

# Report to Cabinet

**22 June 2022**

<b>Subject:</b>	Drug Strategy Grant: Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health & Social Care Cllr Hartwell
<b>Director:</b>	Dr Lisa McNally Director of Public Health
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes An executive decision which is likely to incur significant expenditure or have a significant effect on the community
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mary Bailey Addictive Behaviours Programme Manager <a href="mailto:mary_bailey@sandwell.gov.uk">mary_bailey@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Director of Public Health be authorised to distribute the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) as required by Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) grant conditions.
- 1.2 That the Director of Public Health be authorised to have final sign off on the distribution of the funds over the grant period covering the following financial years: 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25



## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 In December 2021, Government released a new National Drug Strategy '*From Harm to Hope: A ten-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives*'<sup>i</sup> With this Strategy the Government has announced additional funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery provision for a period of 3 years covering the following financial years: 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 2.2 Sandwell's allocated SSMTRG amount for the 2022/23 period is £532,036. The funding is to be additional to existing Public Health grant expenditure on substance misuse treatment services. Future years funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25 are subject to annual approval by Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT)
- 2.3 The funding must be spent on interventions that aim to achieve the Drug Strategy ambition to reduce drug and alcohol related deaths and harms. The Strategy therefore requires that local areas rebuild and reinvest into local support systems towards "*a world class drug treatment and recovery system*"<sup>ii</sup> Monies can only be spent on provisions that fit within OHIDs menu of interventions.
- 2.4 The expectation from government is that additional enhanced delivery afforded from the SSMTRG commence as early as possible from Quarter 1 of 2022/23 and continue throughout the 3-year period of enhanced funding (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25).
- 2.5 Many of the permissible spend interventions can only be delivered through community-based substance misuse treatment services (currently Cranstoun).



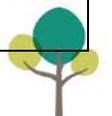
We have already secured Cabinet approval to vary the existing Cranstoun contract to accommodate SSMTRG provisions up to a maximum value of £280,066 and have already secured Cabinet approval to procure future treatment services including use of SSMTRG within those future contract provisions (given the current Cranstoun contract expires 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 therefore ending before the SSMTRG grant term period). Please see Appendix 1 and 2 for details of previous Cabinet reports and approvals.

Other permissible spend interventions will be managed and monitored within the Sandwell Public Health commissioning team.

- 2.6 We therefore propose to secure approval to use the remaining and any future SSMTRG (the monies not already covered by previous Cabinet approvals) as required by Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) grant conditions.

### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people:</p> <p>Maximising access and engagement with substance misuse support enables people (including those affected by someone else's use such as children, family members and the wider community) to benefit</p> <p>Parental substance misuse can have a negative impact on children and young people. Evidence suggests that in Sandwell over 500 adults with an opiate dependency live with children, of these 48% accessed treatment.<sup>iii</sup></p>
	<p>People live well and age well:</p> <p>Problematic substance misuse can cause ill health and impact on mortality rates. Ensuring engagement and support with drug treatment, will help individuals live longer and enjoy a better quality of life – <i>adding years to life and life to years.</i></p>



	<p>Enhanced delivery capacity and treatment options afforded from the SSMTRG monies will ensure increased health outcomes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced alcohol and drug related deaths</li> <li>• Reduced blood borne viruses</li> <li>• Reduced comorbidities</li> <li>• Reduced demand on emergency services</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Strong resilient communities</b></p> <p>It is estimated that around 45% of acquisitive crime is committed by heroin and/or crack cocaine users in order to fund their dependency. Evidence suggests that in 2016/17 substance misuse treatment helped to prevent 4.4 million crimes<sup>iv</sup>.</p> <p>Crime can have a significant impact on communities; people may feel less safe, home insurance can increase, property prices can be affected and businesses may avoid the area.</p> <p>The proposals aim to increase the number of drug dependent people accessing support which is likely to reduce crime.</p>

## 4 Context and Key Issues

### Background

4.1 In December 2021 Government released the National Drug Strategy ‘*From Harm to Hope: A ten-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives*’<sup>v</sup> With this Strategy the Government announced additional funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery provision for a period of 3 years covering the following financial years: 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.



