

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Mr Dan Watkins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

24/00001

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

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (Section 31 Grant)

Decision:

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

- I. Approve the acceptance of the Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant 2024/2025 to 2028/2029, subject to final review and consideration of detailed terms and conditions from the Department of Health and Social Care.
- II. DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to review and agree to the required terms and conditions to enter into the necessary grant arrangements.
- 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 future years' allocations of Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant funding, provided funding is given on similar terms.
- IV. DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

On 4 October 2023, the government published '*Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation*' which sets out the proposed actions the government will take to tackle smoking and youth vaping. This included a programme of funding to support current smokers to quit smoking, with £70 million additional funding per year for local authority stop smoking services and support.

The aim of this additional funding is to ensure there is a nationwide comprehensive offer to help people stop smoking across England and to increase the number of smokers engaging with effective interventions to quit smoking.

Local authorities currently receive funding to provide local stop smoking services and support

through the Public Health Grant.

This new funding is in addition to the Public Health Grant and will be provided through a new Section 31 Grant on top of the current Public Health Grant allocations. This funding will be ringfenced for local authority led stop smoking services and support.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will provide the grant.

Kent County Council (KCC) will receive the grant agreement in January 2024. This will provide KCC with the full grant conditions. Once received, KCC will be asked to read and return a signed copy.

The grant agreement will start from 6 April 2024.

KCC will be required to meet certain criteria to be eligible for the additional funding. To receive the funding, KCC must maintain their existing spend on stop smoking services, based on the stop smoking service data they have submitted for the year 2022 to 2023. KCC should ensure they maintain this level of funding throughout the whole grant period.

Financial Implications

The table below shows the confirmed maximum amount of funding allocation for Kent if KCC meets all the eligible criteria.

The grant allocation will initially apply for the first year of the grant (the financial year 2024 to 2025).

To determine the 2024/25 funding allocation for each local authority, the additional funding (£70 million per year from 2024 to 2025) was divided by the total number of smokers across England (5.6 million). This gives an approximate funding rate per smoker (£12.39). The funding rate per smoker was then multiplied by the estimated number of smokers in each local authority, to give a total allocation to each local authority.

The government cannot provide specific allocations for 2025 to 2026 and beyond at this stage. However, they have confirmed additional funding of £70 million a year for 5 years, from 2024 to 2025 through to 2028 to 2029.

Allocations will continue to be based on the average smoking prevalence over a 3-year period to ensure the allocations are based on the most robust and recent data.

	Average 3-year smoking prevalence (2020 to 2022)	Estimated number of smokers (2021 populations)	Confirmed additional allocation 2024/25
Kent County Council	13.14%	163,208	£1,944,823

Funding will be given to local authorities every 6 months. In the first six months, KCC will receive 70% of their allocated financial year's funding. KCC will then be expected to provide grant reporting to the DHSC grants team to receive the second payment.

Equalities Implications

An Equalities impact assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken for accepting the Grant and the implications that this may have on protected groups. The EqIA found that accepting the grant would

cause no negative impact on protected groups and could allow for greater engagement with these cohorts utilising the funding once the grant conditions are known.

Future EqIA's will be undertaken for any existing commissioned services as required when utilising the grant funding in the future. New service delivery as implemented through the life course of the grant will have an Equality Impact Assessment undertaken to ensure protected groups are not disadvantaged.

Data Protection Implications

New service delivery as implemented through the life course of the grant will have a Data Protection Impact Assessment undertaken.

Legal Implications

Once the grant agreement has been received from DHSC, legal advice may be required to review and advise on the terms and conditions.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee on 23 January 2024 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Not accepting the Grant Funding – By not accepting the Stop smoking Services and Support Grant funding KCC would not be able to increase the number of people it supports to quit smoking each year through its current provision (circa 3000 a year). It would be likely that Kent's smoking population would remain at its current level and if other Local Authorities were to still accept the grant funding, Kent could be an outlier in this area. Not accepting the funding would also make it difficult for KCC to target support at groups identified as part of the Smoking Needs Assessment without removing resources from the current Stop smoking provision.

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

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signed

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date