

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 14 September 2021

TITLE	Inpatient Detox and Stabilisation Contract		
Ward(s)	City Wide		
Author: Leonie Roberts	Job title: Consultant in Public Health		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans Executive Director: People		
Proposal origin: Councillor			
Decision maker: Full Council			
Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To seek permission to award a contract for Inpatient Detox and stabilisation services in relation to the period 1st February 2021 until 31st March 2025. This end date aims to achieve continuity of service and align the contract within the same timescale as other ROADS services. 			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Inpatient Detox and Stabilisation service (known as The Acer Unit and provided by AWP) addresses health inequalities in drug and alcohol misuse across the city. This includes some of our most vulnerable people including pregnant women, those with physical and mental health comorbidities, people who are homeless and those who have recently left custody. Many of these people live in circumstances that make successful community detoxification highly unlikely. We have a large drug and alcohol using population in Bristol compared to other areas and this supports the need to have a detox and stabilisation unit within the city. It is impractical to send people further afield for treatment as travelling to an unknown area can increase their vulnerability quite significantly. This is a specialised service that provides medically directed care in a hospital inpatient setting. A&E data for NBT and UHB between June 2019 and May 2020 helps to show the need in the city with 1,442 attendances identifying drug and alcohol use as the main cause of presentation. Within this figure there are several individuals who are presenting to A&E multiple times. The maximum number of visits to A&E by one individual in any month between June 2019 and May 2020 ranged from 11 to 21. According to BNSSG CCG data the cost of these attendances was £265,371. The previous contract with AWP for the inpatient detox and stabilisation covered the period of 1st Feb 2018-31st January 2021 with an option of 1+1 to extend. Despite best endeavours by both partners we were unable to agree an extension prior to the contract expiry date. This reflects significant multiple external pressures on all parties from the pandemic that included temporary service closure and relocation. Services have continued to be delivered since 1st February 2021 and we are now seeking to directly award a contract in relation to the period from 1st February 2021 until 31st March 2025 as a remedy and to align this contract end date with other ROADS contracts to facilitate more effective commissioning of services in the future. This is a specialised service and was previously awarded to AWP in 2018. The key decision for this was taken at Cabinet on 3rd April 2018. The Health and Wellbeing Board noted in June 2017 “Given the specific nature and setting of their work we believe that the substance misuse hospital provision (which includes the current NBT 			

and UBT alcohol and drug liaison roles) and the ACER inpatient facility (AWP provided) to be relevant for a direct award". We want to maintain continuity of services to vulnerable people and ensure that Bristol ROADS services users are not required to move out of the City to access this specialised service. In the absence of any reasonable alternative we are proposing to award this contract to AWP as the only organisation who can realistically provide the services in the manner required by the Council.

5. Decisions regarding future additional Central Government such as Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) funding and Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement, and Recovery (ADDER) are not yet confirmed and at this point cannot be assumed to extend beyond the period currently stated of this current year and up to 31st March 2023. The contract value will include the core funding of £550,000 per annum and the additional £126,655 made available until 31st March 2023 For 22-24 this award will be maintained only on receipt of continued central government additional funding. If additional funding ceases the service will continue at core funding of £550,000 p.a.
6. Funding for the period 1 Feb 21 to 31st March 2023 is £550,000 Public Health Grant and £126,655 ADDER funding totalling £1,444,977. For the remaining period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025 funding will revert to the core funding totalling £1.1M from Public Health Grant. During this second period, we seek permission to increase spending up to a total of £1,353,310 subject to receipt of government funding.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the award of the Inpatient Detox and Stabilisation Contract to AWP NHS Trust from 1st February 2021 until 14 September 2021 and approve the remaining period of the contract until 31st March 2025 at an estimated total cost of £2,798,286 subject to continued government funding.
2. Authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Public Health to take all steps required to negotiate and award a contract to AWP for Inpatient Detox and stabilisation services from 1st February 2021 to 31st March 2025.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

One of the aims within the One City plan is to reduce health inequalities across Bristol. The service aligns with corporate strategy themes such as fair and inclusive, wellbeing, and empowering and caring.

City Benefits:

This service addresses health inequalities across the city by meeting the needs of those who are most vulnerable and those who have multiple disadvantages.

It ensures separate provision to community detox to enable greater protection from harm of those most at risk.

Consultation Details:

Further consultation is not proposed at this stage as we are seeking to maintain the service without variation.

Background Documents:

1. [Appendix A_DRAFT Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2020-2024 v2.0 post-consultation.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#) Drug and Alcohol Strategy BCC 2020-2024
2. [Review of drugs: phase one report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) (phase 2 is to follow).
3. [2017 Drug Strategy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
4. [Alcohol strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
5. [Council meetings - bristol.gov.uk](#)

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Revenue Cost	1. Direct Award for the period Feb 21 to March 25 at a total cost of £2.54M rising to £2.8M on receipt of continuing funding.	Source of Revenue Funding	£550,000 recurring costs from Public Health Grant. £126,655 costs for 2021-2023 from ADDER and RSDATG with possibility to be extended until 2025.
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing cost <input checked="" 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: This report seeks Cabinet approval for the direct award of the Inpatient Detox and Stabilisation Contract to AWP NHS Trust in regard of services from 1st February 2021 until 31st March 2025, at a cost of £676,655 per annum. This will be part funded from Public Health Grant £550,000 and £126,655 from ADDER and RSDATG funding.

As referenced in the report, decisions regarding future additional RSDATG and ADDER grant funding are not yet confirmed and cannot be assumed. Therefore, a direct award until 31st March 2025, which includes the additional £126,655 appears prudent. This will only include this additional funding if it has been confirmed by Central Government.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, 15 July 2021

2. Legal Advice: Whilst ordinarily a contract of this value would require a competitive process, there are occasions where a direct award can be justified. The highly specialist nature of the services can be a factor. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor, 16 July 2021

3. Implications on IT: No impact on IT Services

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver, Director of Digital Transformation, 9th July 2021

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking permission to directly award a contract for Inpatient Detox and stabilisation services and there are no HR implications for Bristol City Council employees arising from this proposal.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner, People Directorate 1st September, 2021

EDM Sign-off	People EDM	21 st July 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Asher Craig	29 th July 2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	16 th August 2021

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	YES
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