

CABINET

DATE	07/04/2021
REPORT OF	Councillor Margaret Cracknell, Portfolio Holder for Health, Well Being and Adult Social Care
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Stephen Pintus, Director of Public Health
SUBJECT	Section 31 local authority grants for additional drug treatment crime and harm reduction activity in 2021/22 – Universal funding component
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	GENERAL EXCEPTION – to be considered under the General Exception rules as laid out in the Constitution.

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The grant aims to help local areas drive down the crime associated with the drug market, particularly acquisitive crime and violent crime, and the rise in drug-related deaths.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The grant funding is the allocated amount awarded to North East Lincolnshire Council by Public Health England that we are able to apply for, part of the £80 million investment announced by the Government in January of this year.

“An extra £80 million will also be invested in drug treatment services right across England to give more support to offenders with drink and drug addictions, which can fuel crime. This new money will increase the number of treatment places for prison leavers and offenders diverted into tough and effective community sentences.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Authorises the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Well Being and Adult Social Care to accept the funding from Public Health England on behalf of the Council.
2. Delegates authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Well Being and Adult Social Care to increase the number of treatment places for prison leavers and offenders diverted into tough and effective community sentences.
3. Authorises the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets to complete and execute all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above.

REASONS FOR DECISION

As stated above the allocated funding is to increase the number of treatment places for prison leavers and offenders diverted into tough and effective community sentences. It also is for the enhancement of the current treatment/recovery systems already in place.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

“The funding represents a comprehensive drive by the government to build back safer from the pandemic by helping people break free from the scourge of drug use and cutting drug-fuelled crime and violence.”

The funding covers work in the following areas:

- System coordination and commissioning
- Enhanced harm reduction provision
- Increased pharmacological and psychosocial treatment capacity.
- Increased integration and improved care pathways between the criminal justice and other settings, and drug treatment
- Treatment capacity to respond to increased diversionary activity, including through out of court disposals, liaison and diversion and drug testing on arrest.
- Enhanced recovery support

The revenue funding is for the year 2021/22 only.

It needs to be noted that the Council was only informed of its allocation on the 11th March 2021 with only 2 weeks to have our application submitted.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The main risk in terms of this funding is that sustainability of any enhancements to the work of substance misuse/recovery service provision in North East Lincolnshire is not adequately considered given the funding is for one financial year only.

The main opportunity is that the funding will make a significant difference to the areas outlined in Section1 therefore resulting in North East Lincolnshire moving further forward in relation to reducing drug related offending, providing a greater coverage of life-saving approaches (harm reduction), reducing alcohol and drug related deaths, and enhancing the Recover Community.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To not accept the allocated grant funding which will result in loss of the extra funding but will subsequently result in losing the opportunity to utilise the funding to expand the provision of substance misuse services in North East Lincolnshire over the next 12 months

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

There are potential positive/negative reputational implications for the Council resulting from the decision. An action plan has will be agreed with the Council's communications service, covering the following issues – Positive in respect of more funding coming into North East Lincolnshire for provision of services for those with substance use issues. Negative in respect of the fact that there is a heavy emphasis on working with offenders/e-offenders and that it is for one year only.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This proposal will be funded through the allocated PHE funding only. The funding is for revenue funding only, for one year only and is supplementary to the Public Health Grant. There will be no call on the council's reserves and there is no risk in relation to this allocated funding. The proposal will enhance the current offer to the citizens of North East Lincolnshire who are affected by substance use and the offending related to it.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

This proposal will have no negative effect on the environment and could add to the continuing reduction of discarded clinical waste such as used syringes as individuals access help for their substance use issues.

6. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

There has been no consultation with Scrutiny

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has been advised that it will receive a S31 grant allocation in 2021-22 of £415,000 for additional drug treatment crime and harm reduction work. This grant can only be spent on revenue expenditure, must be spent in accordance with the proposal submitted and agreed with Public Health England and will be subject to regular monitoring returns. The deadline for the submission of the proposal is the 26th March 2021. This is a one-off grant for 2021-22 only and is in additional to the usual Public Health Grant received. As a result there should be no call on Council budgets

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications immediately arising from the above. Receipt of funding will be governed by conditionality around funding terms which colleagues in Legal Services can advise and mitigate so that any risks to the Council are understood and accommodated. In the event of implications arising from individual workstreams, colleagues in Legal Services can support as appropriate,

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards will be affected indirectly as a result of this funding.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

12. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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