

Cabinet

12<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport – Councillor K Caan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:**

Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary**

The government's new 10-year drug and alcohol strategy 'From Harm to Hope' sets out an ambition to address substance misuse by breaking drug supply chains, delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system and achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs. A new Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) is being issued to Local Authorities to enhance the delivery of treatment and recovery systems.

The City Council has been notified that it will be awarded a grant of up to £505,000 for 2022-23, with an indicative increase in the grant for 2023-24, and 2024-25.

Due to the time required for the acceptance of the grant award expiring prior to the date of this meeting, the Council constitution in paragraph 2.3.2 (c) of Part 3F permits the relevant Director (in this case being the Director of Public Health) in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and Scrutiny Chair to accept the grant and thereafter to be reported to Cabinet retrospectively.

**Recommendation**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Note the acceptance of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant in the sum of £505,210 in 2022-23; and
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, following consultation with Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, to approve subsequent annual awards in financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25 up to a maximum of £2.5 million pound in each financial year.

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report title:** Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)

## **1. Background – The National Drug Strategy and additional funding**

- 1.1 A new national policy paper 'From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives' was released 6th December 2021 as a government response to the independent review carried out by Dame Carol Black during July 2021. The strategy sets out a national and local focus on three strategic priorities:
  - Breaking drug supply chains
  - Delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system
  - Achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs
- 1.2 The strategy includes a strong focus on treatment for alcohol misuse alongside support for people affected by the misuse of illegal drugs.
- 1.3 Chapter 5 of the strategy 'Setting up for success: partnerships and accountability' states that local government and delivery partners are the foundation of this strategy in establishing local priorities and devising ways of working to address challenges quickly and effectively.
- 1.4 The strategy recognises a long-term approach is required to be successful; the 10-year plan is an evidence-based approach to address the demand for, and supply of, drugs. In addition to drugs the strategy specifically includes alcohol misuse, treatment and recovery. It aims to 'turn the tide' on drug crime, reduce the harm drugs and alcohol cause to individuals and society, and save lives for this and future generations. The national strategy is underpinned by nearly £900 million of additional investment over the next three years taking the total cross-government funding to more than £3 billion. It sets out national and local system reform, with a set of ambitious outcomes and goals to which government and local partners will be held accountable for delivery.
- 1.5 Within this additional funding is £780 million (the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant - SSMTRG) which will be provided to local authorities over three years to invest in drug and alcohol treatment.
- 1.6 A new national set of standards and outcomes expected in the summer will provide the structure and oversight to ensure consistently high-quality services and that funding is prioritised around the commitments in this strategy. Effective multi-agency partnerships will be at the core of delivery of this comprehensive treatment and recovery system, alongside tough and effective drug enforcement and prevention.
- 1.7 The Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant provides the funding to support and deliver on the following priorities:
  - Improved system coordination and commissioning
  - Enhanced harm reduction provision
  - Increased treatment capacity
  - Increased integration and improved care pathways between the criminal justice settings, and drug treatment
  - Enhancing treatment quality
  - Residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification
  - Better and more integrated responses to physical and mental health issues
  - Enhanced recovery support
  - Other interventions which meet the aims and targets set in the drug strategy
  - Expanding the competency and size of the workforce

- 1.8 The Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) will increase year-on-year in 2023/24 and 2024/5. As with other government grants, Treasury sign off is required each year.
- 1.9 In 2021/22, Public Health England (now the Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities) issued local areas with a one-off grant -- the Universal Drug Treatment Grant – to invest in local treatment and recovery systems. The priorities for investment of this grant were to reduce drug related deaths and reduce drug-related offending. Coventry's allocation was invested in various projects including:
- creating a dedicated criminal justice team within CGL (Coventry's commissioned adult drug and alcohol treatment service) and employing a substance misuse worker embedded in the Caludon Centre
  - employing an additional worker within Positive Choices (Coventry's commissioned Young People's risky behaviour service) to focus on supporting individuals engaged in County Lines activity
  - employing a worker within the Housing and Homelessness team of the City Council to coordinate the multiagency Vulnerable Persons Forum
  - introducing the use of long-acting opiate substitute therapy
  - distributing additional naloxone (an intervention to reverse the effects of opiate overdose)
  - providing additional residential rehabilitation placements
- 1.10 It is intended that the initial priorities for the SSMTRG award in 2022/23 is used to:
- continue and expand activity initially funded by the Universal Drug Treatment grant in 2021/22, with minor amendments
  - increase quality within drug treatment services by reducing caseloads and increasing capacity for specific interventions such as groupwork and additional support for people affected by domestic violence and drug or alcohol misuse
- 1.11 In 2023/4 and 2024/5 it is anticipated that investment will increasingly focus on increasing the number of treatment places for people misusing drugs or alcohol.

### **Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board**

- 1.12 The national drug strategy requires local areas to establish multi agency partnership boards to be established. A Coventry Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board has been created to build upon the work of the previous drug and alcohol steering group and bring together all the relevant organisations and key individuals to have proactive oversight of the implementation of all three of the strategy's priorities.
- 1.13 The Board will ensure that local organisations work together to improve provision and outcomes for the population of Coventry who are negatively affected by drugs and alcohol. The chairing arrangements for the Board are currently being finalised, the Board will meet quarterly.

### **Needs assessment review**

- 1.14 A comprehensive needs assessment will be carried out to inform the development of a local strategy and action plan for Coventry, and for future commissioning. The needs assessment is expected to be completed by the autumn of 2022.

## **2 Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The value of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant, SSMTRG Treatment Grant is such that the Constitution requires formal approval prior to acceptance.
- 2.2 The Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) sets the priorities it expects the grant to be used for. A detailed proposal has been developed and submitted for Coventry in line with these priorities.

## **3 Results of consultation undertaken**

Timescales for completion of the initial bid for the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant meant there was limited opportunity to consult widely.

## **4 Timetable for implementing this decision**

The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) confirmed Coventry's SSMTRG allocations on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Coventry's proposed use of the grant was submitted to OHID on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and has now been approved. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been issued confirming the full grant conditions. The MoU will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to ensure continuity of services currently in place.

## **5 Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Finance and Director of Law and Governance**

### **Financial implications**

The SSMTRG Grant offer is valued at £505,210 for the 2022/2023 financial year. Allocations for the remaining 2 years will be confirmed at a later stage. The grant conditions require the grant to be spent in year and any amounts underspent may be subject to clawback.

### **Legal implications**

The SSMTRG will be issued as a section 31 grant.

The Council's constitution requires formal Cabinet approval prior to agreeing to receive external grants in excess of £500,000. If no time to go to Cabinet, the decision can be taken by the relevant Cabinet Member (or the Leader in their absence) in consultation with the relevant Scrutiny Chair; if no time to go to Cabinet Member, the decision can be taken by the relevant Director in consultation with relevant Cabinet Member and Scrutiny Chair, to be reported to Cabinet retrospectively.

The public health team (with support from Law and Governance) will monitor provision to ensure that the grant conditions are met, and outcomes delivered.

## **6 Other implications**

### **6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?**

The services support the One Coventry Plan's vision to help to make communities safer, improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, reduce health inequalities and protect our most vulnerable people.

### **How is risk being managed?**

Public Health and commissioners will work closely with oversight from the partnership board to understand and mitigate risks in relation to the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant.

### **6.2 What is the impact on the organisation?**

The grant provides additional capacity within drug and alcohol treatment services. Activity delivered under the grant may identify additional needs requiring further social care support.

### **6.3 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

The provision is targeted at supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. A needs assessment is being conducted to ensure equality of access to treatment services.

### **6.4 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

There are no implications.

### **6.5 Implications for partner organisations?**

CGL Coventry is commissioned to deliver drug and alcohol services by the City Council and operates closely with a wide range of partners including primary and secondary healthcare providers, homelessness services and social care services.

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