



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

28 January 2025

Report of the Director - Public Health

Recovery from Alcohol and Drug Dependence Grants 2025/2026
(Cabinet Member for Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision.

3. Purpose

3.1 The Cabinet Member for Health and Communities is asked to:

- a) Approve the grant award of a total of £0.142m, from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026 to four organisations from the Public Health Reserve, noting the full break down of allocations as outlined in paragraph 4.8 below.
- b) Approve the grant award of up to £5,000 from the Public Health Reserve to Derbyshire Addictions Advice Service (DAAS) to fund the ongoing development of the Growing in Recovery Derbyshire (GRID) website to ensure the website continues to be hosted and maintained for a period of two (2) years from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2027.
- c) Approve the grant award of £0.185m of underspend from Year Three (3) of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) in line with approval from the Office of

Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), noting the full breakdown of allocations as outlined in paragraph 4.13 below.

4. Information and Analysis

- 4.1 Evidence shows that individuals in receipt of alcohol and drug treatment are more likely to recover from drug and alcohol dependence if they can access supportive arrangements alongside treatment, which encourage and improve employability, settled accommodation, strong relationships, self-esteem, purposeful activities, and healthy diet/nutrition. As a result of this, in 2015, Public Health established the Recovery from Alcohol and Drug Dependence Grant programme. The grant programme has been running for the last ten years to find projects that provide recovery activities across Derbyshire. The organisations who apply for the funding must demonstrate how the project would help Derbyshire residents throughout treatment and into long-term recovery. This could include, but is not limited to:
- Improving physical and mental health and wellbeing
 - Providing purposeful activity, including education, skills training, volunteering, and employment
 - Help developing social networks
 - Developing financial capability
 - Developing positive thinking skills and effective decision making
 - Building confidence and self-esteem
- 4.2 In September 2023, the application process for the Recovery Grants opened for organisations to apply for a maximum of £75,000 to deliver a recovery project lasting for two years from 01 April 2024 until 31 March 2026.
- 4.3 In total, seventeen applications were received from organisations across Derbyshire. These applications were evaluated and scored against criteria including:
- The activities the project would offer
 - The benefits of the project to participants
 - How the participants would be recruited
 - How outcomes would be measured
 - How the project would offer value for money
 - The sustainability of the project
- 4.4 The eight highest scoring organisations were awarded funding for the full two-year period, 2024-26, funded by the Public Health Grant.

- 4.5 The Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) is provided for local authorities to directly address the aims of the treatment and recovery section of the national Drug Strategy, From Harm to Hope. Guidance from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) around the allocation of SSMTRG indicated the requirement for an enhanced focus on recovery provision, encouraging a focus on supporting people in recovery, peer led and peer facilitated support, as well as supporting the recovery community, for example, through the development of Lived Experience Recovery Organisations (LEROs). Therefore, an additional four projects that also scored highly and had also been through a robust process, were funded for a one-year period, 2024-25, using SSMTRG funding to significantly increase the breadth and variety of recovery options available for Derbyshire residents.
- 4.6 The SSMTRG funding is due to expire on 31 March 2025 and to date there is no indication of further funding available from 1 April 2025 to continue funding these projects for a further year from SSMTRG funding. This is an area where there is a need to mitigate against the potential loss of SSMTRG funding in the next financial year, where it is necessary to strengthen activity and that supports the local and national priorities.
- 4.7 Therefore, in the absence of a further year of SSMTRG funding, it is recommended that the below four projects that are performing well have this allocation underwritten and continued for an additional period of one (1) year for the financial year of 2025-26 funded from the Public Health Reserve. However, should SSMTRG funding continue beyond the end of the 2024-25 financial year, the recovery projects would be funded by this grant allowing the Public Health Reserve allocation to be released and repurposed.
- 4.8 This funding approach will ensure that there is continuity of provision for vulnerable Derbyshire residents, a more equitable spread of recovery projects across Derbyshire, greater support for the development of a LERO in Derbyshire and greater support for clients leaving residential rehab as the Tier Four (4) pathway is developed. The extension of funding will also bring four recovery projects in line with the other eight recovery projects so there is a clear end date for all grant funded activity. The four projects for which approval to extend grant funding agreements until 31 March 2026 are as follows:

