



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday, 11 April 2024

Report of the Director - Public Health

Additional Funding for Stop Smoking Services
(Cabinet Member for Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or savings which are significant having regard to the budget for the service or function concerned and it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

3.1 To seek approval from Cabinet to:

- a. Accept the additional Government's Stopping the Start funding of £1,083,451 for stop smoking services in Derbyshire in 2024/25.
- b. Note that the Government is committed to provide the additional Stopping the Start Funding for a five year period commencing in 2024/25.

- c. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health for the award of this funding in line with any grant conditions, Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care and Health Scheme of Delegation, Derbyshire County Council Financial Regulations and Public Contract Regulations (2015) and other procedures which may include competitive tendering, necessary to comply with Council requirements.

4. Information and Analysis

- 4.1 On 4 October 2023, the government published [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#). This included a programme of funding to support current smokers to quit smoking, with £70 million additional funding per year for local authority stop smoking services and support. This more than doubles existing funding for stop smoking and support services from the public health core grant. This additional funding will drive more people into stop smoking services and support more people to quit smoking.
- 4.2 The Government is committed to provide the additional Stopping the Start Funding for a five-year period commencing in 2024/25. A further report will be submitted to Cabinet once the amount of funding available for 2025/26 and beyond is known.
- 4.3 Smoking is the single most entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability, and death in the UK. Nationally, smoking is responsible for around 80,000 deaths a year and no other legally available consumer product will kill up to two-thirds of its users.
- 4.4 Smoking causes harm throughout people's lives, not only for the smoker but for those around them. It is a major risk factor for poor maternal and infant outcomes, significantly increasing the chance of stillbirth and can trigger asthma in children. Smoking causes around 1 in 4 of all UK cancer deaths and is responsible for the majority of lung cancer cases. Smoking is also a major cause of premature heart disease, stroke and heart failure, and increases the risk of dementia in the elderly. Smokers lose an average of 10 years life expectancy, or around 1 year for every 4 smoking years.
- 4.5 Smoking accounts for the largest proportion of the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas. Smoking is the single most important driver of health inequalities: a larger contributor to inequalities than social position.

- 4.6 In Derbyshire in 2022 approximately 14% of adults (around 90,000 individuals) are current smokers (similar to the England average of 12.7%). Prevalence of smoking in pregnancy in Derbyshire has reduced in recent years. Despite this, the proportion of people smoking at the time of delivery in Derbyshire in 2021/22 (11.8%) remains significantly higher than the England average (9.1%). Smoking is responsible for over 3,000 deaths per annum in Derbyshire and almost 8,000 hospital admissions. The cost of smoking in Derbyshire is around £259m (lost productivity, health and social care costs, fires).
- 4.7 Quitting smoking is the best thing a smoker can do for their health. It has been estimated that [someone who quits before turning 30 could add 10 years to their life](#).
- 4.8 In Derbyshire the stop smoking service is provided inhouse by Live Life Better Derbyshire which is part of the Public Health Department. In 2022/23 Live Life Better Derbyshire helped over 1600 individuals to quit smoking.
- 4.9 The detailed grant conditions for the Stopping the Start additional funding have yet to be released but the expectation is that this additional funding will be used for:
- Building demand for local stop smoking service support and services by marketing and promotion of services and improving referral pathways.
 - Building capacity for local stop smoking support and services including additional specialist staff to deliver stop smoking interventions, improving the knowledge and skills of non-specialist staff (other healthcare professionals like nurses and pharmacists), to extend the reach of stop smoking interventions and increasing the spend on stop smoking pharmacotherapy such as nicotine replacement therapy.
- 4.10 The Government's ambition is that over a five year period commencing in 2024-25 the number of people quitting smoking will double. This will support the Government to achieve its aim that England will be smoke free by 2030.
- 4.11 The [independent Khan review](#) highlighted that well-funded stop smoking services are highly cost-effective and play a pivotal role in improving healthy life expectancy and narrowing the gap in health disparities. Local and national evidence shows that the remaining smokers are likely to be the most entrenched smokers and may find it harder to quit having experienced a number of unsuccessful quit attempts.

4.12 Detailed plans are being developed to utilise the additional funding in accordance with the expectations outlined in paragraph 4.8. When conditions are released, the plans will be cross checked with the guidance.

5. Consultation

5.1 There is no statutory requirement to undertake a public consultation on this proposal. The plans to effectively utilise the funding are being developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders such as relevant Public Health Teams, District and Boroughs, NHS organisations including primary care, the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and other partners.

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 There are two alternative options that can be considered:

- a) Decline the funding. This is not an acceptable alternative as it would disadvantage Derbyshire residents and presents an avoidable reputational risk to the Council.
- b) Agree to accept funding but require Senior Management Team (SMT)/Cabinet Member/Cabinet approval for each specific intervention. This is not an ideal alternative due to the complexities and time restrictions of this funding as it needs to be used within the financial year it is allocated.

7. Implications

7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Further information on Stopping the Start and this additional funding can be found [here](#).

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1 That Cabinet

- a. Agree to accept the additional Government's Stopping the Start funding of £1,083,451 for stop smoking services in Derbyshire in 2024/25.
- b. Note that the Government is committed to provide the additional Stopping the Start Funding for a five year period commencing in 2024/25
- c. Agree to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health for the expenditure and use of this funding in line with any grant conditions, Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care and Health Scheme of Delegation, Derbyshire County Council financial regulations and Public Contract Regulations (2015) and other procedures which may include competitive tendering, necessary to comply with Council requirements.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 11.1 To support work to reduce the prevalence of smoking in Derbyshire to improve the health of the local population and improve health inequalities.
- 11.2 Timely utilisation of the Stopping the Start funding is essential to maximise grant use as underspend cannot be carried over and the grant must be used in accordance with the Section 31 grant conditions.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

- 12.1 *No*

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 In 2024/25 the Stopping the Start additional funding will be £1.083M which will be made available under the Section 31 Grant provisions of the Local Government Act 2003. A detailed plan will be developed for utilising this funding once the grant conditions are confirmed. This ring-fenced grant will be used to build on existing stop smoking services. It is a 100% grant and has to be spent on additional activity relating to stop smoking.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council's Financial Regulations provide that where the Council proposes to accept additional funding above £500,000 not outlined in the Service Plan, Cabinet approval should be obtained. They also state that the Chief Financial Officer shall liaise with the relevant Executive Director to ensure that the requirements of the Financial Regulations with respect to grants are met. Further reports will be presented to Cabinet once the amount of funding available for future years is known.
- 2.2 The grant conditions provide that any unspent additional funding must be returned, and the additional funding is dependent on the Council maintaining its 2022/23 level of spending on stop smoking services (£1.392M).
- 2.3 The Constitution permits any body or person with decision-making powers to delegate any of those functions such as to a Cabinet Member or to any officer of the Council.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The funding can be used to increase the number of staff within Live Life Better Derbyshire who provide specialist stop smoking services. The Council's policies and procedures will be followed in the recruitment of these staff.

Information Technology

- 4.1 As part of the development of the detailed plan to utilise the additional funding, consideration will be given to how we can use technology to support the aim of increasing the number of people quitting smoking. For example, there are a number of stop smoking applications that

could be used to expand how service users access stop smoking support.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sex.

There are no anticipated negative impacts from this decision.

- 5.2 Smoking is a key driver of health inequalities in Derbyshire, and we will use the additional funding to engage and support priority and at risk groups to stop smoking e.g. routine and manual workers, social housing tenants etc.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 Supporting more people to stop smoking supports the Council Plan priorities of Resilient, Healthy and Safe Communities and Effective Early Help for Individuals and Communities