

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

DECISION NO:

OD/25/00003

For publication

Subject matter: Kent Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment – Acceptance of OHID’s Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant & Individual Placement and Support Grant Funding

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

[Decision - 22/00041 - Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grants 2022/23 to 2024/25](#)

Decision:

As Director of Public Health, I agree to:

- I. CONFIRM the acceptance of the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities’ (OHID) Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) & Individual Placement and Support Grant (IPS) funding, to be deployed via Kent’s Adult Community Drug and Alcohol Service providers Forward Trust & Change, Grow Live, effective from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026
- II. CONFIRM that the OHID grant funding be deployed against this area of work in accordance with key decision [22/00041](#)

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council has statutory responsibility as a condition of its Public Health Grant to provide specialist substance misuse services aimed at reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Kent.

KCC has confirmed direct awarding the existing adult drug and alcohol contracts to Change, Grow Live in West Kent and Forward Trust in East Kent for the continuation of their Adult Community Drug and Alcohol services, effective from 01 February 2025 to 31 January 2029 (four years with two additional two-year extension options).

Similarly, the Kent Young Persons’ Drug and Alcohol Service contract has been direct awarded to the incumbent provider, We Are With You, to run from 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2027 (two years with two additional extension options, one for two years and the second for one year).

These contracts are primarily funded through the Public Health Grant, but additional funding is being provided by OHID through DATRIG & IPS to achieve the following ambitions:

- Reducing levels of unmet need,
- Increasing the quality of Kent’s treatment and recovery offer, in order to reduce attrition rates, improve the number and proportion of people making progress in treatment, support more adults to initiate and sustain recovery and reduce the number of people dying,
- Making services more attractive, accessible, and effective.

OHID have communicated their intention to award grant funding to Kent County Council for 2025/26, however at present:

- the allocations remain indicative; and
- are still subject to Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Treasury approvals and as such final allocations could vary.

For 2025/26 OHID are amalgamating several grants that have been made available to support the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery agenda into a single Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG). The grants that will be consolidated are the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) grant, the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG), the Housing Support Grant (HSG), and the Inpatient Detoxification (IPD) grant.

KCC will continue to receive a separate Individual Placement and Support (IPS) grant.

The indicative amounts that are being granted are included within the financial implications section below and it will be for KCC Commissioners to work with OHID, Service Providers and a wide range of other stakeholders (including people with lived and living experience, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the local health and social care system, Probation, NHS Health and Justice and Housing and Homelessness colleagues) to decide how this funding will be allocated and utilised across the County.

The additional grant-funded activity could include a continuation of activity currently funded by the existing OHID grants however innovation would also be considered, should funding allow.

The funding provided through the DATRIG and IPS Grant will be dependent on maintaining or building on existing investment in drug and alcohol treatment and recovery from the Public Health Grant. Further conditions will be set out in a single Memorandum of Understanding that will combine all relevant grant components and accompany the grant agreement.

Financial Implications:

OHID have communicated their intention to award grant funding (currently still indicative amounts) to Kent County Council for 2025/26, linked to the 10-year national drug and alcohol strategy 'From Harm to Hope':

Grant component	Amounts
Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery	£3,615,400
Housing Support	£932,117
Inpatient Detoxification	£167,295
Rough Sleeping Drug & Alcohol Treatment	£556,816
Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant	£5,271,628
<i>Individual Placement & Support</i>	£284,229
Total	£5,555,857

DATRIG & IPS funding will be allocated via a contract variation and will be in addition to the contract values outlined in key decisions [24/00055](#) and [24/00056](#) and will require the providers to deliver additional activity.

Legal implications:

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Directors of Public Health (DPH) in upper tier (UTLA) and unitary (ULA) local authorities have a specific duty to protect and enhance the population's health.

KCC commissions these services as part of its statutory responsibilities and as a condition of its Public Health Grant. Kent Drug and Alcohol Services aim to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Kent. The local authority's Public Health Grant requires the Authority to "have regard to the need to improve the take up of, and outcomes from, its drug and alcohol misuse treatment services."

Equality Implications:

Equalities Impact Assessments have been completed for each of the services in scope. Current evidence suggests that there is no negative impact and this recommendation is an appropriate measure to advance equality and create stability for vulnerable people. The EQIAs are attached as Appendices A and B.

Providers are required to conduct annual EQIAs as per contractual obligations

Data Protection Implications:

General Data Protection Regulations are part of current service documentation for the contract and there is a Schedule of Processing, Personal Data and Data Subjects confirming who is data controller/ processor. There is also an existing Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) relating to the data that is shared between Kent County Council, the provider and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (previously named Public Health England) and the services.

DPIAs will be updated following contract award to ensure they continue to have the most up-to date information included and reflect any changes to data processing as a result of the specification enhancements.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health has previously confirmed that 'future Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) grant funding (if received) be deployed against this area of work in accordance with key decision [22/00041](#).

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health commented: 'I endorse the decision to accept OHID grant funding, in order to continue to strive towards a world class treatment and recovery system in Kent, in line with the 10 year drug strategy 'From Harm to Hope'.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Do not accept grant funding - The drug landscape is constantly evolving and it is important that services remain fit for purpose, meet people's presenting needs and the objectives of the Public Health Grant and Central Government. As the additional DATRIG & IPS funding will help to achieve these objectives, this is considered a non-viable option.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:



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signed

23 January 2025
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date