

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Mrs Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

22/00041

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000); or
- b) be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:
 - the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;
 - significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grants 2022/23 to 2024/25

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I agree to:

- I. ACCEPT the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grants 2022/23 to 2024/25 and the Inpatient Detoxification Grant (£7,421,560) under the Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) terms and conditions.
- II. DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health to take relevant actions, including but not limited to, entering into and finalising the terms of relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary, to implement the decision. The provision and related grant funding will be flexibly deployed to be responsive to local need as identified through both local and national indicators during the course of the grant.
- III. DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and the Corporate Director of Finance, to accept and deploy further funding from OHID towards substance misuse service associated with the 10-year Harm to Hope national drug strategy.

Reason(s) for decision:

Professor Dame Carol Black was commissioned by the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Care to undertake an independent review of drugs to inform thinking on what more can be done to tackle the harm that drugs cause. The review focused on drug treatment, prevention, and recovery and outlined 32 individual policy recommendations to the government across four core themes. These four themes centre around three objectives: increasing access to treatment and recovery support for those who misuse drugs, ensuring a high-quality package for treatment and recovery, and reducing drug demand and problematic drug use.

In late 2021 the government published "From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and

save lives". The 10-year plan is the government's formal, substantive response to Dame Carol Black the review and accepts all of her key recommendations. The plan sets out 3 core priorities: break drug supply chains, deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system, and achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs.

As part of the government's response, OHID has announced funding under the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) to support local authorities to address and implement the recommendations identified by Professor Dame Carol Black. Kent will receive the additional funds from 2022-2025 to support implementing the recommendations at a local level.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/largest-ever-increase-in-funding-for-drug-treatment>

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Due to the short timescale for the OHID paperwork return, the proposed decision was published through a semi urgent decision route between 20th - 27th April 2022, to allow a minimum of 5 clear working days from FED publication.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Reject the funding - There is an option to reject the funding. However, the funding will support KCC's statutory responsibility in providing Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services and will support KCC's strategy in improving the quality of life of vulnerable residents. Rejecting the grant would not be in the public's interest.

Outsource the management of the grant – The management of the grant could be outsourced either in full or in part to a third party. Outsourcing the management of the grant was discounted to ensure that KCC could closely control and monitor the grant in line with existing service delivery and ensure flexible application to emerging need.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None.

Clair Bell

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signed

28 April 2022

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date