

Additional Grant Funding for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services

To: Adults and Health Committee
Meeting Date: June 24, 2021
From: Val Thomas, Deputy Director of Public Health

Electoral division(s): All
Key decision: No
Forward Plan ref: N/A

Outcome: The Committee is to consider the high value grant funding for the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services, the benefits that it will bring to service users and need to commence the additional services as quickly as possible.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Adults and Health Committee:

note the decision made under emergency powers by the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council.

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1. Background

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire County Council has received two short-term grants for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Public Health England (PHE) for additional services to target drug and alcohol users. Each grant has its set aims, objectives and outcome measures both involving consultation and close joint strategic planning with partners and along with requirements for immediate delivery.
- 1.2 The MHCLG/PHE Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant is for Cambridge City only and runs over a 15-month period. It targets those rough sleepers placed in accommodation during COVID-19 who require drug and treatment along with other services to address their complex needs. Many of this group responded well to the accommodation with better treatment outcomes and overall improvements in health. The grant acknowledged that this accommodation would end. The funding is to address the concern that on leaving the accommodation additional treatment efforts would be needed to enable individuals to cope with the change and maintain any improvements.
- 1.3 The PHE Drug Treatment Crime and Harm Reduction Funding (Countywide) is for one-year 2021/22. It will increase capacity to address the needs of offenders and especially prisoners who require drug and alcohol treatment on release from prison. Prisoners released from prison are at high risk of falling into a “treatment gap” through limited interfaces between prison and community drug and alcohol services. This grant is to ensure that there is extra capacity to ensure better integration between prison and community services.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The Local Authority currently commissions Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services from Change Grow Live (CGL). Both grant applications were collaboratively developed with CGL as the current provider in line with the requirements of the grants. The aim is use both grants to secure additional services from CGL through a contract variation. The CGL contract runs until March 2024, which includes its extension options. Therefore, it can deliver these additional grant funded services within the contract period. Total value of the contract with variations is £28.6million including these grants.
- 2.2 CGL is currently delivering the services that are included in the terms of the two grants. The grant funding will enable it to develop and expand its services. Importantly it also ensures that the expanded services will be fully integrated into CGL and partner organisations’ current service delivery. CGL is a responsive provider that performs well and has the flexibility to deliver on both S31 grants across the Local Authority. It understands the short-term element to both funding streams and is willing to adopt new ways of working to benefit clients and the wider system.
- 2.3 The information about the grant awards was not clear with the final amounts not confirmed until the end of March and the beginning of April. The MHCLG/PHE Rough Sleeping Grant initial funding was £403k and it was awarded in January 2021. However, it was indicated that there was a strong possibility of additional funding with the additional £269k, which was not confirmed until April 2021. The PHE Crime and Harm Reduction award of £381k was at the end of March 2021.

- 2.4 The £403k and £381k were separate awards and under the £500k threshold. However, the additional funding of £269k for the Rough Sleeper work clearly exceeds the £500k threshold for a Committee Key Decision.
- 2.5 Procurement advised that the award could be made to the current provider, as it would be in line with current rules:
- a. the need for the modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen.
 - b. the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract
 - c. any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.
- 2.6 With regard to the level of funding, procurement advice was that the combined value of £1,053,000 for the proposed contract variation required a key decision. The Adults and Health Committee would ordinarily have taken this decision. However, as there was not a meeting of the new Adults and Health Committee scheduled until 24th June 2021, the Chief Executive took the decision to make the award.
- 2.7 The Chief Executive decision reflected the grant conditions, which stipulate that the funding must be allocated, and delivery functions in place within 3 months. An urgent decision was therefore required to ensure that the grant agreement process was implemented, and funding distributed within the timescales set.
- 2.8 The Chief Executive consulted the Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee (Councillor Nethsingha), the other Group Leaders (Councillors Count, Meschini and Sanderson) and the Chair and Vice-Chair of Adults and Health Committee (Councillors Howitt and van de Ven). She obtained the approval of all the above Councillors to the document

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 1.2, 1.3

3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 1.2, 1.3

3.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 1.2, 1.3

3.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 1.2, 1.3

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in 2.1, 2.6

4.2 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Any implications for procurement/contractual/Council contract procedure rules will be considered with the appropriate officers from these Departments and where necessary presented to the Adult and Health Committee before proceeding.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Any implications for procurement/contractual/Council contract procedure rules will be considered with the appropriate officers from these Departments and where necessary presented to the Adult and Health Committee before proceeding.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Any legal or risk implications will be considered with the appropriate officers from these Departments and where necessary presented to the Adult and Health Committee before proceeding

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Any equality and diversity implications will be identified before any service developments are implemented

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Any equality and diversity implications will be identified before any service developments are implemented

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Services will require the ongoing support of local communities and members to address the health and wellbeing impacts of the pandemic.

4.7 Public Health Implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The MHCLG and PHE grant awards will significantly improve the services for vulnerable drug and alcohol users and contribute to improving health and well-being outcomes and reducing the health inequalities associated with this population.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: The grant awards will develop treatment services and will not have any implications for energy efficiency.

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: The grant awards will develop treatment services and will not have any implications for transport.

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats, and land management.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: The grant awards will develop treatment services and will not have any implications for the areas indicated in this implication

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: The grant awards will develop treatment services and will not have any implications for the areas indicated in this implication

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability, and management:

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: The grant awards will develop treatment services and will not have any implications for the areas indicated in this implication

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Status: Neutral

Explanation: The grant awards will develop treatment services and will not have any implications for the areas indicated in this implication

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Status: Positive

Explanation: The grants will support vulnerable drug and alcohol users to address their complex needs and any issues that might affect them through climate change.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes or No

Name of Financial Officer:

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? Yes or No

Name of Officer:

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes or No

Name of Legal Officer:

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?

Yes or No

Name of Officer:

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes or No

Name of Officer:

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes or No

Name of Officer:

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes or No

Name of Officer:

If a Key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?

Yes or No

Name of Officer:

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 Source documents

Not applicable