Organisation and Project name	Service provided	Cost
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Global Adventure Missions	<p>This organisation provides opportunities to learn together, serve communities, and train the next generation through outdoor activities that test participants emotionally as well as physically and teach community and working together to overcome adversity.</p> <p>This project will engage people in recovery to engage in outdoor activities including bushcraft, woodland management, campfire cooking, hiking in the Peak District, and abseiling to build confidence and self-esteem through the natural environment.</p>	£37,240
Kelsey Family CIC	<p>This organisation provides family-based recovery services to those affected by substance use. The focus is on positive interactions and builds strengths of all family members.</p>	£36,912
Recovering Together	<p>This project supports families and those in recovery to build communication and trust using activity boxes, positive coaching sessions, physical activity sessions and regular activity days.</p>	
Rhubarb Farm CIC	<p>Rhubarb Farm is a horticultural social enterprise which supports vulnerable people. Attendees are engaged in purposeful, productive activity, offered training courses and personal support.</p>	£30,320
Rhubarb Recovery	<p>This project will employ a drug and alcohol worker to support people in recovery whilst at the farm. Activities will take place at the farm and will include farm work, training opportunities and one to one support.</p>	
Derby County Community Trust	<p>This organisation aims to use the power of the football club to engage people and improve lives across their four key outcomes – improved health and wellbeing, participation in physical activity, personal attainment, and enhanced communities.</p>	£37,480
Active Choices	<p>This project will deliver a diversity of activities ranging from physical activity, healthy eating, lifestyle changes, mental wellbeing and support into volunteering, training and employment.</p>	
	Total:	£141, 952

4.9 The Growing Recovery in Derbyshire (GRID) website is an established website that has been a resource for Derbyshire residents circa 2016. This site operates as a gateway, allowing any resident to find up-to-date

information about local drug and alcohol services, recovery projects, mental health support and other useful resources.

- 4.10 The site is currently hosted through Intuitive Thinking Skills, as part of Derbyshire Recovery Partnership. However, Derbyshire Addictions Advice Service (DAAS) were grant-funded £40,000 in March 2024, through SSMTRG funding, to support the site's re-branding and re-design. This funding also ensured that the new site was hosted and maintained to 31 March 2025. This is an area where it is necessary to strengthen activity that supports local and national priorities to enable people to access support regarding Recovery and self-refer to appropriate support as required. Therefore, it is recommended to ensure the website continues to be hosted and maintained beyond March 2025, for a period of two (2) years from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2027, funded from the Public Health Reserve. However, should SSMTRG funding continue beyond the end of the 2024-25 financial year, the ongoing development of the GRID website would be funded by this grant allowing the Public Health Reserve allocation to be released and repurposed.
- 4.11 The aim of the SSMTRG is for local authorities to directly address the aims of the treatment and recovery section of the drug strategy, Nationally, local authorities should contribute to:
- The development of 54,500 new, high quality treatment places,
 - 24,000 more people in long-term recovery from substance dependence,
 - 800 more medical, mental health and other professionals,
 - 950 additional drug and alcohol and criminal justice workers and
 - Capacity within every LA to ensure there is sufficient coordination and commissioning resource.
- 4.12 Areas where the funding can be allocated are restricted and must reflect the menu of interventions set out by OHID. This can include:
- Enhanced harm reduction provision
 - Increased treatment capacity
 - Increasing integration and improving care pathways between the criminal justice settings and drug treatment
 - Enhancing treatment quality
 - Developing better integrated responses to physical and mental health issue and,
 - Expanding the competency and size of the workforce – including those services for children and young people.

