

TITLE OF REPORT: Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery (SSMTR) Grant

REPORT OF: Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval from Cabinet to receive funds from the Department of Health and Social Care via the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery (SSMTR) Grant. This grant is managed by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparity (OHID) and is provided pursuant to Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Background

3. The SSMTR grant should be used to address the aims of the treatment and recovery section of the 10-year Drug Strategy, *From Harm to Hope*. In developing our planning for spending the grant in Gateshead, the Council must have regard to the need to improve the take up of, and outcomes from, our drug and alcohol treatment services, based on assessment of local need, and develop a proposal with local health and criminal justice partners.
4. For 2023/24 £1,251,506.00 has been allocated to the Council via the SSMTR Grant. A further amount of £2,415,215.00 for 2024/25 has been indicated, however this is subject to change.
5. Conditions of this funding are that the Council maintains existing investment in drug and alcohol treatment, and that the spend from the SSMTR grant is in accordance with a proposal, which must be agreed with OHID. To support this process OHID have provided a menu of evidence-based interventions to guide the development of the proposal for the grant spend.
6. OHID propose to transfer the identified funds to the Council via a Section 31 grant agreement.

Proposal

7. SSMTR funding must be used within the following parameters:
 - Increased capacity within, and accessibility to, treatment and harm reduction services, for both adults and young people, including options for residential rehabilitation
 - To increase numbers of people accessing treatment
 - Targeted outreach interventions and strengthening of pathways, for example from criminal justice and secondary care settings
 - Interventions to reduce the number of drug and alcohol related deaths

- Better and more integrated responses to physical and mental health issues
 - Development and enhancement of peer support networks
 - Expanding the competency and size of the workforce
8. It is proposed that Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to enter into such funding agreements as will be required following consultation with the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital and the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance in order to progress the transfer of funding from OHID to the Council, as outlined in this report.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (i) Approves the acceptance of OHID funding for the purposes outlined in this report.
 - (ii) Delegates authority to the Director of Public Health to enter into such funding agreements as necessary, following consultation with the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital and the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance, to facilitate the funding transfer.

For the following reason:

To secure a health gain for the community in terms of a more effective treatment and recovery service.

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Policy Context

1. As outlined in the Council Strategic Approach, Thrive, the Council wants to help our communities not just survive, but to flourish, prosper and succeed. The Council has committed to five pledges to help and guide it when making decisions. These are:
 - Putting people and families at the heart of everything we do
 - Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
 - Support communities to support themselves and to support each other
 - Invest in our economy to provide opportunities for employment, innovation and growth
 - Work together to fight for a better future for Gateshead

2. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been adopted as the overarching delivery mechanism for Thrive. Its evidence-based strategic policy objectives aim to address the wider determinants of health through a place-based approach. They include:
 - Give every child the best start in life, with a focus on conception to age two
 - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
 - Create the conditions for fair employment and good work for all
 - Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
 - Create and develop sustainable places and communities
 - Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

Background

3. Between April 2019 and March 2020, there were 892 new presentations to Gateshead's treatment and recovery service. 17% of these new presentations were a parent or an adult living with children/young people. Within the same year, 23.5% (379) of children in social care needs assessments identified alcohol misuse by a parent or other adult living with the child as an issue. Drug misuse was a factor in 22.5% (363) of assessments.

4. In Gateshead, uptake and completion of substance misuse treatment, for both alcohol and drugs, is lower than we would like. Alcohol and drug related deaths have risen in recent years, both locally and nationally. There is a need to reverse the upward trend in this data. In order to do this, we must increase the capacity within our treatment and recovery services. Engaging with treatment reduces the risk of substance misuse related deaths.

5. Without this additional capacity, if all the estimated people with unmet needs in relation to drugs and alcohol presented at our treatment services there would be significant waiting lists. This funding allows us to increase our drug and alcohol treatment resource

Consultation

6. The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing was consulted on the contents of this report and the proposed funding uses and supports the proposals.

Alternative Options

7. The alternative option would be to not accept the funds, along with their potential impact on recovery and treatment services. This would result in reduced capacity and access to services that support action to reduce substance misuse and its effects.

Implications of Recommended Option

8. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that the additional costs associated with delivery of the projects will be met in full by funding from the Department of Health and Social Care via the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no Human Resource implications arising directly from this report.
- c) **Property Implications** - There are no Property Implications. Provision for supporting people with substance misuse issues will be commissioned within treatment services.

9. **Risk Management Implication** - The proposal will reduce the risk of the Council not delivering committed actions through the Drug Strategy by providing additional resources for action for treatment and recovery.

10. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - Receipt of this funding will enable action on health inequalities, focused on people with substance misuse issues.

11. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – Action to tackle substance misuse may have a positive benefit on factors contributing to crime and disorder.

12. **Health Implications** - Potential for significant long-term health benefits for Council residents, by addressing substance misuse.

13. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - No climate emergency or sustainability implications arising from this report.

14. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.

15. **Ward Implications** – There are no ward implications arising directly from this report.