

Finance Urgent Key Decision



Decision of: Section 151 Officer
With advice from: Finance Business Partner- Denise Hunt
Directorate: Communities and Public Health
Decision no: 40
Subject: Targeted drug and alcohol treatment and recovery grant 2025/26
Key decision: Yes
Reason Key decision over £500k spend/save & impacts more than 2 wards

Background [Bristol - DATRIG allocation letter 2025-26.docx](#)

DHSC / OHID intend to provide a single year ringfenced Drug and Alcohol Treatment Intervention Grant to Bristol via the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG). The Director of Public Health is accountable to the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities Department of Health and Social Care for the deployment of this grant.

We spend around £10m on substance use treatment services each year, which is funded from the Public Health Grant as a mandated function. From 1st April 2025, there will be a new treatment service for Bristol which will be provided by Turning Point in partnership with Bristol Drugs Project and other local agencies across the city.

For the last 3 financial years Bristol has received additional funding for substance use services from DHSC. In 2024/25, the final year of this funding, Bristol received the following through different grants routes:

- £813,036 Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant
- £604,113 Housing Support Grant
- £4,921,162 Supplemental Substance Use Grant
- £202,632 Independent Placement Support Grant

DHSC have confirmed their intention to bring together the grants noted above, and that Bristol will receive a single allocation of £6,691,932 (indicative sum to be confirmed in Spring 2025) in 2025/26. spend. At this point DHSC have made clear that

- the allocations remain indicative; and
- are still subject to Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

and Treasury approvals and as such final allocations could vary.

This is non recurrent funding and has explicit requirement that the core public health grant spend on substance use services is not reduced i.e. this new funding cannot be used for existing core.

Decision

Approve the acceptance of the allocated funding of £6,691,932 (indicative) in 2025/26 to deliver duties in line with the conditions of the grant and Bristol's local drug strategy 2021-2025.

Authorise the Director of Public Health and Executive Director for Adults and Communities in consultation with the Chair of Public Health and Communities to take all steps required to accept and spend the allocated funding in accordance with the requirements of the grants and to take all steps required to procure and award contracts (including any individual contracts over £500k) to deliver a range of substance misuse treatment services within the budget envelope outlined in this report.

Financial implications The indicative funding allocation is the amalgamation of a number of grants that have previously been made available to support drug and alcohol treatment as follows:

Grant Component	Funding
Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery	£4,921,162
Housing Support	£604,113
Inpatient Detoxification	£140,323
Rough Sleeping Drug and alcohol treatment (confirmed)	£813,036
Individual Placement and Support	£213,298
TOTAL	£6,691,932

The funding is dependent on maintaining existing investment in drug and alcohol treatment from the Public Health Grant. Completed expenditure plans (which need to be submitted by 28 February) must also satisfy any other grant conditions as set out in the memorandum of understanding.

These plans must be reviewed by Finance ahead of any planned submission and a grant checklist completed in accordance with the grant bid protocol. Any plans should be clear on exit strategies and include where appropriate contributions to council overhead costs incurred.

Legal powers and implications

The acceptance of the grant funding does not raise any specific legal implications. The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations/Procurement Act 2023 and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the grant agreement(s) and conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Climate change and environmental implications

We have not identified any significant negative impacts from the proposals.

[Appendix C - Environmental Impact Assessment.docx](#)

Consultation Consultation has been undertaken with business partners in Finance, Legal, IT, HR, Procurement and Contracts, PR and the Equalities and Diversity Team.

Bristol Multiagency Combatting Drugs Partnership are required by DHSC to agree the plan for how this grant will be spent.

Risk management The topic of substance treatment and recovery services has been a subject of recent press attention in the city meaning the issue is one likely to be of high public interest. This interest plus the acknowledgment of the scale of challenge in Bristol suggests a proactive approach to comms should be taken to publicise this funding and align comms to the timetable of the committee meeting to discuss.

Equality implications Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment?

Yes [Appendix B - Equality Impact Assessment.docx](#)

We have not identified any significant negative impacts from the proposals. Accepting the grant funding will increase our capacity to advance equality of opportunity for protected characteristic groups.

Corporate implications

Wellbeing theme of the Corporate Strategy describes the need to embed health in all policies to improve physical & mental health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and the demand for acute services. It recognises that Public Health is a statutory requirement of local authorities and the need to commission Public Health services to improve the health & wellbeing of our residents. The provision of substance use services is essential to achieve these aims.

Substance use treatment services can have a significant positive impact on the City of Bristol, both in terms of improving health and well-being of its citizens, reducing inequalities, promoting social value and sustainability.

Substance use treatment services can help address health inequalities by providing equitable access to care for marginalised communities who may be disproportionately affected by substance use.

Substance use treatment services can promote social value by reducing the harm associated with alcohol and other drugs.

Substance use treatment services can promote sustainability by reducing the social and economic costs of the harms from alcohol and other drugs.

Signatories/Decision Maker(s)

Christina Gray, Director of Communities and Public Health,
Andy Rothery, Director of Finance, and
Hugh Evans, Executive Director of Adults and Communities

Note: if an electronic signature is used, an email from the Director confirming a decision and allowing the use of an electronic signature must be attached

Title: **Director of Finance/S151 Officer**, Andy Rothery



Signed:

Date: 19/02/2025

Title: **Executive Director, Adults and Communities**, Hugh Evans



Signed:

Date: 17/02/2025

Title: **Director of Public Health**, Christina Gray



Signed:

Date: 19/02/2025

Consultees

Title: **Chair of the Public Health and Communities Committee**, Councillor Stephen Williams



Signed:

Date: 20/02/2025

Note: if an electronic signature is used, an email from the relevant certifier confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached. If a consultation is undertaken verbally the Director must record date and time of the conversation and any agreement/concerns raised by the consultee.