- 4.13 Due to unexpected underspend in Year Three (3) SSMTRG funded schemes, Public Health have liaised with OHID with suggestions for reprofiling this underspend in line with the above guidance. It is therefore proposed that the below recovery organisations receive additional grant funding to provide enhanced recovery support. The below specific intervention, and associated costs are detailed below:

Aligned Area from Menu of Interventions Specific Intervention:	Recovery Organisation	Cost
Community Recovery Space – Based in Amber Valley	Kelsey Family CIC	£40,000
Community Recovery Space – Based in Bolsover	Rhubarb Farm CIC	£30,000
Community Recovery Space – Based in the High Peak	Zink	£30,000
Community Recovery Space – Based in Chesterfield	Pathways of Chesterfield	£40,000
Digital Recovery Intervention	Elastic FM	£35,000
Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) - Motivational Interviewing Training	Derbyshire Addictions Advice Service	£10,000
	Total:	£0.185m

- 4.14 Community Recovery Spaces have been identified by OHID as an evidence-based and effective way of supporting individuals at all stages of their recovery journey. They offer a range of support to help people sustain long term recovery, encourage and strengthen recovery networks by connecting people and families in recovery and reduce stigma by making recovery visible to the wider community. In 2024-25 the Council funded a Community Recovery Space pilot based in Amber Valley which to date has received a large number of referrals and has proven to be a well utilised intervention in its local area, however it is limited by its location in terms of reaching people in recovery across the wider Derbyshire footprint. The four organisations identified above, in paragraph 4.13, are already grant funded by the Council to deliver recovery services across Derbyshire and are uniquely placed to provide additional enhanced recovery support. An increase in provision, for four recovery spaces in four different districts and boroughs of Derbyshire would offer substantial additional coverage of the County and together would provide improved equity of access to such a service provision.
- 4.15 The digital recovery intervention to be delivered by Elastic FM is a training course aimed to empower individuals within the recovery

community to confidently navigate the digital world. The course will aim to increase digital skills, life skills and employability for people in recovery and will offer valuable support to those with lived experience. Digital content produced by individuals during the course, that would provide support to others in recovery and challenge the stigma associated with addiction, will be developed for use in the Derbyshire system as appropriate. The organisation identified above, in paragraph 4.13, is already grant funded by the Council to deliver recovery services in Derbyshire and is uniquely placed to provide additional enhanced digital recovery skills, utilising existing resources and capacity within the organisation.

- 4.16 Motivational Interviewing (MI) is the leading psychological intervention for enhancing the motivation of people with alcohol and drug dependences to consider behaviour change. Supported by a wide evidence base, MI has been demonstrated as effective even when employed by non-specialist workforce. MINT are the global leaders in MI training and in 2024 the Council funded DAAS, via their specialist substance use training provider team, to pilot MINT training to the Derbyshire workforce. A second year of training provided by accredited MINT trainers will help develop the expertise of MI within the Derbyshire system, thus contributing to key strategic aims of reducing alcohol and other substance use related harms. DAAS are uniquely placed to provided MI training through their specialist substance use training team.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No formal consultation has taken place, but the ongoing engagement with those in recovery suggests that these projects will support recovery outcomes.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Do nothing: This is not a preferred option as individuals in receipt of drug and alcohol treatment are more likely to recover if they can access supportive arrangements alongside treatment and provision across the County would be greatly reduced. Also, this option would not be in line with the recent government 10-year policy 'From Harm to Hope', which recent updated guidance had a renewed focus on developing recovery opportunities.
- 6.2 Do something different: A second competitive process would not be a preferred option as these four projects, outlined in paragraph 4.8, have already scored highly and have been through a robust competitive grant

process, which was originally for a 2-year period (2024-2026) and a second process would be duplication of the original process. Also, this option would not be in line with the recent updated government 10-year policy 'From Harm to Hope' which recent updated guidance had a renewed focus on developing recovery opportunities.

- 6.3 In addition, regarding interventions outlined in paragraph 4.13, timely utilisation of the SSMTRG funding is integral to maximising the capacity of the Councils funded services and improving the quality of provision required by OHID. Swift mobilisation and ability to fund innovative approaches, is essential to maximise grant use as underspend cannot be carried over.

