



---

**DECISION NO: PH005 2021/2022**

**SUBJECT: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DRUG TREATMENT GRANTS (2021/22)**

**KEY DECISION: YES**

**REASON:**

The value of the Drug Treatment Grants exceed £500,000 (the total of the two grants is £661,350) and the services commissioned by these grants will affect the residents of all North Somerset wards.

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of a Central Government investment of money to tackle crime, all local authorities have been allocated grants to improve drug treatment services. These grants are for one year (2021/22) and are to be spent on services that will reduce drug related crime and prevent drug related deaths. North Somerset Council has been awarded two separate, but related grants, the first is the Inpatient Detoxification Grant which is to be used to fund inpatient drug detoxification services or related support services. In order to obtain this, Inpatient, grant North Somerset was required to form a consortium with four other local authorities (Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, and Gloucestershire). North Somerset Council is acting as the Lead Authority for the consortium and as such it will be responsible for holding and managing the Inpatient Grant on behalf of the other consortium members. The grant allocated for each of the consortium members is provided below:

- North Somerset – £36,161 (8.5% of the Consortium total)
- Bristol - £140,323 (33% of the Consortium total)
- Bath and North East Somerset - £40,334 (9.5% of the Consortium total)
- South Gloucestershire - £27,916 (6.5% of the Consortium total)
- Gloucestershire - £95,122 (22.4% of the Consortium total)
- Plus, and uplift due to another consortium not bidding – £83,494 (19.7% of the Consortium total)
- Total - £423,350

The second grant is called The Universal Drug Treatment Grant. This has been given to each local authority on an individual basis. The Universal Grant for North Somerset is £238,000. The grand total of both the grants is £661,350

## DECISION:

Both the Inpatient Detoxification Grant and the Universal Drug Treatment Grant to be allocated to the projects/services listed in the 'Reasons' section below and for this allocation of funds to be exempt from the Council's procurement standing orders (the rationale for this exemption has been included alongside each project/service in the 'Reasons' section).

Please note, where the cost of a project/service, funded by the Inpatient Detoxification Grant, is given this represents the combined amount to be paid by the Consortium, not just North Somerset. The members of the Consortium will receive a proportion of the services commissioned with Inpatient Detoxification Grant equivalent to their financial contribution.

## REASONS:

The projects/services that will be funded by the two grants are listed below. Each project/service is accompanied by a rationale for an exemption:

### 1. INPATIENT DETOXIFICATION GRANT.

In addition to the projects/services commissioned with the Inpatient Detoxification Grant, £33,985 has been provided to North Somerset Council to cover any costs associated with acting as the Consortium's lead authority.

#### 1.1.

**Description:** 2 x 12 months' worth of medically managed inpatient detoxification treatment at the ACER unit (Bristol) operated by AWP NHS Trust.

**Cost:** £246,015 p.a.

**Rationale for exemption:** The ACER unit is one of only two services within the Consortium 'footprint' (i.e. within Bristol, South Glos', Gloucestershire, North Somerset and BANES) that can provide medically managed inpatient detoxification treatment. The other service is Broadway Lodge. However, due to the ACER unit's proximity to a hospital (it is based within Southmead Hospital) it is the only service that can provide treatment for the most complex cases. (Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.4)

#### 1.2.

**Description:** 65 weeks of medically managed inpatient detoxification treatment at Broadway Lodge (Weston-super-Mare)

**Cost:** £118,350 p.a.

**Rationale for exemption:** Broadway Lodge is the other service, within the Consortium 'footprint' that can provide medically managed detoxification treatment. The lower level of funding being paid to Broadway Lodge reflects the fact that it does not have immediate access to hospital interventions and may therefore be unable to meet the needs of everyone requiring a detox'. By funding Broadway Lodge as well as ACER the Consortium seeks to provide some level of choice to those requiring a detox. (Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.4)

#### 1.3.

**Description:** Part time Inpatient System Coordinator (employed by We Are With You).

**Cost:** £25,000p.a.

**Rationale for exemption:** This part time role will be employed and managed by the North Somerset Substance Misuse Service (We Are With You). It will assist in the operational management of the inpatient detox' pathways in all of the Consortium member areas and it will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the outcomes of treatment conducted at ACER and Broadway Lodge. The Inpatient System Coordinator will also required to produce a plan for how sustainable, long term improvements to inpatient detoxes can be made across all Consortium member areas. This role will be placed with the North Somerset Substance Misuse Service because of the short timescale given by Central Government to implement this grant does not provide sufficient time to conduct a competitive procurement. There will be costs savings associated with placing this role within the North Somerset service and it would be more costly to commission a new service to operate this role. The current contract between North Somerset Council and We Are With You can be varied to allow this role to commenced in an expedited manner. Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.1, 6.3.2, and 6.3.8)

## 2. UNIVERSAL DRUG TREATMENT GRANT:

### 2.1.

**Description:** Naloxone peer-to-peer distribution scheme.

**Cost:** £8,000

**Rationale for exemption:** Naloxone is a drug which when administered will reverse an opiate overdose. This scheme will train users of the North Somerset Substance Misuse Service (We Are With You) to distribute naloxone to their peers. As the only provider of community based, adult drug treatment services in North Somerset, We Are With You are the only service that could realistically provide this programme. (Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.4)

