

Additional information from the Welsh Local Government Association on the inquiry into housing support for vulnerable people

Please see below further information, as requested, following the evidence session on 6<sup>th</sup> March: -

- **Information about how much data local authorities hold on the extent of support need in their local area, and how that data is used to inform commissioning (363-364)**

In accordance with the terms and conditions of accepting the Housing Support Grant, it is a mandatory requirement that all Local Authorities in Wales undertake a Strategic Needs Assessment, which in turn underpins the Housing Support Programme Strategy at 4 yearly intervals, with a light touch review of the needs assessment completed mid-term.

The needs information used for the strategy and development plans by Councils typically includes: -

- **Profile of the borough:** Assessments of local wellbeing information, including population and age bandings, Welsh language, gender, ethnicity, national identity, and reference to the armed forces population
- **Food bank usage:** Information around the usage of food banks.
- **Economic and workforce data:** Including working population and earnings.
- **Education information:** Data on pupils, schools, and free school meals.
- **Health information:** Such as births, deaths, general health, and mental health.
- **Housing and Homeless information:** Including WIMD (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation), housing stock, tenure, accommodation types, and occupancy rates, deprivation figures, housing market statistics, new build and temporary accommodation data.

Further information used to inform commissioning decisions typically includes existing service data, the financial contributions currently paid, and any information about future budget availability or pressures on the existing value.

- **Whether there is any evidence of local authorities refraining from retendering some services due to increasing costs or capacity (paragraphs 377-378)**

The responses we have received from authorities do not provide any evidence that local authorities are refraining from tendering. However, capacity constraints within Council's commissioning teams have been highlighted by a number of authorities, and the majority reported significant increases in costs from providers. The recent increases in the HSG budget allocations have been identified as critical in allowing commissioners to respond to these cost pressures in order to maintain services.

- **Details of which local authorities are not yet delivering Housing First projects and whether any others are considering rolling back on theirs (paragraphs 416-417)**

WLGA does not hold the definitive information on which local authorities are not yet delivering Housing First projects. However, from the responses received from authorities, none have indicated that they are currently considering rolling back their provision.