

Approval to accept the Rough Sleeping Drug & Alcohol Treatment Grant in 2024/25

Date: 11th November 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 fund specialist support for individuals to access and engage with drug and alcohol treatment and move towards longer-term accommodation, supporting the work of wider homelessness and rough sleeping funding. This report seeks approval to accept this funding.

Recommendations

The Director of Public Health is recommended to:

- a) Accept £756,327 from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities via the Rough Sleeping Drug & Alcohol Treatment Grant for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.
- b) Note that a report will be submitted for the approval of the distribution of this grant. All of the decisions, regardless of value, will be a direct consequence of this key decision and will therefore be a publishable administrative decision at most, which will not be subject to call in.

What is this report about?

- 1 Since 2021, the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), in partnership with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC), has provided funding to local authorities to fund specialist support for individuals who are, or are at risk of, rough sleeping, to access and engage with drug and alcohol treatment and move towards longer-term accommodation, supporting the work of wider homelessness and rough sleeping funding.
- 2 The allocation for 2024/25, the fourth year of the grant, is £756,327. Leeds' programme was reviewed in partnership with OHID in December 2023, with no changes to the amount or scope made. As such, the activity already in place will continue in its current form, which is as a element of the city's Integrated Drug & Alcohol Treatment Service (known as Forward Leeds and delivered by Humankind Support Services). The intention, therefore, is to seek approval to modify that contract to include this year's RSDTAG allocation.
- 3 A Memorandum of Understanding between Leeds City Council and OHID is in place.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 4 The proposal supports 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 continuing investment in a dedicated team for engaging and maintaining clients into treatment, offering rapid access to treatment / prescribing, and supporting individuals to move into supported, more permanent accommodation. The team will include specialist mental health support for individuals who have often experienced a multitude of traumas and are unable to sustain accommodation because of this and the impact on their mental health.
- 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 "providing high quality care as part of an integrated system, with equitable access to essential services which support people to age well and are focused on prevention and early intervention".
- 7 In addition, the proposal supports the Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy key outcome to increase the proportion of people recovering from drug and / or alcohol misuse.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 8 Public Health Programme Board was consulted in April 2024.
- 9 The Executive Member for Equality, Health & Wellbeing was briefed on 6th September 2024.

What are the resource implications?

- 10 This proposal will not incur any expenditure for Leeds City Council, since it relates to additional income that will wholly pay for any activity created as a result.

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

11 Accepting the grant gives Leeds City Council an obligation to meet the requirements set out by OHID. However, the delivery of this activity will involve robust contract management of providers. There will be ongoing communication with OHID through all stages of delivery.

What are the legal implications?

12 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 16th August 2024.

13 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information under the Access to Information Rules.

14 Subsequent decisions arising from this report linked to the distribution of the grant will be treated as a consequence of this Key Decision and, regardless of value, will therefore be treated as a publishable administrative decision at most, which will not be subject to call in.

15 The grant is being provided pursuant to section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

16 A Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the conditions of the grant and the council's agreement to those is in place.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

17 The alternative would be to decline the grant, but this would represent a lost opportunity to make use of additional resources that can be used to support people in vulnerable situations and further reduce substance misuse in the city.

How will success be measured?

18 Performance frameworks and monitoring processes will be put in place by the Adults and Health commissioning team to ensure value for money and delivery of the intended outcomes. 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?

19 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