

Title of report: Substance Misuse Grant Funding

Decision maker: Cabinet member health and adult wellbeing

Decision date: 1 November 2022

Report by: Public Health Senior Commissioning Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

Key

This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.

This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.

Notice has been served in accordance with Part 3, Section 10 (General Exception) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012.

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To approve and accept additional government grant funding to provide enhanced substance misuse services and to fulfil statutory requirements of the drug strategy.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **Approval is given to accept additional government grant funding to provide enhanced substance misuse services in Herefordshire and to fulfil statutory requirements of the national drug strategy From Harm to Hope; and**
- b) **Delegated authority is given to the Director of Public Health, to accept further funding grants from Office for Health Improvement and Disparities towards substance misuse services associated with the 10-year Harm to Hope national drug strategy.**

Alternative options

1. Not accept the grant funding. This is not recommended as these grants have a significant impact on the health of the at-risk population group and being able to access the treatment and support they need. It would also impact on statutory responsibilities to deliver on the drugs strategy locally.

Key considerations

1. This grant funding is to deliver statutory duties under the national drugs strategy 'from Harm to Hope', and will deliver a range of interventions in line with the requirements of the funding. The funding will be used to complement and enhance existing drug and alcohol treatment services in Herefordshire to build on the already well established pathways and relationships.
2. The Government's Drug Strategy – From Harm to Hope (FHTH) was published in December 2021¹, in response to Dame Carol Black Independent Review on Drugs, which stated that as Government has disinvested in tackling drugs over the years, there has been a noticeable increase in drug supply. FHTH aims to combat illegal drugs by cutting off the supply of drugs by criminal gangs and give people with a drug addiction a route to a productive and drug-free life. The strategy is underpinned by investment of over £3 billion over the next three years, with the aim to reduce drug-related crime, death, harm, and overall drug use. The three strategic priorities of the strategy are:
 - a. Break drug supply chains
 - b. Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system
 - c. Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs
3. Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery (SSMTR) is a funding stream from the FHTH and should be used to address the aims of the treatment and recovery section of the drug strategy.
4. On a national basis the additional funding should deliver:
 - a. 54,500 new high-quality treatment places, including: 21,000 new places for opiate and crack users; a treatment place for every offender with an addiction; 30,000 new treatment places for non-opiate users and alcohol users; a further 5,000 more young people in treatment
 - b. 24,000 more people in long-term recovery from substance dependence
 - c. 800 more medical, mental health and other professionals
 - d. 950 additional drug and alcohol and criminal justice workers

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1079147/From_harm_to_hope_PDF.pdf

- e. Sufficient commissioning and co-ordinator capacity in every local council
5. To deliver on these aims locally, our current substance misuse service provider will deliver on the local plans in accordance with the menu of evidenced based interventions that Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) have provided. These plans include:
 - a. Increased residential rehabilitation placements to ensure the option is available to those who would benefit, working towards the national 2% target.
 - b. Increased treatment capacity through adding additional roles, for example, Criminal Justice Workers undertaking police and court custody assessments enabling improved pathways into treatment, and additional Recovery Workers to drive down caseload size and improve overall treatment quality.
 - c. Increased integration and improved care pathways between the criminal justice settings, and drug treatment, developing a more targeted criminal justice pathway to ensure assessments and brief interventions are being offered in police custody and court to improve access to treatment and engagement with the local service.
 - d. Enhanced harm reduction provision, outreach needle exchange programmes across the county, provide additional harm reduction training to professionals and peers across the county and enhanced naloxone provision, including through peer networks and the police.
 - e. Improved and more integrated responses to physical and mental health issues, working in partnership with local partners, and increased screening capacity.
 - f. Enhanced recovery support – developing and expanding of a recovery community and peer support network, including in treatment, to sustain long-term recovery, increase the visibility of recovery support and support social integration.
6. The allocations for Herefordshire are indicative, and subject to OHID receiving approval from Department for Health and Social Care and HM Treasury:
 - 22-23 £284,199 – Awarded
 - 23-24 £289,746 – awarded in principle
 - 24-25 £353,287 – awarded in principle
7. Additional grant funding has also been made available to expand local services, including support for additional inpatient detox, rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping (22-23 £389,650 and £521,328 awarded in principle for 23-24), further allocations are yet to be confirmed.
8. This funding will provide additional roles to enable more targeted wraparound support for people who are rough sleeping, and those at risk of rough sleeping, improving access to local treatment and support services.
9. The funding is contingent on the level of investment from the Public Health Grant towards drug and alcohol services being maintained during the life of the additional funding. Therefore, this grant cannot be used to fund drug and alcohol services that would have ordinarily been funded by the Public Health Grant.