7. Implications

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

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Cabinet Member, for Health and Communities paper, 25 March 2024 ['Recovery from Alcohol and Drug Dependence Grant'](#)
- 8.2 Cabinet Member, for Health and Communities paper, 22 January 2024 ['Recovery from Alcohol and Drug Dependence Grant'](#)
- 8.3 *Cabinet paper, 06 April 2023* ['Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant'](#)
- 8.4 *Cabinet Member, for Health and Communities paper, 20 March 2023* ['Recovery from Alcohol and Drug Dependence Grant'](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

10. Recommendation(s)

- 10.1 That the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities:
- a) Approve the grant award of a total of £0.142m, from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026 to four organisations from the Public Health Reserve, noting the full break down of allocations as outlined in paragraph 4.8 above.

- b) Approve the grant award of up to £5,000 from the Public Health Reserve to Derbyshire Addictions Advice Service (DAAS) to fund the ongoing development of the Growing in Recovery Derbyshire (GRID) website to ensure the website continues to be hosted and maintained for a period of two (2) years from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2027.
- c) Approve the award of £0.185m of underspend from Year Three (3) of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) in line with approval from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), noting the full breakdown of allocations as outlined in paragraph 4.13 above.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 11.1 The four organisations, outlined in paragraph 4.8, meet the criteria for the grant funding and the projects have demonstrated, that they can provide activities to support recovery in Derbyshire from 01 April 2025 until 31 March 2026.
- 11.2 Derbyshire Addictions Advice Service (DAAS) have previously been grant-funded to support the GRID website re-branding and re-design. Approving this request will ensure that the website will continue to be hosted and maintained beyond March 2025 for a period of two (2) years and will ensure Derbyshire residents are provided with a resource with improved functionality which has been co-produced with people in recovery.
- 11.3 In addition, regarding the interventions outlined in paragraph 4.13, SSMTRG funding is integral to maximising the capacity of the Council's funded services and improving the quality of provision required by OHID. Swift and timely mobilisation and ability to fund innovative approaches is essential to maximise grant use allocated to the authority in 2024-25 as underspend cannot be carried over and any underspend would have to be returned to OHID and therefore not used to support outcomes for Derbyshire residents.

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

12.1 No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The cost of £0.142m for the four organisations recovery projects will be financed through the Public Health Reserve. However, should SSMTRG funding continue beyond the end of the 2024-25 financial year, the recovery projects would be funded by this grant allowing the Public Health Reserve to be released and repurposed.
- 1.2 Allocations for the individual projects are set out in paragraph 4.8 above and these will be grant funded.
- 1.3 The cost of £5,000 for the hosting and maintenance of the GRID website will be financed through the Public Health Reserve and will be grant funded. However, should SSMTRG funding continue beyond the end of the 2024-25 financial year, the ongoing development of the GRID website would be funded by this grant allowing the Public Health Reserve to be released and repurposed.
- 1.4 The cost of £0.185m for the enhanced recovery support interventions for the five organisations will be financed through the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG).
- 1.5 Allocations for these individual enhanced recovery support interventions are set out in paragraph 4.13 above and these will be grant funded.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council has power to provide grants under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Council's Financial Regulations state that grants to external organisation of up to £0.100m are to be approved by Cabinet Member.
- 2.3 The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grants are made, which provides for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and shall also provide that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The funding will enable local providers to deliver projects and services. Derbyshire County Council accepts no employment or future

redundancy liability, with all employment and related matters to be managed by the providers.

Information Technology

4.1 No implications for DCC Digital Services.

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.
- 5.2 By providing funding for four additional recovery projects, there would be an increase in geographical coverage of the services, which would contribute to tackling health inequalities within the County and ensure equity of access for Derbyshire residents.
- 5.3 By providing enhanced recovery support for the provision of four recovery spaces, there would be an increase in geographical coverage of the recovery spaces offer across a greater area of Derbyshire, which would further contribute to tackling health inequalities within the County.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 Ensuring a comprehensive and effective offer of recovery support for adults, and vulnerable adults, will contribute to supporting individuals at risk of poor social and health outcomes to build 'Recovery Capital' and maintain their recovery from drug and alcohol dependence.
- 6.2 The enhanced recovery offer will also contribute to the following priority as set out in the Council plan: Resilient, healthy, and safe communities.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 7.1 In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, property, and transport considerations. There are no anticipated negative impacts from this decision.