- 4.2 Sandwell’s allocated SSMTRG amount for the 2022/23 period is £532,036. The funding is dependent on maintaining existing Public Health Grant investment in substance misuse treatment and therefore must be additional to existing Public Health grant expenditure. Future years funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25 are subject to annual approval by HMT.
- 4.3 The SSMTRG also includes an additional amount of grant monies specifically for Inpatient Detoxification access. This money is administered and managed through a regional commissioning arrangement outside of the Council’s fiscal management process/remit.

Table 1: Sandwell SSMTRG Funding

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Supplemental Substance Misuse treatment and Recovery Grant	£532,036	£686,742*	£1,127,256*
Inpatient Detoxification Grant	£55,086	£55,086*	£55,086*

\*Subject to annual approval by HMT as yet indicative only

- 4.4 The funding will be made available through Section 31 grant provisions. The expectation from government is that additional enhanced delivery afforded from the SSMTRG commence as early as possible from Quarter 1 of 2022/23 and continue throughout the 3-year period of enhanced funding (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25).
- 4.5 The funding must be spent on interventions that help reduce drug and alcohol related harms. The list of permissible spend options include:



- offering more treatment places and reducing treatment worker caseload levels
- increased use of residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification placements
- expanding needle and syringe programmes to reduce blood-borne viruses
- providing more naloxone to prevent overdose deaths
- improving treatment pathways from the criminal justice system including courts, prisons and police custody

Please see Appendix 3 for a copy of the Official Confirmation Letter of Sandwell's SSMTRG allocation for 2022/23; the menu of permissible spend interventions issued from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and Sandwell's spend submission proposal back to OHID

4.6 In order to ensure local proposed spend fulfil national requirements as well as benefitting local treatment provision, consultation with the local treatment provider commenced during the week of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 just after an indicative allocation amount was announced. Partners including members of the local Strategic Drug & Alcohol Partnership (SDAP), local treatment service providers including acute sector and CCG, and regional Public Health colleagues were consulted throughout March and at the SDAP meeting held March 2022. The achievability of intended aims, feasibility, additionality to existing provision as well as fit within the permitted list of interventions outlined by the national criteria has inform spend proposals.

#### 4.6 **Current Position**

4.7 Full details of proposed spend options for 2022/23 SSMTRG monies are contained within Appendix 3. These include the previously approved contract variation elements that can only be delivered by our currently commissioned substance misuse



treatment provider, Cranstoun, alongside a range of other permissible spend options including:

- Residential rehabilitation placements
- Community grants to increase the role of the voluntary sector towards Recovery based activities
- Hospital Drug Liaison nurse
- Service User mechanisms and Recovery review work

The above listed spend elements will be managed internally within the Public Health commissioning team in accordance with grant conditions and managed/administered in line with internal Council approval processes

- 4.9 In line with SSMTRG grant conditions, should any slippage occur in one area of spend, the national team will be notified and spend reprofiling managed in line with OHID grant processes. Any such reallocation will be subject to approval from the Director of Public Health on behalf of the Council and the national Office of Health Disparities & Inclusion (OHID) Grants team
- 4.10 Subject to annual confirmation, 2023/24 and 2024/25 allocations will also be subject to OHID planning and permissible spend option requirements in due course. At this point in time a 3-year outline plan (contained within Appendix 3) has been produced towards an overall strategy for the 3-year period, however detailed plans for 2023/24 and 2024/25 will be produced and required before the start of each of those years. Funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25 is therefore dependent on the plans agreed between the LA and OHID in due course
- 4.11 Monitoring and management of the SSMTRG spend shall take place through quarterly Statement of Grant Usage reports back to OHID alongside quarterly activity reporting against key Drug Strategy ambitions (numbers accessing treatment, drug related deaths etc).



The grant will be managed within the Public Health commissioning team in accordance with OHID grant conditions and in line with internal Council processes

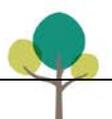
4.12 The additional interventions afforded from the SSMTRG monies will add value to the existing substance misuse support offer enabling increased access to a wider range of treatment and recovery options, increased integration and improved care pathways, together with additional treatment capacity provision.

