

Decision Pathway - Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 09 March 2021

TITLE	Enhanced Substance Misuse Support and Treatment Services Funding		
Ward(s)	All wards		
Author: Paul Moores	Job title: Commissioning Manager Substance Misuse Services		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig	Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: To seek approval to accept Government funding for enhanced substance misuse support and treatment services as an Accelerator site and authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with Cabinet Member Communities and Public health and the Director of Communities and Public Health to spend the funding and procure and award contracts necessary to implement the services.			
Evidence Base: Bristol has one of the highest levels of problem substance use among comparative cities across England. There are approximately 2000 people accessing Bristol's commissioned drug and alcohol services, with over 1900 of those on opioid substitute therapy (OST). The estimated prevalence of those who use heroin and crack cocaine in Bristol was between 4066 and 5870 (PHE 2016/17). There are a significant number of admissions to both the BRI and Southmead hospitals, due to either primary or secondary conditions brought on by alcohol and drug use. Drug and alcohol use have a particular impact on the criminal justice system, with drug dealing, acquisitive crime, domestic violence, and exploitation all linked to problematic substance use. Problematic substance use is known to have a greater impact on those from areas of high deprivation and other marginalised communities such as rough sleepers. The additional funding that this award gives us will enable Bristol to offer more treatment and support to those affected by substance use, in turn this can reduce the harm to those individuals, alleviate the pressure on the NHS and criminal justice system. Alcohol and drug treatment is effective in helping people to recover and also that it provides good value for money. PHE provide evidence to show that every £1 spent on drug treatment results in a £2.50 benefit to society in terms of further health costs and criminal activity. PHE also reports that specialist alcohol treatment shows favourable returns on investment. There is also evidence to show that better access to alcohol and drug treatment is associated with improved housing outcomes. The Government have announced funding to improve access to community, residential and inpatient drug treatment, and to expand harm reduction interventions like naloxone and needle and syringe programmes. It is funding for 1 year to enhance drug treatment, focused on reducing drug-related crime and stopping the rise in drug related deaths. Bristol has been identified as an Accelerator site which will involve additional funding above the level of other local authorities with the aim of working alongside Home Office funding for targeted enforcement activity by the police and the targeting of recovery support resources and interventions, such as employment support and criminal			

justice system interventions, by other government departments.

The funding will be allocated by a formula which is being developed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) and is currently unavailable. From the information we have and in discussion with PHE, we envisage that Bristol City Council will receive in the region of 1 million to enhance and expand existing services to become an accelerator site.

The upcoming report of independent review of drugs misuse by Dame Carol Black's will reinforce the need for increased longer-term investment and better local partnership working to reduce the harms from substance misuse. Her recommendation for the spending review was that there should be a very significant uplift in drug treatment funding over 3 years. This is a 1 year allocation but further funding is likely to be sought from the next spending review.

All local areas are eligible for a funding allocation and the bulk of the funding will be allocated by a formula.

The formula will take account of deprivation, to make sure allocations meet need in the most deprived areas of the country.

This fund will allow local drug treatment commissioners and services to:

- 1.offer more treatment places (including in residential services), particularly to improve pathways from the criminal justice system
- 2.provide more intensive treatment and recovery programmes in 'accelerator' areas of high need
- 3.expand provision of inpatient detoxification
- 4.expand needle and syringe programme and provide more naloxone to reduce blood-borne viruses and prevent overdose deaths

The current plan is for there to be 3 separate grants available, Bristol has been identified by PHE as being eligible for increased funding as an accelerator site.

Money for all local authorities to increase treatment capacity, including treatment for offenders and for harm reduction interventions. This includes having treatment places available so courts can make more community sentence orders, and so that prisoners can continue their treatment when they leave custody.

Money to increase inpatient detoxification placements. The aim is that local authorities work together in regional, integrated care systems or similar arrangements to commission these.

