within this criteria whilst continuing to ensure that mandatory DFG's are prioritised. A review of DFG policies across the GM footprint has shaped the thinking around the expansion of the use of the grant. There will be a further capitalisation of £0.150m against the grant in 2019/20; this will be achieved through charging equipment, adaptations and occupational therapy against the grant.

Direct Payments

2.16 A review of Direct Payments, Independent Support Funds and Self Directed Support has commenced. The review will consider the process for assessment, support planning and audit of all current and future arrangements. The review has identified the need to develop the procedures and policies across Adult Social Care for direct payments, Independent Support Funds and Self Directed Support. The new policies and procedures will continue to be informed by the Care Act and will contain the relevant information to ensure that there is appropriate use of the funds that support the recipients needs. The service will ensure that the wider resources available within the Stockport economy are maximised to support the needs of our clients in the most appropriate way. In addition, the council will ensure that where appropriate any underutilised funds are recovered.

Other Support Funds

2.17 The initial scope for this review also includes Section 17 payments made by Children's Social Care, Discretionary Housing Payments and the Council Tax Discretionary payments fund (the main Council Tax Support Scheme is outside of the scope of this review). Work has commenced to compare eligibility for the different strands, look for overlap, and ways to maximise the overall benefit derived from their application.

3 Scope

3.1 The following table sets out the financial scope for these reviews:

					Phasing	
	Saving Name	2018/19 Cash Limit Budget £000	Original Full Year Saving Proposed £000	Revised Cash Limit £000	2019/20 £000	Cumulative 2020/21* £000
3	Support Funds Coordination	9,929	(990)	8,939	(675)	(990)

**subject to wider review on support funds outlined in section.4.*

N.B Direct payments are the largest element of the net budget described in the above table. The Stockport Local Assistance Scheme is included and accounts for £0.486m of the total.

4.0 Key Milestones

4.1 Updated milestones include:

Milestone description	Date expected	Output at milestone
Review of DFG; SLAS; Direct Payments and other support funds	November 2018	Identify costs that can be capitalised against the DFG. Anticipate implications of withdrawal of SLAS funding on other council funding streams and explore tools to establish a 'family view' of support fund allocation.
Consultation on any changes to services where required	October 2018	SLAS consultation undertaken.
Consultation and engagement on alternative delivery model	From June 2019	Consultation and engagement with stakeholders on alternative

		delivery model for vulnerable people
Cabinet consideration of proposals	Feb 2020	Cabinet recommendation on proposals
Subject to Cabinet Decision – proposed implementation date of new offer	April 2020	New service model live

5.0 Consultation and Engagement Update

- 5.1 Significant consultation has been undertaken regarding SLAS.
- 5.2 See Appendix 1 (Consultation Report) and Appendix 2 (Focus Group Report) for further information.

6.0 Interdependencies, Constraints, and Risks

- 6.1 There will be constraints on any reduction in provision of Direct Payments on the basis that any Direct Payment would have to be sufficient to meet any individuals' needs.
- 6.2 The risks that will be evident from stopping the Stockport Local Assistance Scheme will be that there is little or no provision for adults and families in an emergency, when there is an immediate threat to health or safety.

7.0 Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment	
Proposal 3: Support Funds Coordination	03/01/2019
	Stage: Draft

Stage 1: Do you need to complete an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)?

About Equality Impact Assessments

Yes, an EIA is required as this proposal seeks to review support funds across the organisation.

The changes focus on a number of key service elements. This includes: the Stockport Local Assistance Scheme (SLAS); coordination of statutory, national and other local schemes; Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG); and Direct Payments.

The review of current support funds will result in creating an efficient and consistent approach to the coordination of funding service delivery

As the proposal is developed it will incorporate feedback from consultation and any changes to the proposed new service design. The full EIA will be available when this is completed.

Stage 2: What do you know?

The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are as follows:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation.

Analysis will be gathered in relation to service uptake and service users to determine the protected characteristics affected by the proposal. Where we have it, we will include information about socio economic status.

Information has also be gathered about the staff affected by the proposal.

In addition, consideration will also be given regarding:

- Borough wide demographics and needs
- Consultation and engagement feedback

Borough-wide Demographics

Population

Stockport has a population of 290,050

- Population has been growing at a rate of about 1,000 people a year
- Stockport has a higher proportion of children and older people compared to regional and national averages. This could result in an increased demand on services and expenditure
- There has been a much larger increase in the proportion of children in the most deprived parts of the borough

ACORN¹ identifies that 15% of the Stockport population are classed as 'Urban Adversity'. This cohort are likely to experience the following:

- Incomes are low
- Debt difficulties, refused credit
- Claiming benefits
- Low level of qualifications
- Work tends to be in semi-skilled or unskilled occupations
- Housing is mix of low rise estates with terraced and semi-detached houses, purpose built flats and high rise blocks
- Smaller properties with potential for overcrowding
- Social housing with some private renting too
- Single adult households including single pensioners, lone parents, separated and divorced people
- Health problems
- People finding life the hardest and experiencing the most difficult social and financial conditions.

Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) identifies Brinnington as the most

deprived area in Stockport. It is the 47th most deprived area in England.
¹ ACORN is a consumer classification that segments the UK population. By analysing demographic data, social factors, population and consumer behaviour, it provides precise information and an understanding of different types of people

Stockport Local Assistance Scheme

The following data has been provided by the SLAS Team and is taken from the Case Management System (IEG4). Upon applying for support from SLAS, applicants must select which of the following three options they identify with:

- I need essential household items to help me move to a new home
- I need essential household items to help me stay in my own home
- I am in a crisis and need help with daily essential items / my child qualifies for the Secondary School Uniform scheme.

The case management system files each applicant into one of three categories:

- Disaster
- Returning from care
- Utilities.

Therefore, those categorised as returning from care includes people who are care leavers, leavers of long- term hospital/institutional care, prison leavers, homeless, etc.

Unless stated, data for 2015/16 and 2018/19 are based on part year figures and have therefore been estimated.

Applications

SLAS have received a total of 13,379 applications for support since 2012/13.

Table 1 – Number of applications (2013/14 – 2018/19)

Year	Number
2013/14	2804
2014/15	2599
2015/16	1984
2016/17	1782
2017/18	1864
2018/19	2346

The reduced number of applications in 2016/17 has been attributed to the introduction of Fuel Bank support through Trussell Trust Foodbanks. This resulted in an initial reduction of 10% in the number of utility awards

Single people (45%) and single parents (40%) make up the majority of applicants to SLAS.

Since 2013/14, the proportion of applicants who are single parents has increased from 27% to 54% in 2018/19.

Over half of applications (54%) are from families with children. The proportion of

applicants with children has increased from 35% in 2013/14 to 67% in 2018/19.

Table 2 – Applicant Type (2013/14 – 2018/19)

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16-17	17-18	18-19	Average
Couple with children	8%	8%	7%	7%	8%	13%	9%
Couple without children	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%
Living with non-dependent	6%	4%	4%	5%	2%	2%	3%
Single	55%	56%	52%	50%	43%	29%	40%
Single parent	27%	28%	34%	35%	45%	54%	45%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

People aged 25 – 39 years account for the majority of applicants (47.5%), followed by applicants aged 40 – 65 years (37.1%). Under 25's account for 13.4% of applicants whilst 2.1% are aged over 65 years.

Table 3 – Age of applicants (2016/17 – 2018/19)

	Percentage
Under 25	13.4
25 – 39	47.5
40 – 65	37.1
Over 65	2.1

Almost a third of applicants identify as disabled. Since 2016/17, there has been an increase in the number and proportion of disabled applicants. In 2018/19, disabled applicants identified as:

- Blind (3.6%)
- Physical disabled (59.8%)
- Mental health condition (36.6%).

Table 4 – Disabled applicants (2016/17 – 2018/19)

	Number	Proportion of all applicants, percent
2016/17	516	28.9
2017/18	571	30.6
2018/19	764	32.6

Since 2016/17, the proportion of female applicants has increased.

Table 5 – Applications by Gender (2016/17 – 2018/19)

	Female, percent	Male, percent
2016/17	60.4	39.6
2017/18	64.9	35.1

2018/19	70.9	29.1
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The majority of applicants are White British (84%).

Table 6 – Application by Ethnic Group (2016/17 – 2018/19)

Ethnic Group	Percent
White British	84
Unknown	8
Asian	3
Other	2
Black	2
Mixed	2

Since 2016/17, there has been an increase in the percentage of applicants who identify as Asian, Mixed and Other. This maybe due to a reduction in the percentage of 'unknown' applicants and an indication of improved recording methods.

Table 7 – Application by Ethnic Group proportion

Ethnic Group	2016/17, percent	2017/18, percent	2018/19, percent
White British	82.2	84.2	84.1
Unknown	11.1	7.6	6.1
Asian	1.5	2.6	3.5
Other	1.8	1.9	2.5
Black	1.6	1.8	1.1
Mixed	1.9	2.0	2.8

Table 8 shows that the majority of applications are from residents living in Brinnington and Central. However, the proportion has reduced from 33.7% in 2016/17 to 26.0% in 2018/19.

Table 8 – Number of applications by geography (2016/17 – 2018/19), percent

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 (April – September)
Bramhall North	0.6	1.0	1.3
Bramhall South	0.2	0.3	0.4
Bredbury & Woodley	3.5	2.7	4.1
Bredbury Green & Romiley	5.2	4.4	5.6
Brinnington & Central	33.7	29.2	26.0
Cheadle & Gatley	1.1	1.7	2.2
Cheadle Hulme North	2.7	2.8	3.8
Cheadle Hulme South	1.1	0.8	1.9
Davenport & Cale Green	9.4	9.1	9.1
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	8.3	8.0	4.6
Hazel Grove	2.7	2.8	2.9

Heald Green	0.7	1.5	2.1
Heatons North	2.2	2.4	2.3
Heatons South	2.5	4.6	4.7
Manor	2.7	5.0	5.1
Marple North	1.1	0.7	1.2
Marple South	9.4	1.8	1.4
Offerton	8.3	4.7	4.2
Reddish North	2.7	7.1	6.7
Reddish South	0.7	4.3	4.6
Stepping Hill	2.2	1.3	1.1
Unknown	2.5	4.0	4.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 9 shows that the majority of applicants live in Council-owned properties managed by Stockport Homes. Since 2016/17, there has been an increase in the proportion of applicants who are Housing Association tenants, owner-occupiers and private tenants.

