

Decision Pathway – Housing Support Grant



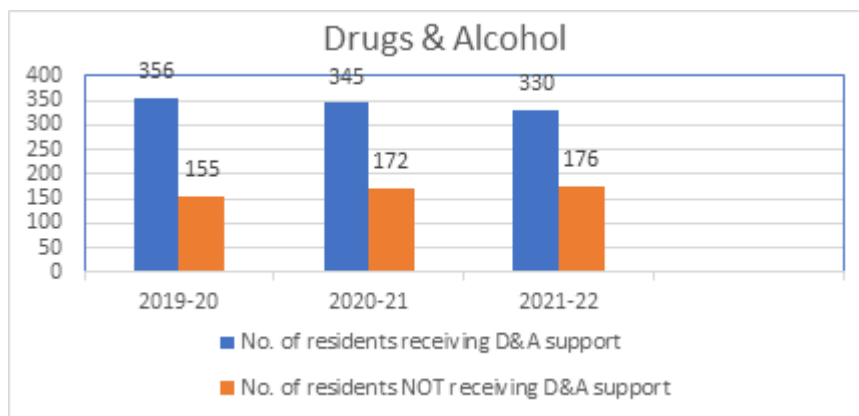
PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 06 December 2022

TITLE	Improving drug and alcohol treatment outcomes for people with a housing need		
Ward(s)	All Wards		
Author: Leonie Roberts	Job title: Consultant in Public Health		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Ellie King, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans, Executive Director People		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member			
Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
<p>To seek approval to accept and spend grant funding of £604,113 for the financial year 2023-24, and a further £604,113 for the financial year 2024-2025 allocated to Bristol in September 2022 specifically for a menu of interventions related to the provision of drug and alcohol treatment and housing support for people at risk of homelessness.</p>			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2021 the national strategy “From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives” was launched. This is the Governments response to Dame Carol Black’s independent review of drugs. In order to ensure there is successful delivery of the strategy the Government have set out clear guidance for coordinated action across a range of local partners including in enforcement, housing, treatment, recovery and prevention. 2. In order to support the delivery of the national strategy the Government have awarded a number of supplementary grants to Local Authorities and the Police to deliver a specific menu of interventions. 3. The Housing Support Grant was awarded to a selected number of authorities with high needs, focused on housing related support for people using substances. 4. Bristol has a particularly high level of need relating to the use of drugs and alcohol. Substance misuse causes serious harm to individuals, families and communities. Bristol has an estimated 4,940 opiate and/or crack cocaine users. Whilst the proportion of Bristol residents using drugs is relatively small, the impact can be extensive. Bristol has the second largest estimated rate of opiate and/or crack cocaine users (per 1,000 population) of the English core cities, and the largest proportion of very high complexity clients which makes them more likely to be in treatment for longer and need specific support. 5. The number of people sleeping on the streets has risen significantly in Bristol since 2013. The average age of death of men is 47 years old and even lower for homeless women at 43. People who end up sleeping rough often experience barriers in accessing both health and care services and experience poor health outcomes in comparison to the rest of society. In 2019-20, 40% of people coming onto the streets were ‘returners’ to rough sleeping. Mental health, drugs, alcohol, physical health, and benefits/finances are the top five areas that people identified as needing support within 2019-20. 			

6. A large proportion of the residents within our Homelessness Prevention Pathways Accommodation are receiving drug and alcohol support, highlighting the high rates of cooccurrence of housing and substance use need.



Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with the cabinet member Public Health and Communities and the Director of Public Health to take all steps required to accept and spend the allocated funding of up to £1.208m in accordance with the requirements of the grants (including procuring and awarding contracts) to deliver a range of substance misuse treatment and housing support services as outlined in this report.
2. Authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with the cabinet member Public Health and Communities and the Director of Public Health to invoke any subsequent extensions/variations specifically defined in the contract(s) being awarded, up to the maximum budget envelope outlined in this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. **Wellbeing** – Embed health in all our policies to improve physical & mental health and wellbeing, reducing inequalities and the demand for acute services.
2. **Bristol City Council Local Drug Strategy 2021-2025** – states: “where people do continue to use drugs or alcohol, we will use the best available evidence to reduce harm and provide appropriate support, recognising the importance of working with families and wider communities to ensure the services we provide are more than just a sticking plaster”
3. **The One City Plan** states “we continue to work on public health challenges including obesity and drug and alcohol misuse” and contains the goal that by 2027, “The successful implementation of the Bristol Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2021-2025, has helped to ensure that people live healthy lives safe from the harms of alcohol and other drugs” Further, it outlines a shared vision for ‘Homes and Communities’ which states that: ‘By 2050 everyone in Bristol will live in a home that meets their needs within a thriving and safe community’.
4. **Bristol City Council’s Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024** outlines a range of ambitions, including ‘We will focus maximum efforts and resources to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eradicate it by 2027.’

City Benefits:

1. Health: Reducing harm from alcohol and substance misuse specifically for those with a housing need, by reducing hospital admission and substance misuse related deaths;
2. Social Value: Making communities safer by ensuring early identification and access to support and treatment for those misusing substances who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness;

3. Equalities: Reducing inequalities in health by promoting physical and mental health and ensuring access to health care for marginalised groups and deprived communities

Consultation Details:

1. Commissioners from Housing and Public Health from Bristol City Council consulted with stakeholders - we held a workshop on 22nd September with strategic leads, practitioners and service users of local partner organisations including NHS, Avon and Somerset Police, service providers such as Bristol Drugs Project and Developing Health and Independence, and people with lived experience for collective decision making around what needs and services this fund can address.
2. Collective planning and Director sign off will be conducted by Bristol City Council Public Health and Communities Team and Housing teams, with oversight from the Substance Use Collaborative Commissioning board, and the Combatting Drugs Partnership.

Background Documents:

- [Bristol Drug and Alcohol JSNA](#)
- [Drug and Alcohol Strategy for Bristol 2021-2025](#)
- [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [One City Plan 2021 \(bristolonecity.com\)](#)
- [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024](#)

Revenue Cost	£1,208,000	Source of Revenue Funding	Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery: Housing Support Grant
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input checked="" 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: This report seeks to accept and spend Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery (SSMTR): Housing Support grant funding of £604,113 for the financial year 2023-24, and a further £604,113 for the financial year 2024-2025. The funding is for revenue expenditure and is targeted a people over 18, in order to increase the proportion of people recovering from drug and alcohol dependency in stable and secure housing.

The funding has been awarded to local councils on a 'test and learn' basis, to grow the evidence base on both the housing related needs of people in treatment and effective housing interventions. Spending proposals have been prepared that are fully funded within the grant envelope and commissioners have confirmed that there will be an appropriate exit strategy for when the funding ceases, to ensure no ongoing liability for the council. Underspends in each year cannot be rolled into the following year.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt 14 October 2022

2. Legal Advice: 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 conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 16 September 2022

3. Implications on IT There are no implications on IT in regards to this activity

IT Team Leader: Gavin Arbuckle 26 September 022

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking approval to accept and spend grant funding and as it is currently set out has no significant HR implications for Bristol City Council employees. If the proposal is approved it's likely services will be outsourced to partner organisations who be responsible for recruiting additional resources. The OIHD may request a strategic post is funded by BCC; internal recruitment approval processes, as per the recruitment freeze, will be

followed to recruit any additional resources and all recruitment will be undertaken in line with BCC's Recruitment and Selection Policy.

HR Partner: Debbie Hunt 5 October 2022

EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans	5 th October 2022
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Ellie King	17 th October 2022
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	7 th November 2022

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