

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**17 June 2021**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**Universal Funding for Drug Treatment  
(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 (this is currently defined as £0.5m) and/or 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 Cabinet approval for the allocation of a new national universal funding grant of £0.526m to be awarded to Derbyshire Recovery Partnership to expand and develop drug treatment services across Derbyshire.

**4. Information and Analysis**

4.1 The Government recently announced an additional £80 million national funding allocation in 2021-22 for one year to enhance drug treatment, focused on reducing drug-related crime and the rise in drug-related

deaths. This funding is in addition to the money local authorities already spend on substance misuse from the Public Health Grant and must be spent on additional services. Derbyshire County Council have been awarded £0.526m under the Universal funding element to be provided under a Section 31 grant.

- 4.2 The proposal locally is to focus on strengthening the criminal justice interventions relating to drug treatment which is a key element in the parameters of the new funding, and which it is felt would benefit from more robustness in Derbyshire. Despite extremely tight timescales of two weeks from being informed of the potential amount to submission of the proposal, discussions with partners and stakeholders were undertaken at pace to develop an acceptable and workable approach.

The parameters for the proposed spend were set nationally and the period of time for the expenditure is one year. The proposal developed for Derbyshire consists of a new Criminal Justice team within the Derbyshire Recovery Partnership (adult substance misuse treatment service) which will seek to engage more quickly and effectively with offenders at the pre-sentence stages to encourage more offenders into drug treatment, and to work with them under a more robust programme of interventions post-sentence. The majority of the one year funding (£0.509m) has been allocated to the function and delivery of this team which consists of a co-ordinator, three Court treatment requirement workers, five specific criminal justice workers including prison release and Integrated Offender Management, one employment specialist worker and one administrator.

A sum of £6,992 of the universal funding has been allocated to harm reduction including increased naloxone provision to reverse opioid overdose and help prevent drug related deaths, and a further £10,000 has been allocated to increase the network of peer support for recovery from drug misuse. Derbyshire Recovery Partnership will also lead on delivering these elements.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 It has not been possible to undertake a full consultation due to the timescales and purpose of this Section 31 grant. Stakeholder discussions and project development has been undertaken with a variety of treatment service and criminal justice partners.

## **6. Alternative Options Considered**

- 6.1 The grant being administered by Public Health England comes with significant restrictions on its use. Therefore, decisions were made to allocate the grant where gaps exist in Derbyshire and where the greatest impact could be evidenced. Other nationally-approved options included elements which are already fully funded in Derbyshire and were discounted as they would duplicate existing provision.
- 6.2 The option of refusing this funding was not considered to be appropriate: additional investment in drug treatment for Derbyshire residents will impact positively on those who are drug users and commit offences, as they are among those suffering the greatest health inequalities and reduced life expectancy. Likewise, local families and communities will benefit from increased recovery among substance misusers, and their reduced criminal activity.

## **7. Implications**

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

## **8. Background Papers**

- 8.1 None identified

## **9. Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1- Implications.

## **10. Recommendation(s)**

That Cabinet approves the allocation of a new national universal funding grant of £0.526m to be awarded to Derbyshire Recovery Partnership to expand and develop drug treatment services across Derbyshire.

## **11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

- 11.1 To increase recovery and rehabilitation opportunities from drug use and to reduce harm to Derbyshire communities.

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

- 12.1 No

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

- 1.1 The expenditure will not exceed the total amount awarded. Details of the planned expenditure are set out in section 4 of the Report.

#### **Legal**

- 2.1 The funding will be made available through the Section 31 grant provisions of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Section 151 officer will need to confirm that the spending has been incurred on additional services. The funding will be received by the Authority in two allocations over the year and will be grant funded to Derbyshire Recovery Partnership. All funding has to be spent by the end of quarter 1 of 2022/23. Some local data collection will be required but the funding allocation will mostly be monitored through existing reporting mechanisms

#### **Human Resources**

- 3.1 None

#### **Information Technology**

- 4.1 None

#### **Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 None

#### **Social Value considerations**

- 6.1 Drug treatment and recovery brings considerable benefits to individuals, families and communities. Public Health England ("Why invest?" 2018) estimates that the annual cost of drug misuse in the UK is over £10bn with costs including lost productivity, crime, policing and the NHS, with a

social return of £4 when investing £1 on drug treatment. On arrival at prison, 41% of women and 27% of men reported problematic drug use, demonstrating the significant prevalence of drug use among offenders.

- 6.2 Social value benefits of recovery are highlighted by the 'Life in Recovery' Study (September 2015) by Professor David Best from Sheffield Hallam University. This study showed that people moving into recovery were more likely to be in education or employment, to volunteer, eat healthily and take regular exercise.

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

- 7.1 None