Table 9 – Applications by tenancy type (2016/17 – 2018/19)

Tenancy Type	2016/17		2017/18		2018/19	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Council Tenant	903	50.7	911	48.9	534	45.6
Housing Association Tenant	299	16.8	356	19.1	218	18.6
Living with friends and family	83	4.7	92	4.9	55	4.7
Other	186	10.4	177	9.5	118	10.1
Owner Occupier	35	2.0	67	3.6	63	5.4
Private tenant	246	13.8	260	14.0	184	15.7
Unknown	30	1.7	-	-	-	-

No information is available for applicants regarding:

- Gender reassignment
- Marriage or civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation.

Decisions

This section provides an overview of the application decision.

Table 10 – Decisions, percent (2016/17 – 2018/19)

	2016/17			2017/18			2018/19 (April – Sept)		
	Approved	Partially Approved	Rejected	Approved	Partially Approved	Rejected	Approved	Partially Approved	Rejected
Bramhall North	25.0	33.3	41.7	55.0	10.0	35.0	50.0	7.1	42.9
Bramhall South	25.0	50.0	25.0	50.0	16.7	33.3	75.0	0.0	25.0
Bredbury & Woodley	40.6	26.1	33.3	28.6	26.8	44.6	40.8	26.5	32.7
Bredbury Green & Romiley	41.9	26.7	31.4	49.5	17.2	33.3	46.3	22.4	31.3
Brinnington & Central	38.7	23.7	37.6	34.4	21.1	44.5	40.1	16.8	43.1
Cheadle & Gatley	36.0	8.0	56.0	41.2	8.8	50.0	61.1	0.0	38.9
Cheadle Hulme North	39.7	27.6	32.8	39.7	25.9	34.5	38.6	18.2	43.2
Cheadle Hulme South	33.3	29.6	37.0	50.0	23.1	26.9	40.0	20.0	40.0
Davenport & Cale Green	33.0	20.6	46.4	34.1	20.1	45.8	46.7	18.1	35.2
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	30.5	25.3	44.3	36.6	25.0	38.4	31.7	26.7	41.7
Hazel Grove	45.8	16.9	37.3	41.7	20.0	38.3	53.8	17.9	28.2
Heald Green	50.0	7.1	42.9	53.3	6.7	40.0	54.2	4.2	41.7
Heatons North	37.2	18.6	44.2	51.9	15.4	32.7	46.7	20.0	33.3
Heatons South	41.9	16.3	41.9	54.3	16.3	29.3	54.3	13.0	32.6
Manor	38.5	21.3	40.2	36.7	19.4	43.9	36.1	29.5	34.4
Marple North	25.0	12.5	62.5	64.3	28.6	7.1	61.5	15.4	23.1
Marple South	48.3	13.8	37.9	45.2	16.7	38.1	47.4	15.8	36.8
Offerton	29.3	33.3	37.4	28.7	23.4	47.9	56.0	20.0	24.0
Reddish North	30.4	30.4	39.1	35.9	22.1	42.1	39.2	19.0	41.8
Reddish South	35.6	27.7	36.6	37.2	22.1	40.7	40.0	21.7	38.3
Stepping Hill	20.0	6.7	73.3	30.8	30.8	38.5	35.3	17.6	47.1
Unknown	10.3	24.1	65.5	26.6	19.0	54.4	36.3	18.8	45.0

Approval

On average, 67% (8964) of applications are approved. The number of approvals for 2018/19 is estimated to be slightly higher than 2017/18. However, in comparison to 2016/17, this equates to a 23.1% reduction.

Table 11 – Number of Approvals (2013/14 – 2018/19)

	Number	Percentage of applications approved (%)
2013/14	No data available	72

2014/15	No data available	63
2015/16	No data available	57
2016/17	1243	70
2017/18	954	65
2018/19	956	66

Based on 3153 approvals from the past 3 years, the top three reasons for approval are:

- Resettlement (48.3%)
- Exceptional pressure (8.3%)
- Benefit delays (6.3%)

Table 12 – Reasons for Acceptance (2016/17 – 2018/19)