Money for the 'accelerator' areas, to provide intensive recovery and treatment programmes. A small number these areas will be eligible for a bigger slice of the £80 million.

The detail is still being developed and more information will be shared in due course.

Bristol has one of the highest levels of problem substance use among comparative cities across England. There are approximately 2000 people accessing Bristol's commissioned drug and alcohol services, with over 1900 of those on opioid substitute therapy (OST). The estimated prevalence of those who use heroin and crack cocaine in Bristol was between 4066 and 5870 (PHE 2016/17). There are a significant number of admissions to both the BRI and Southmead hospitals, due to either primary or secondary conditions brought on by alcohol and drug use. Drug and alcohol use have a particular impact on the criminal justice system, with drug dealing, acquisitive crime, domestic violence, and exploitation all linked to problematic substance use. Problematic substance use is known to have a greater impact on those from areas of high deprivation and other marginalised communities such as rough sleepers. The additional funding that this award gives us will enable Bristol to offer more treatment and support to those affected by substance use, in turn this can reduce the harm to those individuals, alleviate the pressure on the NHS and criminal justice system. Alcohol and drug treatment is effective in helping people to recover and also that it provides good value for money.

PHE provide evidence to show that every £1 spent on drug treatment results in a £2.50 benefit to society in terms of further health costs and criminal activity. PHE also reports that specialist alcohol treatment shows favourable returns on investment. There is also evidence to show that better access to alcohol and drug treatment is associated with improved housing outcomes.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet

1. Approve the acceptance of the allocated funding, expected to be around £1m, for enhanced substance misuse support and treatment services and for Bristol to be an accelerator site
2. Authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with Cabinet Member Communities and Public health and the Director of Communities and Public Health to spend the funding and procure and award contracts necessary to implement the services.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. This aligns to the overall aim of the councils corporate plan as well as addressing the key commitments of Giving children the best start in life by protecting them from harm, reducing levels of homelessness, providing help to help yourself and creating a city which is fair and inclusive. The proposals for spend will also align with the recently produced City Wide Drug and Alcohol Strategy.

City Benefits;

1. Reducing harm from alcohol and substance misuse by reducing hospital admission and substance misuse related deaths.
2. Making communities safer by ensuring early identification and access to support and treatment for those misusing substances
3. Reducing inequalities in health by promoting physical and mental health and ensuring access to health care
4. Reduction in anti-social behaviour.
5. Working together with the criminal justice system to combat substance misuse and repeated offending behaviour as a system wide approach that can be shared with other areas as an example of good practice.

Consultation Details: This is a Government allocation, there has been no local consultation about this fund although our drug and alcohol strategy is currently out for consultation which includes substance misuse treatment services.

Background Documents: [£148 million to cut drugs crime - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/148-million-to-cut-drugs-crime)

Revenue Cost	£1m to be confirmed	Source of Revenue Funding	Government grant funding
Capital Cost		Source of Capital Funding	
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: Finance Advice: The Government have announced £80m of investment in drug treatment services across England to support people with drug and drink addictions. It is envisaged that Bristol may receive around 1 million, but figures have not been confirmed. However, it is understood that Accelerator areas will receive larger treatment grants than those getting universal funding.

This report gives delegated authority to the Executive Director People to spend this funding and any spending plans will need to be met from within the final grant funding awarded.

While it's encouraging to see some investment in this area, to help ensure more people get the treatment they need, a longer term commitment to sustainable funding is required as this funding is currently for one year only.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, 29 January		
2. Legal Advice: The allocation of funding does not raise any specific legal issues. The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the grant funding agreement, the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.		
Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader 29/01/21		
3. Implications on IT: No anticipated impact on IT Services		
IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver 29/02/21		
4. HR Advice: The report as it is currently presented has no direct HR implications for Bristol City Council employees.		
HR Partner: Lorna Laing HR business partner 29/02/21		
EDM Sign-off	Jacqui Jensen	02-02-21
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Asher Craig	30-01-21
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	08-02-21

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO