

Cabinet

13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing – Councillor K Caan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:**

Smokefree Generation – Local Authority Funding Allocation

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

The government's new 'Stopping the Start: our new plan to create a Smokefree Generation' plan was published in October 2023. This plan aims to create a smokefree generation by 2030. Part of this plan is for Local Authorities to increase spend on stop smoking programmes and commissioned services, targeting populations where smoking prevalence is highest.

Coventry City Council has been notified that it will be awarded a grant of £520,304 annually from April 2024 until March 2029. This will be an annual agreement. To be eligible to accept the funding, existing spend on stop smoking services must be ringfenced, continuing to support stop smoking programmes and services.

The Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) sets the priorities it expects the grant to be used for. A detailed proposal will be developed and submitted for Coventry in line with these priorities, along with data and reporting.

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Agree to accept the "Stopping the Start" Grant in the sum of £520,304 for 2024/25 noting that future grants may be the subject of further reports.

- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing to undertake the necessary procurement exercises and/ or enter into grant agreements with external organisations (to a value no higher than the “Stopping the Start” Grant sum of £520,304) to meet the deliverable requirements of the “stopping the Start” Grant.
- 3) Delegate to the Director for Public Health and Wellbeing following consultation with the Chief Legal Officer to enter into the necessary legal agreements to give effect to the above recommendations.

**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: Smokefree Generation 2030 – Local Authority Funding Allocation

### 1 Context (or background)

- 1.1 On Wednesday 4 October 2023, the Prime Minister announced proposals to raise the age of sale for tobacco by one year every year, and to tighten restrictions on the sale of vapes to children and young people. Key steps of the proposal include:
  - 1.1.1 Legislate to raise the age of sale one year every year from 2027 onwards. The proposed legislation would make it an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 which will stop children turning 14 or younger this year from ever legally being sold tobacco products.
  - 1.1.2 An increase in funding for local authority Stop Smoking Services from next year. outlines a £520k additional funding allocation for Coventry, recurrent for 5 years from April 24 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-stop-smoking-services-and-support-additional-funding/local-stop-smoking-services-and-support-guidance-for-local-authorities>
  - 1.1.3 Increase funding for awareness raising campaigns by £5 million this year and £15 million from next year onwards.
  - 1.1.4 Increase funding for enforcement on illicit tobacco and e-cigarettes by £30 million from next year.
  - 1.1.5 Evaluate the findings from the youth vaping consultation on specific measures to tackle the increase in youth vaping.
- 1.2 The Government's proposals will help achieve the ambition of a smokefree England by 2030 and ensure children and young people do not become addicted in the first place.
- 1.3 The Government is investing an additional £70 million per year to support local authority-led stop smoking services, with each local authority's allocation calculated based on a formula involving a funding rate of £12.39 per smoker multiplied by the total estimated number of smokers resident in the area. To receive the funding, local authorities must maintain their existing spend on stop smoking services.
- 1.4 It is intended that the priorities for the grant in 2024/25 will be used to:
  - Increase leadership, coordination and commissioning activity across Coventry.
  - Increase local resources to help people quit smoking.
  - Increase referrals into stop smoking services and improve pathways.
  - Increase promotion of local stop smoking support.
  - Look into joint funding opportunities to coordinate marketing, service design and delivery.
- 1.5 The funding will be recurrent annually for 5 years.

## **2 Needs assessment review**

- 2.1 A comprehensive needs assessment will be carried out to inform the programme of work for Coventry, and for future commissioning. The needs assessment is expected to be completed by Spring 2024.

## **3 Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 The value of the funding allocation is such that the Constitution requires formal approval prior to acceptance.
- 3.2 The Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) sets the priorities it expects the grant to be used for. A detailed proposal will be developed and submitted for Coventry in line with these priorities, along with data and reporting.

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

- 4.1 The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) confirmed Coventry's allocation in November 2023. A grant agreement was issued in January for sign off by Coventry City Council.

## **5 Comments from Interim Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

Whilst the Council has been notified that it will receive recurrent funding for 5 years, at present, the funding will be provided annually and OHID is currently working through the details of how funding of years 2-5 will be issued. Therefore, this report seeks approval only for the first year of funding (2024/25). Once future allocations are confirmed we will seek approval for these via appropriate routes.

The value of the funding for 2024/25 is £520,304. The plan states there will be recurrent funding for 5 years at the same allocation, however this will be confirmed at a later stage. We will receive 70% of the annual allocation in April 2024, and the remaining 30% will be received later in the year once data reporting has been submitted. The grant conditions require the grant to be spent in year and any amounts underspent may be subject to clawback. At the time of writing, OHID are clarifying the financial conditions, including those specifying the requirements that must be met in order to release the 30% of funding. Once the grant conditions are published, these will be shared with Finance colleagues to review and provide final approval.

In order to receive the grant, local authorities are required to maintain existing spend on smoking cessation services, based on their spend in 2022/23, throughout the whole grant period and provide financial monitoring information. The 2022/23 current Coventry City Council spend is £420,252 as reported via the 22/23 Stop Smoking Services quarterly returns.

## **5.2 Legal implications**

This report seeks authority to accept a grant award by OHID and to enter into a grant agreement with OHID.

s1 Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence and as such the Council has the power to receive grant funding and enter into a grant agreement.

Prior to entering into the grant agreement Legal Services will review and provide the necessary advice on the grant terms and conditions published by OHID.

The Public Health team (with any necessary support from Legal Services) 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 One Coventry Plan? (<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>)**

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.

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

Public Health and commissioners will work closely with oversight from the wider tobacco dependency working group and Coventry and Warwickshire Tobacco Partnership to understand and mitigate risks in relation to the grant.

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

The delivery and management of the grant requires the involvement a number of officers from across the council both in terms of the administration of the grant.

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

The provision is targeted at supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities where smoking prevalence is highest. A needs assessment is being conducted to ensure equality of access to stop smoking services. This will be in the form of a Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT).

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

There are no implications.

## **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

Healthy Lifestyles (HLS) Coventry and South Warwickshire Foundation NHS Trust are commissioned to deliver stop smoking services by the City Council and operate closely with a wide range of partners including primary and secondary healthcare providers, other commissioned services and wider partners.

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