	16/17 (%)	17/18 (%)	18/19 (%)
Admin error	1.5%	1%	2%
Benefit changes	4%	4%	<1%
Benefit delays	10%	6%	3%
Benefit sanction	2%	1%	<1%
Debt	5%	5%	1%
Does not meet criteria	1%	1%	1%
Domestic violence	3%	3%	1%
Down-sizing	<1%	2%	<1%
Emergency travel	<1%	<1%	0%
Exceptional pressure	9%	10%	6%
Fleeing harassment	<1%	<1%	<1%
General	7%	8%	2%
Leaving care	4%	5%	2%
Loss of employment	<1%	<1%	0%
Lost or stolen money	1%	<1%	<1%
Low income	3%	1%	<1%
Medical need	2%	1%	<1%
No customer response	1%	<1%	<1%
No funding available	<1%	0%	0%
Offer refused	1%	<1%	<1%
Other funding available	2%	1%	<1%
Preventing care	<1%	<1%	<1%
Refugee	<1%	<1%	0%
Relationship breakdown	2%	<1%	<1%
Resettlement	39%	47%	59%

No data is available to determine approvals by demographic.

Rejections

Table 13 shows that the majority of reasons for rejection is no customer response, although this has decreased since 2016/17 from 50.7% to 32.3%.

The proportion of repeat applications has reduced from 4.2% in 2016/17 to 1.9% in 2018/19.

In terms of terminology:

- Other Funding – Includes self-funding i.e. applicant has savings; referral to Fuel Bank; applicant chooses to get help from family and friends, other DWP payments such as budgeting loans, advance payments for Universal Credit and Short Term Advances for JSA/ESA claimants
- General – certain components in the case management system defaults to showing the rejection reason as 'General'
- No Funding Available – may be for a request for an item that SLAS do not fund i.e. a request for a television
- No Customer Response – clients contacting SLAS in a crisis often lead chaotic lifestyles and by nature some of these will drop out. The Team contact the client by their preferred method (usually telephone). Where possible the Team leave a message and request a call back. The Team will also write to the client either by post or email. If a client has a known support worker, the Team always contact them in addition to the client. Applications are normally closed within 5 days if for crisis support. The system allows cases to be re-opened at any time if contact is made
- Not Met Criteria – If a client does not meet the criteria for support, the Team will signpost the client to other services. This forms part of our 'soft no' policy where the Team would never close a case without offering further signposting for support and assistance.

Table 13 – Reasons for Rejection (2016/17 – 2018/19)

	16/17 (%)		17/18 (%)		18/19 (%) April – Sept	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Admin error	64	7.7	82	9.5	35	7.2
Benefit changes	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Does not meet criteria	173	20.9	124	14.4	58	11.9
Eligible: Exceptional pressure	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Eligible: Free School Meals	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Fraudulent Application	3	0.4	3	0.3	0	0.0
General	0	0.0	115	13.3	67	13.8
Insufficient Evidence	5	0.6	4	0.5	0	0.0
No customer response	419	50.7	344	39.9	157	32.3
No funding available	7	0.8	3	0.3	1	0.2
No local connection	5	0.6	3	0.3	2	0.4
Not eligible: Exceptional pressure	0	0.0	31	3.6	90	18.5
Not eligible: Free School Meals	0	0.0	59	6.8	29	6.0
Offer refused	22	2.7	19	2.2	6	1.2
Other funding available	81	9.8	49	5.7	29	6.0
Repeat application	35	4.2	22	2.6	9	1.9
Resettlement	3	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.2
Surplus income	5	0.6	3	0.3	0	0.0
Voucher not redeemed	4	0.5	1	0.1	0	0.0
Total	827	100.0	862	100.0	486	100.0

Since 2016/17, it is estimated that 36.6% of the total amount awarded has been awarded to people living in Brinnington and Central.

Table 14 – Total spend by ward (2016/17 – 2018/19)

Ward	Estimated total spend between 16/17 and 18/19 (£)	Percent (%)
Brinnington & Central	396,051	36.6
Edgeley	81,833	7.6
Davenport	74,430	6.9
Reddish North	66,341	6.1
Manor	52,041	4.8
Bredbury Green & Romiley	49,066	4.5
Reddish South	45,723	4.2
Offerton	45,947	4.2
Blank	44,902	4.1
Bredbury & Woodley	36,306	3.4
Hazel Grove	37,004	3.4
Cheadle Hulme North	33,407	3.1
Heatons North	22,657	2.1
Marple South	16,976	1.6
Cheadle Hulme South	15,239	1.4
Heatons South	14,584	1.3
Heald Green	11,601	1.1
Stepping Hill	9973	0.9
Marple North	9491	0.9
Cheadle & Gatley	8064	0.7
Bramhall North	6891	0.6
Bramhall South	3978	0.4
Total spend	1,082,507	100

Type of award

Since 2013/14 there has been a shift from the majority of awards being emergency support, to the majority being for resettlement.

Table 15 – Type of award (2016/17 – 2018/19)

	Resettlement, percent	Emergency Support, percent
2013/14	33	67
2014/15	50	50
2015/16	56	44
2016/17	66	34
2017/18	68	32
2018/19	70	30

Table 16 shows that between April and September 2018/19, almost two thirds of awards (64.3%) have been made to people returning from care. This accounts for 80.5% of total funding spent.