Community impact

9. In Herefordshire 2017/18 there were 3847 hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions, with hospital admissions and mortality rates in more deprived areas three times more likely than the least deprived areas².
10. Herefordshire alcohol needs assessment states there are an estimated 1,716 adults with an alcohol dependency, of which 1 in 5 are in treatment³ although following the pandemic these figures are likely to have increased.
11. Nationally, in 2018 drug-related deaths were the highest on record with heroin-related deaths more than doubling since 2012 and deaths involving cocaine increasing five-fold.
12. Specialist interventions for young people's substance misuse are effective and provide value for money. A Department for Education cost-benefit analysis⁴ found that every £1 invested saved £1.93 within two years and up to £8.38 in the long term. Specialist services engage young people quickly, the majority of whom leave in a planned way and do not return to treatment services. Additional funding will provide increased service capacity to reach young people.
13. It is estimated the social return on investment for drug and alcohol services, provides a value of 4.6 for in treatment and 23.4 for recovery i.e. for every £1 spent there is £4.60 return during the period in treatment and £23.40 return to society, including recovery benefits. Costs to the council averted by treatment include social care and housing costs are approximately £1.3million in Herefordshire, mostly through avoided social care costs.

Environmental Impact

14. In addition to the health benefits and overall return on investment the additional grant funding will provide greater opportunity for more prevention and harm reduction activity such as needle exchange interventions.
15. The council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.
16. The environmental impact of this proposal has been considered through the service specification and includes appropriate requirements on the contractor/delivery partner to minimise waste, reduce energy and carbon emissions and to consider opportunities to enhance biodiversity. This will be managed and reported through the ongoing contract management.

Equality duty

17. Substance misuse contributes to and amplifies health inequalities, and reduces the life expectancies of vulnerable groups within the population. Utilising government funding linked to the

² <https://understanding.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/1895/herefordshire-alcohol-needs-assessment.pdf>

³ [Herefordshire Alcohol Needs Assessment 2019](#)

⁴ [Specialist drug and Alcohol Services For Young People: Cost Benefit Analysis](#)

'From Harm, To Hope' drug strategy will provide valuable support and reach groups within the population who are more at risk, ensuring equity of support and avoiding discrimination.

18. People experiencing substance misuse often share a relevant protected characteristic, therefore utilising these government funding streams, and the subsequent programmes, will provide an opportunity to support the three aims of the equality duty and provide proactive support to reach this population.

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

19. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.

Resource implications

20. The grant funding is to be allocated by government as part of their the government drug strategy and is to provide enhanced substance misuse services in Herefordshire and to fulfil statutory requirements of the national drug strategy From Harm to Hope.
21. This grant funding is to deliver statutory duties under the national drugs strategy 'from Harm to Hope', and will deliver a range of interventions in line with the requirements of the funding. The funding will be used to complement and enhance existing drug and alcohol treatment services in Herefordshire to build on the already well established pathways and relationships.
22. The funding is contingent on the level of investment from the Public Health Grant towards drug and alcohol services being maintained during the life of the additional funding. Therefore, this grant cannot be used to fund drug and alcohol services that would have ordinarily been funded by the Public Health Grant.
23. Any extension of existing contracts and/or any new service procurements that may result from this additional funding will be in accordance with the council's contract procedure rules.

Legal implications

24. The allocation and acceptance of funding does not raise any specific legal issues. Any contract variation or awards of new contracts must be in accordance with the council's contract procedure rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

25. Legal Services can advise and assist officers with regard to the grant funding agreement, the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements as required. Risk management.

Consultees

Substance Misuse Services were consulted in the development of the local plans to implement this funding.

Appendices

None

Background papers

[From Harm to Hope](#)

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Governance	John Coleman	Date 06/10/2022
Finance	Kim Wratten	Date 20/10/2022
Legal	Sam Evans	Date 13/10/2022
Communications	Luenne Featherstone	Date 05/10/2022
Equality Duty	Carol Trachonitis	Date 06/10/2022
Procurement	Mark Cage	Date 07/10/2022
Risk	Jo Needs	Date 05/10/2022

Approved by	Hilary Hall	Date 24/10/2022
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