

From: Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

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

Subject: Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant 2022/23 to 2024/25

Decision Number: 22/00041

Classification: Unrestricted

Previous Pathway: N/A

Future Pathway: N/A

Electoral Division: All

Recommendation: The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to agree to the below next steps and take the associated Key Decision:

- 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.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The report outlines the three-year funding package named Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) which is to be used towards increasing treatment capacity and quality of drug and alcohol treatment services
- 1.2. The additional funding is provided by Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities and will total £7.4m covering the years 2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25.

- 1.3. The funding will be used to complement and enhance existing drug and alcohol treatment services in Kent currently provided by Change Grow Live (CGL), Forward Trust and We are With You, to build on the already well-established pathways and relationships.
- 1.4. The management of the grant will be administered by KCC Public Health and Strategic Commissioning (Public Health).

2. Background

- 2.1. Kent County Council receive a Public Health Grant each year to be utilised to deliver Public Health services as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. As a condition of the grant, local authorities have a duty to reduce health inequalities and improve the health of their local population by ensuring that there are public health services aimed at reducing drug and alcohol misuse.
- 2.2. Kent County Council currently commissions three providers across Kent to deliver drug and alcohol treatment services. The adult service is delivered by CGL and Forward Trust. The young persons service is delivered by We Are With You.
- 2.3. 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.
- 2.4. 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 the key recommendations. The plan sets out three core priorities: break drug supply chains, deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system, and achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs.
- 2.5. As part of the government’s response, the Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities 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.

3. Needs of the Local Population

- 3.1. 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-fold¹.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-drugs-phase-one-report/review-of-drugs-summary>

- 3.2. Locally, although Kent tracks below the Southeast average for alcohol-related deaths, deaths relating to alcohol in Kent are increasing². Deaths relating to drug misuse are also increasing in Kent, with deaths highest in areas of high deprivation and areas with notable night-time economies³.
- 3.3. Individuals that require support from drug and alcohol treatment services often face multiple challenges in addressing their addiction. Individuals have housing-related challenges, co-morbidities and mental health conditions all of which must be addressed in addition to treating the drug and alcohol addiction in order to successfully reach abstinence. However, often individuals face barriers to accessing care services due to their substance misuse. Therefore, the approach to drug and alcohol treatment is one that must be a multi-agency approach.
- 3.4. A local study in Kent estimated 6,000 vulnerable adults (0.5% of the adult population) across Kent and Medway had a co-occurring substance misuse and mental illness need⁴.
- 3.5. The Kent Alliance for Substance Misuse has reviewed the previous Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy (2017-2022). Following the review, the group has created a draft Kent Drug & Alcohol Strategy covering 2022 to 2027. The strategy will identify 12 priorities covering three areas: Prevention; Improving Treatment and Recovery Services; and Enhancing Community Safety. This strategy will help to guide the focus of the funding.

4. Purpose of the funding

- 4.1. In recognition of the recommendations outlined by Professor Dame Carol Black and the government's 10-year drug strategy, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities has announced a three-year funding package for local authorities. The funding named the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant, is aimed at implementing local measures to address the aims of the treatment and recovery section of the national drug strategy
- 4.2. More specifically, local measures should contribute towards national targets of:
- 54,500 new high-quality treatment places
 - 24,000 more people in long-term recovery from substance dependence
 - 800 more medical, mental health and other professionals
 - 950 additional drug and alcohol and criminal justice workers
 - Additional commissioning and co-ordinator capacity within local authorities.

² https://www.kpho.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/130343/Alcohol-Needs-Assessment-for-Kent-10.12.21-Final.pdf

³ https://www.kpho.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/64456/Drugs-adults-NA-v1.3a-final2.pdf

⁴ https://www.kpho.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/130343/Alcohol-Needs-Assessment-for-Kent-10.12.21-Final.pdf

4.3. Local authorities will have the opportunity to implement additional local services that complement and enhance the existing drug and alcohol treatment services. As part of the funding, core drug and alcohol budgets must be maintained.

5. Utilisation of funding

5.1. The additional funding will predominantly be utilised by KCC to build additional capacity through the existing drug and alcohol service providers in Kent. This decision has been taken to ensure the additional funding builds on established and recognised pathways.

5.2. The focus of the funding will be guided by local Needs Assessments, the draft local drug and alcohol strategy, and local datasets on unmet need provided by OHID.

5.3. Broadly, the additional funding will complement existing service delivery by

5.3.1. Increasing the capacity of services across community drug and alcohol teams, residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification.

5.3.2. Strengthening pathways for underserved vulnerable groups that would benefit from accessing drug and alcohol treatment services.

5.3.3. Trialling innovative ways of working/delivery to improve outcomes for service users, to reduce drug deaths and to improve quality.

5.3.4. Build additional capacity within the KCC Public Health team to enable closer working with key partners that are critical to successful outcomes of drug and alcohol service users.

5.4. Over the three-year grant, KCC will continually monitor and evaluate the delivery of new ways of working across all providers to ensure there is shared learning and to embed best practice into the core service delivery. KCC will also monitor its contribution toward national and local drug and alcohol targets.

5.5. As part of the grant information, OHID has provided a framework to guide the allocation of funding (Appendix A). As required, a detailed plan will be produced to outline spend in year one, with forecast spend for years two and three detailed at a high level to enable the funding to adapt based on learning over year one.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. The funding will be provided over the years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 as per Table One below.

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant	£1,101,719	£2,202,556	£3,615,400
Inpatient Detoxification Grant	£167,295	£167,295	£167,295

Table One

6.2. 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.

7. Management of Works

7.1. The management and implementation of the additional funding will be delivered by KCC Public Health and Strategic Commissioning (Public Health). It is recognised there will need to be additional resource in order to manage the delivery of the grant which will be funded from the grant.

7.2. The majority of the funding will be passed to the existing drug and alcohol service providers in Kent. This is in recognition of maintaining the well understood and established pathways. The allocation of additional funding will be achieved via the legal scope within the existing contractual agreements to deliver services in line with the funding framework.

Recommendation: The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to agree to the below next steps and take the associated Key Decision:

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8. Report Authors

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10. Appendices

Appendix A – Framework (Separate Document)