Table 16 – Type of award by circumstance (Apr – Sept 2018/19)

Circumstance	No. of awards	%	Emergency Assistance			Resettlement Support			Total (£)	%
			No. of awards	Amount (£)	%	No. of awards	Amount (£)	%		
Emergency	107	6.2	4	87	0.3	103	14,771	8.2	14,858	7.3

Returning from Care	1106	64.3	0	0	0.0	1106	164,647	91.7	164,647	80.5
Utility	508	29.5	507	24,849	99.7	1	174	0.1	25023	12.2
Total	1721	100.0	511	24936	100.0	1210	179,592	100.0	204,528	100.0

Emergency

Table 17 shows that 107 items of support was awarded to applicants totalling £14,858. Clients from Brinnington and Central account for the majority of items of support (29.0%) accounting for 31.4% of disaster spend.

Table 17 – Emergency applicants (Apr – Sept 2018/19)

			Emergency Assistance			Resettlement Support				
	No. of awards	%	No. of awards	Amount (£)	%	No. of awards	Amount (£)	%	Total (£)	%
Bramhall North	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bramhall South	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bredbury & Woodley	5	4.7	0	0	0.0	5	549	3.7	549	3.7
Bredbury Green & Romiley	4	3.7	0	0	0.0	4	285	1.9	285	1.9
Brinnington & Central	31	29.0	0	0	0.0	31	4659	31.5	4659	31.4
Cheadle & Gatley	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cheadle Hulme North	7	6.5	3	20	23.0	4	568	3.8	588	4.0
Cheadle Hulme South	5	4.7	0	0	0.0	5	717	4.9	717	4.8
Davenport & Cale Green	11	10.3	0	67	77.0	11	1851	12.5	1918	12.9
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	5	4.7	1	0	0.0	4	689	4.7	689	4.6
Hazel Grove	4	3.7	0	0	0.0	4	619	4.2	619	4.2
Heald Green	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Heatons North	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Heatons South	1	0.9	0	0	0.0	1	133	0.9	133	0.9
Manor	3	2.8	0	0	0.0	3	527	3.6	527	3.5
Marple North	3	2.8	0	0	0.0	3	512	3.5	512	3.4
Marple South	1	0.9	0	0	0.0	1	109	0.7	109	0.7
Offerton	10	9.3	0	0	0.0	10	1218	8.2	1218	8.2
Reddish North	5	4.7	0	0	0.0	5	717	4.9	717	4.8
Reddish South	6	5.6	0	0	0.0	6	889	6.0	889	6.0
Stepping Hill	6	5.6	0	0	0.0	6	729	4.9	729	4.9
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	107	100.0	4	87	100.0	103	14771	100.0	14858	100.0

Resettlement

Table 18 shows that 1106 items of support was awarded to applicants totalling £164,657. Clients from Brinnington and Central account for the majority of items of support (40.1%) accounting for 40.0% of returning from care spend.

Table 18 – Returning from care applicants (Apr – Sept 2018/19)

			Emergency Assistance			Resettlement Support				
	No. of awards	%	No. of awards	Amount (£)	%	No. of awards	Amount (£)	%	Total (£)	%
Bramhall North	7	0.6	0	0	0.0	7	1314	0.8	1314	0.8

Bramhall South	4	0.4	0	0	0.0	4	782	0.5	782	0.5
Bredbury & Woodley	45	4.1	0	0	0.0	45	6705	4.1	6705	4.1
Bredbury Green & Romiley	43	3.9	0	0	0.0	43	6283	3.8	6283	3.8
Brinnington & Central	443	40.1	0	0	0.0	443	65820	40.0	65820	40.0
Cheadle & Gatley	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cheadle Hulme North	16	1.4	0	0	0.0	16	2077	1.3	2077	1.3
Cheadle Hulme South	11	1.0	0	0	0.0	11	1909	1.2	1909	1.2
Davenport & Cale Green	52	4.7	0	0	0.0	52	7521	4.6	7521	4.6
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	78	7.1	0	0	0.0	78	10166	6.2	10166	6.2
Hazel Grove	43	3.9	0	0	0.0	43	6594	4.0	6594	4.0
Heald Green	9	0.8	0	0	0.0	9	1385	0.8	1385	0.8
Heatons North	26	2.4	0	0	0.0	26	3974	2.4	3974	2.4
Heatons South	4	0.4	0	0	0.0	4	431	0.3	431	0.3
Manor	54	4.9	0	0	0.0	54	8408	5.1	8408	5.1
Marple North	14	1.3	0	0	0.0	14	1899	1.2	1899	1.2
Marple South	10	0.9	0	0	0.0	10	1256	0.8	1256	0.8
Offerton	44	4.0	0	0	0.0	44	6851	4.2	6851	4.2
Reddish North	39	3.5	0	0	0.0	39	6568	4.0	6568	4.0
Reddish South	41	3.7	0	0	0.0	41	6358	3.9	6358	3.9
Stepping Hill	6	0.5	0	0	0.0	6	1126	0.7	1126	0.7
Unknown	117	10.6	0	0	0.0	117	17220	10.5	17220	10.5
Total	1106	100.0	0	0	0.0	1106	164647	100.0	164647	100.0

Utility

Table 19 shows that 508 items of support was awarded to applicants totalling £25,023. Clients from Brinnington and Central account for the majority of items of support (22.3%) accounting for 18.1% of returning from care spend.

Table 19 – Utility applicants (Apr – Sept 2018/19)

			Emergency Assistance			Resettlement Support				
	No. of awards	%	No. of awards	Amount (£)	%	No. of awards	Amount (£)	%	Total (£)	%
Bramhall North	5	1.0	5	282	1.1	0	0	0.0	282	1.1
Bramhall South	1	0.2	1	168	0.7	0	0	0.0	168	0.7
Bredbury & Woodley	24	4.7	24	919	3.7	0	0	0.0	919	3.7
Bredbury Green & Romiley	40	7.9	40	2152	8.7	0	0	0.0	2152	8.6
Brinnington & Central	114	22.4	113	4357	17.5	1	174	100.0	4531	18.1
Cheadle & Gatley	11	2.2	11	901	3.6	0	0	0.0	901	3.6
Cheadle Hulme North	17	3.3	17	957	3.9	0	0	0.0	957	3.8
Cheadle Hulme South	11	2.2	11	619	2.5	0	0	0.0	619	2.5
Davenport & Cale Green	51	10.0	51	2496	10.0	0	0	0.0	2496	10.0
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	23	4.5	23	565	2.3	0	0	0.0	565	2.3
Hazel Grove	13	2.6	13	778	3.1	0	0	0.0	778	3.1
Heald Green	11	2.2	11	1127	4.5	0	0	0.0	1127	4.5
Heatons North	13	2.6	13	742	3.0	0	0	0.0	742	3.0
Heatons South	32	6.3	32	1888	7.6	0	0	0.0	1888	7.5
Manor	36	7.1	36	1021	4.1	0	0	0.0	1021	4.1
Marple North	5	1.0	5	324	1.3	0	0	0.0	324	1.3
Marple South	6	1.2	6	425	1.7	0	0	0.0	425	1.7
Offerton	30	5.9	30	1482	6.0	0	0	0.0	1482	5.9
Reddish North	34	6.7	34	2243	9.0	0	0	0.0	2243	9.0
Reddish South	22	4.3	22	862	3.5	0	0	0.0	862	3.4
Stepping Hill	4	0.8	4	114	0.5	0	0	0.0	114	0.5
Unknown	5	1.0	5	427	1.7	0	0	0.0	427	1.7
Total	508	100.0	507	24849	100.0	1	174	100.0	25023	100.0

Table 20 shows that the majority of resettlement items of support is 'other'

(23.9%). This includes both carpets and furniture. 'Other' also represents that majority of resettlement spend (22.5%).

Table 20 – Resettlement (April – September 2018/19)

	Number	Percent	Amount (£)	Percent
Bed	187	15.5	32,539	18.1
Cooking Facility	235	19.4	42,915	23.9
Fridge Freezer	205	16.9	34,770	19.3
Kitchen Starter Pack	159	13.1	6026	3.4
Other	289	23.9	40,495	22.5
Rent in Advance	1	0.1	444	0.2
Washer Machine	134	11.1	22,646	12.6
Total	1210	100.0	179,835	100.0

Table 21 shows the type of resettlement support provided in each ward. The majority of resettlement spend was awarded to clients living in Brinnington and Central (£73,376, 40.8%).

Table 21 – Resettlement (April – September 2018/19)

	Bed		Cooking Facility		Fridge Freezer		Kitchen Starter Pack		Other		Washer Machine		Total
	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	Amount (£)
Bramhall North	-	-	42.9	552	-	-	-	-	57.1	739	-	-	1291
Bramhall South	-	-	-	-	25.0	174	25.0	38	25.0	132	25.0	169	513
Bredbury & Woodley	16.4	2082	21.3	2448	19.7	2088	14.8	341	19.7	1488	8.2	845	9291
Bredbury Green & Romiley	14.3	1742	19.6	2024	14.3	1437	16.1	341	19.6	2325	16.1	1521	9391
Brinnington & Central	16.2	14,321	19.8	17,990	17.2	14,217	13.0	2464	22.8	14,921	11.2	9464	73,376
Cheadle & Gatley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	135	-	-	135
Cheadle Hulme North	30.8	1165	7.7	368	11.5	522	7.7	76	30.8	1422	11.5	507	4059
Cheadle Hulme South	19.0	478	4.8	184	23.8	870	19.0	152	23.8	746	9.5	338	2768
Davenport & Cale Green	14.3	1570	22.1	3118	15.6	2058	14.3	416	22.1	2600	11.7	1521	11,283
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	13.5	2500	17.7	2983	20.8	3405	11.5	417	21.9	2799	14.6	2366	14,470
Hazel Grove	14.9	1665	19.1	1656	17.0	1338	8.5	152	25.5	1345	14.9	1183	7339
Heald Green	22.2	212	-	-	11.1	219	11.1	38	44.4	327	11.1	169	965
Heatons North	14.3	440	21.4	110.4	14.3	696	17.9	190	17.9	1110	10.7	507	8613
Heatons South	10.0	411	20.0	1104	13.3	621	16.7	190	30.0	1819	10.0	507	4652
Manor	12.8	1768	23.1	3312	15.4	2133	11.5	341	26.9	3459	10.3	1352	12,366