## 5 Alternative Options

5.1 Do not approve distribution of the SSMTRG as required by OHID and not utilise the additional funding but simply return the monies to government. This will mean that the local treatment population will not benefit from the potential quality and capacity improvements that the monies could afford

## 6 Implications

<p><b>Resources:</b></p>	<p>Financial, staffing, land/building implications:</p> <p>Sandwell’s confirmed 2022/23 SSMTRG allocation is £532,036. 2023/24 and 2024/25 indicative amounts are £686,742 and £1,127,256 respectively.</p> <p>The funding will be made available from Government through Section 31 grant provisions and the Section 151 Officer will need to confirm that spending has been on additional services. The funding is exclusive to enhancing the local substance misuse support offer and can only be spent in line with a specific menu of interventions specified by OHID.</p>
<p><b>Legal and Governance</b></p>	<p>Legal implications including regulations/law under which proposals are required/permitted and constitutional provisions:</p>



	<p>The funding will be made available from Government through Section 31 grant provisions and the Section 151 Officer will need to confirm that spending has been on additional services. The funding is exclusive to enhancing the local substance misuse support offer and can only be spent in line with a specific menu of interventions specified by OHID.</p>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p>	<p>Risk implications, including any mitigating measures planned/taken, health and safety, insurance implications:</p> <p>A risk assessment exercise has been undertaken in line with Council policy. Risks identified along with mitigations to manage the risk to acceptable levels are as follows:</p> <p>The SSMTRG covers a period of 3 years including the following financial years: 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. Future years funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25 are subject to annual approval by HMT. Should HMT not approve those years of funding this could negatively impact on provision and progress made to date. To mitigate risk, use of the SSMTRG shall only cover the confirmed funding period.</p> <p>To further mitigate risk where possible, sustainability of approaches (particularly those such as the system-wide referral generation work) will focus on embedding and changing workforce practice and culture towards the client group.</p>
<p><b>Equality:</b></p>	<p>Implications for equality (all aspects and characteristics) including how meeting Equality Duty, equality impact assessments:</p> <p>An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted and the proposal would have no negative impact on protected groups. The proposal ensures that some of the boroughs most vulnerable individuals are supported.</p> <p>For further details please see Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment</p>



<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	<p>Implications of the proposals on health and wellbeing of our communities:</p> <p>This proposal would result in positive implications for health and well-being. Should the proposal not be accepted, and the additional investment is not utilised but simply returned to Government, this would stop the commencement of interventions that would be of benefit to Sandwell residents.</p>
<b>Social Value</b>	<p>Implications for social value and how the proposals are meeting this (for e.g. employment of local traders, young people):</p> <p>The proposal will result in expanding Recovery based activities and opportunities both for local Community/Voluntary sector organisations in delivering those, but also for individuals in recovery towards skills development and employment opportunities.</p>

## 7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Decisions of Cabinet held April 2022 (SSMTRG funded Adult Treatment Contract variation approval)



Cabinet Report -  
Drug Strategy Moni



Decisions of  
Cabinet - 13 April 20

Appendix 2: Decisions of Cabinet held 09th February 2022 (approval to procure future treatment service provision including use of SSMTRG)



Cabinet Report -  
Adult DA Reprocure



Cabinet Decisions  
09.02.2022.doc

Appendix 3 –Grant letter, menu of permissible spend interventions, and Sandwell’s spend planning submission to OHID





OFFICIAL -  
Confirmation - supp



Additional  
substance misuse fu



SSMTRG Planning  
Template V5CabApp

## Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment



EOIA SSMTRG

### 9 Evidence references:

<sup>i</sup> National Drug Strategy 2021: 'From harm to hope':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

<sup>ii</sup> National Drug Strategy 2021: 'From harm to hope':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-alcohol-and-drug-use-understanding-the-problem>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://app.box.com/s/p52mrjh78yryshd9smogm350s7ougg1>

<sup>v</sup> National Drug Strategy 2021: 'From harm to hope':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

