

Approval to accept grant funding for additional substance misuse treatment provision in 2024/25

Date: 24th April 2024

Report of: Head of Public Health (Drugs, Alcohol, Safer Communities)

Report to: Director of Public Health

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Leeds City Council has been allocated funding by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities to increase and enhance substance misuse treatment in the city. This report seeks approval to accept this funding.

Recommendations

The Director of Public Health is recommended to:

- a) Accept £8,212,541 from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities via the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.
- b) Accept £588,237 from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities via the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Housing Support Grant for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.
- c) Note that a report will be submitted for the approval of the expenditure of these two grants. All of the decisions, regardless of value, will be a direct consequence of this key decision and will therefore be a significant operational decision at most, which will not be subject to call in.

What is this report about?

- 1 Following the publication of the Government's 10-year drug strategy – From Harm to Hope – additional funding has been made available by the Office of Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) for local authorities to expand and enhance treatment provision. This report concerns two particular funding streams, the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant and the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Housing Support Grant. The grants are confirmed on an annual basis.
- 2 The Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) is intended to increase the number of people in treatment (20% nationally), reduce drug-related deaths, increase engagement of those leaving prison treatment services and improve service quality by increasing the staffing levels across treatment services and reducing caseloads. 2024/25 is Year 3 of this programme and has an allocation for Leeds of £8,212,541. This was contingent on the submission of a satisfactory proposal that had been co-produced with the local service provider. A detailed plan including ambitions, narrative and costings has now been approved by OHID and a Memorandum of Understanding is in place.
- 3 The Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Housing Support Grant (HSG) is a three-year test and learn project running in a limited number of local authority areas with the aim of increasing the number of people recovering from addiction in stable and secure housing. The funding is being used to test the impact of targeted housing support interventions on recovery outcomes. The allocation for 2024/25, the second year of funding, is £588,237. The three-year plan agreed with OHID was reviewed in January 2024, with no changes made. A Memorandum of Understanding between Leeds City Council and OHID is in place.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 4 The proposals support the Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy key outcome of increasing the proportion of people recovering from drug and / or alcohol misuse. It will do this by enabling investment in local services in order to increase capacity and quality, rebuild and develop the professional workforce, ensure better integration of services, improve access to stable and suitable accommodation alongside treatment, improve employment, and keep prisoners engaged in treatment after release.
- 5 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening has been completed in relation to this decision and there are no issues to be addressed.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 6 The proposal will contribute to achieving the Best City Ambition for Health and Wellbeing through the goal of “investing to ensure better and more equal access to essential services in health and learning, developed with and accessible for every community across Leeds”.
- 7 It is in line with the Best City Ambition's Team Leeds approach, by providing a focus on prevention and taking strength and asset-based approaches to help people to realise their goals.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 8 In line with the SSMTRG funding requirements, the proposal that was submitted to OHID to secure the funding was co-produced with the city's Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service. There was also considerable consultation with other key stakeholders, including:
- providers of all activities identified for funding
 - Leeds Drug and Alcohol Partnership (including representation from the Integrated Commissioning Board)
 - Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Safer Leeds Executive
 - Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board
 - Recovery Cities colleagues
- 9 Public Health Programme Board was consulted in April 2024.
- 10 The Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles was briefed on 26th January 2024 and 10th April 2024.

What are the resource implications?

- 11 These proposals will not incur any expenditure for Leeds City Council, since they relate to additional income that will wholly pay for any activity created as a result.
- 12 As part of the conditions of the SSMTRG, OHID stipulates that Leeds City Council must maintain its existing investment in drug and alcohol treatment throughout the lifetime of the grant.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 13 Accepting the grant gives Leeds City Council an obligation to meet the requirements set out by OHID. However, the detailed plan that has been put in place to meet these obligations has been approved by OHID, and the delivery of this plan will involve robust contract management of providers. There will be ongoing communication with OHID through all stages of delivery.

What are the legal implications?

- 14 This is a Key Decision since the income is more than £500,000, and is therefore subject to Call In. It was published on the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions on 14th March 2024.
- 15 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information under the Access to Information Rules.
- 16 Subsequent decisions arising from this report, for example the procurement of a new contract or modifying an existing contract, will be treated as a consequence of this Key Decision and, regardless of value, will therefore be treated as a significant operational decision at most, which will not be subject to call in.
- 17 The grants are being provided pursuant to section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 18 A Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the conditions of the grant and the council's agreement to those is in place for each grant.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

19 The alternative would be to decline the grant, but this represent a lost opportunity to enhance our provision and further reduce substance misuse in the city.

How will success be measured?

20 Performance frameworks and monitoring processes will be put in place by the Adults and Health commissioning team to ensure value for money, delivery of the intended outcomes and improved service quality. In addition, the council will provide OHID with performance information to meet their requirements.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

21 The proposals will be implemented as soon as possible following approval by officers in the Adults and Health Commissioning Team.

Appendices

- Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening

Background papers

- None