Marple North	23.5	882	17.6	552	23.5	696	5.9	38	17.6	341	11.8	338	2847
Marple South	25.0	406	16.7	368	16.7	348	8.3	38	33.3	662	-	-	1822
Offerton	16.1	1659	16.1	1840	14.5	1566	14.5	341	29.0	1972	9.7	1014	8392
Reddish North	14.6	1026	22.9	2024	18.8	1512	14.6	265	22.9	1057	6.3	507	6391
Reddish South	5.9	60	23.5	736	17.6	522	23.5	152	29.4	641	-	-	2111
Stepping Hill	11.1	152	22.2	368	11.1	174	11.1	38	33.3	455	11.1	169	1356
Unknown	-	-	33.3	184	33.3	174	-	-	-	-	33.3	169	527

Table 22 shows that the majority of emergency support is regarding Secondary School Uniforms (60.1% of total items of support and 87.3% of total emergency support budget).

Table 22 – Emergency Support (April – September 2018/19)

	Number	Percent	Amount (£)	Percent
Electricity Prepay Meter	72	14.1	935	3.7
Gas Prepay Meter	57	11.2	695	2.8
Food Bank referral	38	7.4	1	0.0
Pantry Referral 1 month	5	1.0	38	0.2
Bus	10	2.0	40	0.2
Clothes General	21	4.1	1470	5.9
Food baby	1	0.2	0	0.0
Secondary School Uniform	307	60.1	21,759	87.3
Total	511	100.0	24,937	100.0

Table 23 shows the type of emergency support provided in each ward. The majority of resettlement spend was awarded to clients living in Brinnington and Central (£4149, 16.6%).

Table 23 – Emergency Support by Ward (April – September 2018/19)

	Electricity Prepay Meter		Food Bank Referral		Pantry Referral 1 Month		Bus		Clothes General		Secondary School Uniform		
	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	%	Amount (£)	Amount (£)
Bramhall North	40.0	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60.0	246	266

Bramhall South	100.0	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Bredbury & Woodley	38.5	60	15.4	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	46.2	516	576
Bredbury Green & Romiley	16.2	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83.9	1571	1631
Brinnington & Central	28.7	300	10.3	<1	-	-	1.1	4	-	-	59.8	3835	4149
Cheadle & Gatley	20.0	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80.0	736	756
Cheadle Hulme North	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.9	420	57.1	447	867
Cheadle Hulme South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	420	-	-	420
Davenport & Cale Green	18.9	100	10.8	<1	-	-	5.4	8	24.3	630	40.5	1072	1810
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	70.0	90	10.0	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.0	97	187
Hazel Grove	30.8	75	15.4	<1	15.4	15	7.7	4	-	-	30.8	203	297
Heald Green	27.3	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72.7	561	597
Heatons North	18.2	20	9.1	<1	-	-	9.1	4	-	-	63.6	494	-
Heatons South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	341	341
Manor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	1031	1031
Marple North	40.0	30	20.0	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.0	122	152
Marple South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	368	368
Offerton	4.5	10	9.1	<1	4.5	8	-	-	-	-	81.8	1524	1542
Reddish North	23.3	100	6.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.0	1290	1390
Reddish South	40.4	250	11.5	<1	-	-	3.8	8	-	-	44.2	1730	1989
Stepping Hill	-	-	14.3	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	85.7	444	444
Unknown	29.4	450	6.7	<1	1.7	15	2.5	12	-	-	59.7	5120	5597

Resettlement Awards

The following data has been supplied by the SLAS Team and is based on awards made during October 2018. Using the case management system and case file records the following insight has been identified:

- 69 awards
- Majority are single male (43.5%) and single female with children (31.9%)
- Majority aged 25-39 (43.5%)
- Majority moved from: Temporary accommodation (27.5%), Homeless (18.8%), Living with family (18.8%)
- Majority move to Stockport Homes property (75.4%)
- Top reasons for move: Relationship Breakdown (20.3%), Homeless (15.9%)
- Top awarded items: Electric Cooker (82.6%), Single Fridge Freezer (75.4%), Carpet/vinyl (73.9%), Double Bed (65.2%)
- £47,367 total costs
- £686.5 average per person
- SLAS picked up 94.8% of costs

Table 24 shows spend by identified cohort during October 2018.

Table 24 – Spend by Cohort (October 2018)

Cohort	No. of awards	Moving into SHG property	Total Cost	Average cost per person	SLAS contribution	Stockport Homes Furniture Scheme	Credit Union
Asylum Seekers	4 (5.8%)	100.0%	£2788	£697.0	£2658 (95.3%)	£130 (4.7%)	-
Care leavers	6 (8.7%)	100.0%	£4541	£756.8	£4541 (100.0%)	-	-
Domestic violence	7 (10.1%)	83.3%	£5657	£808.1	£5527 (97.7%)	£130 (2.3%)	-
Poor mental health (physical and mental)	7 (10.1%)	83.3%	£2028	£289.7	£1933 (95.3%)	£95 (4.7%)	-
Homeless	14 (20.3%)	78.6%	£10,125	£723.2	£9591 (94.7%)	£405 (4.0%)	169 (1.7%)
Prison	5 (7.2%)	80.0%	£3672	£734.4	£3497 (95.2%)	£175 (4.8%)	-
Relationship Breakdown	14 (20.3%)	78.6%	£10,189	£727.8	£9588 (94.1%)	£295 (2.9%)	£351 (3.4%)
Supported Tenancy	4 (5.8%)	78.6%	£2781	£695.2	£2726 (98.0%)	£55 (2.0%)	-

Stage 2a: Further data and consultation

Extensive consultation has been undertaken. This has included:

- General Public – online survey went live in Friday 26th October 2018. Paper copies were made available in Libraries
- Stakeholders – online questionnaire was sent out Monday 29th October 2018
- Staff – consultation with staff commenced on Thursday 8th November 2018
- Service Users – postal survey to service users was sent out week commencing 12th November 2018. Additionally, two focus groups were held with service users on 13th December 2018.

The consultation ran until 21st December 2018.

The results are reported in Appendix 1 (Consultation Report) and Appendix 2 (Focus Group Report).

There have been 330 responses to the consultation from Stockport residents, of whom 157 have applied for assistance previously. Appendix 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the consultation responses. A snapshot of the demographics are as follows:

Gender

The table below shows that the majority of people who have received support from SLAS are female. This is inline with the data supplied by the SLAS team (see Stage 2).

	Male	Female
SLAS applicants	28.7%	71.3%

Age

The table below shows two-thirds of people who have received support from SLAS are aged 25 – 65 years (66.1%). Almost a third are aged 65 and above.

The data provided by the SLAS team shows that 25 – 65 year olds account for 84.6% of applications to the scheme, whilst those aged 65 and above account for just 2.1%. This suggests that the consultation over represents the over 65 age group and under represents the 25 – 64 age group.

Age Band	Percentage
0 – 17	0.0%
18 – 24	7.5%
25 – 34	19.0%
35 – 44	25.9%
45 – 54	32.0%
55 – 64	12.2%
65 – 74	31.4%
75 – 84	0.0%
85+	0.0%

Disability / long-term illness

Just under half of people who have received support from SLAS identify as disabled/long-term illness. This is higher than the data provided by the SLAS team which identifies 30.7% of applicants being disabled/long-term illness.

This suggests that the consultation over-represents those with a disability/long-term illness.

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
SLAS applicants	44.9%	46.9%	8.2%

Economic Status

Almost three quarters of people who have received support from SLAS are economically inactive (71.7%).

	Percentage
Employed (Full Time)	14.1
Employed (Part-Time)	10.1
Self-Employed	1.3
Unemployed	18.1
Long-term sick/disabled	31.5
Retired	4.0
Home-maker/care giver	9.4
Student	2.7
Other	6.7
Prefer not to say	2.0

No comparison can be made to the data held by SLAS due to the unavailability of the comparable data.

Relationship Status

Over half of people who have received support from SLAS are single (51.7%). This is higher than figure provided by SLAS which states that single people account for 40% of applications.

This suggests that the consultation over-represents those who are single.

	Percentage
Prefer not to say	2.6
Other	0.7
Widowed	2.6
Divorced/dissolved civil partnership	6.0
Separated (but still married/in a civil partnership)	6.0
Married/civil partnership	18.5
Living with a partner	9.9
With a partner (not living together)	2.0%
Single	51.7%

Family Situation

Almost two-thirds of people who have received support from SLAS have dependent children aged under 18 years. This is higher than figure provided by SLAS which states that people with children account for 54% of applications.

This suggests that the consultation over-represents those with children.

	Percentage
With children	63.8

Without children	34.9
Prefer not to say	1.3

Stage 3: Results and Measures

Having carefully listened to the views of stakeholders, alongside our understanding of how the scheme currently offers support, it is now planned to retain the current SLAS throughout 2019/20 while a wider fundamental review is undertaken of how the needs of individuals and families who encounter crisis are best supported.

A thorough review will take place and a number of alternative options will be identified and consulted upon during 2019/20 so that the full savings will be achieved in 2020/21.

Stage 4: Decision Stage

This EIA will accompany the proposal through the decision making stages.