### 2.2.

**Description:** Community Rehab

**Cost:** £90,000

**Rationale for exemption:** This will provide the staffing to develop an intensive group based day-programme within the North Somerset Substance Misuse Service. It will run for four hours each day five days a week. This programme will provide much needed intensive support for the drug using population of North Somerset, it will also be able to provide an enhanced programme of support for criminal justice service users. As this programme will expand and enhance the services already operated by We Are With You there are no other realistic alternative providers that could quickly or easily be integrated into the existing pathways of care. (Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.4)

### 2.3.

**Description:** Expansion of the dedicated criminal justice team within the North Somerset Substance Misuse Service.

**Cost:** £38,000

**Rationale for exemption:** This expansion of the criminal justice team within the North Somerset Substance Misuse Service will allow for more pre-release prison in-reach interventions, more court-based interventions and more support for criminal justice clients when they return to the community. It will also allow for a Senior Practitioner role to be developed. This role will focus on developing and maintaining partnership arrangements with criminal justice agencies and will manage a caseload of the most complex individuals.

As this is an expansion of the service already provided by We Are With You there are no suitable alternative providers. (Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.4.

**Description:** Creation of a Specialist Substance Misuse Pharmacy

**Cost:** £35,000

**Rationale for exemption:** This money will be used to develop the largest pharmacy-based needle exchange in North Somerset (Boots, Weston-super-Mare, High Street) to become a provider of specialist substance misuse interventions. This will include the provision of naloxone and blood borne virus testing. To ensure this service reaches the largest possible number of people it will be focussed at the largest needle exchange provider for our local population. (Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.5.

**Description:** Resettlement support from voluntary and community sector.

**Cost:** £20,000

**Rationale for exemption:** This money will be given to Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS). VANS will use this money to develop a network of resettlement support from local voluntary and community groups for drug users leaving prison and returning to North Somerset. VANS already provides trusted community leadership so is considered the best provider to quickly integrate this support into our local community. (Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.6.

**Description:** Part time prison leaver support worker within Opportunity North Somerset.

**Cost:** £28,000

**Rationale for exemption:** This money will be used by the Council run Opportunity North Somerset Programme to create a part-time role that will provide skills and employment support specifically for people leaving prison. As this will be integrated quickly into an existing service it is considered that there are no alternative provider. (Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.7.

**Description:** Accommodation support for drug using offenders.

**Cost:** £19,000

**Rationale for exemption:** This money will be used to develop the Council's Early Intervention Accommodation Project. Through this scheme private landlords will be provided with the necessary incentives and multi-disciplinary support to accommodate drug using offenders. As this will be integrated quickly into an existing service it is considered that there is no alternative provider. (Exempt in accordance with section 6.3.4)

#### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

The project/services funded by the Inpatient Grant have been developed through several weeks of discussions and negotiations between the Consortium members.

The project/services funded the Universal Grant have been developed in consultant with all relevant local stakeholders and Public Health England.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

## **Costs**

All costs will be covered by the Inpatient Detoxification Grant (2021/22) and the Universal Drug Treatment Grant (2021/22)

## **Funding**

There will be no costs associated with these projects beyond a period of 12 months (all of the projects/services listed above will commence during Q1 2021/22 and will be in operation for no more than 12 months).

## **LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

Both the Inpatient and the Universal grants are for revenue use only. They have been issued in accordance with section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no expected negative environmental implications associated with the projects/services funded by these grants. Due to the low level of funding for each of the projects/services it is not possible to impose climate and environmental related conditions, however, all of the services that will be delivering these projects/services will have these types of conditions contained within their substantive contracts.

## **CONSULTATION**

The members of the South West Northern Consortium have held regular project development meetings since February 2021. The Inpatient Detoxification Grant plan has been reviewed by each of the Consortium members and PHE. Consultations on the plan for the North Somerset Universal Drug Treatment Grant plan have been conducted with local stakeholders via email and also face-to-face (via Teams) on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to agree this plan.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- The performance of the Inpatient Detoxification Grant projects/services will be monitored through a monthly Consortium meeting.
- Any changes to the Inpatient Detoxification Grant projects/services will be agreed by the Consortium members and reported to PHE.
- The management of the monies associated with Inpatient Detoxification Grant will be covered by a memorandum of understanding between all the Consortium members.
- The projects/services funded by the Universal Drug Treatment Grant will be monitored either through existing performance management meetings (We Are With You) or newly created performance meetings.

- The requirements, including expected outcomes, for each project/service funded by either the Inpatient or Universal grant will be formalised in a service specification; service level agreement; or contract variation.
- Delivery of these interventions will be evaluated to understand the impact on outcomes and what benefits there could be from sustained revenue funding from central government rather than a single-year investment.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

The timescale, given by Central Government, to complete the grant application processes was very short and as a result it has not been possible to complete an EIA. There is, however, no expected equality implications associated with the projects/services funded by these two grants. Access to, and the use of the projects/services by protected characteristic groups will be monitored through the monthly Consortium meetings and the Universal Drug Treatment grant performance meetings including consideration of protected characteristics.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed:

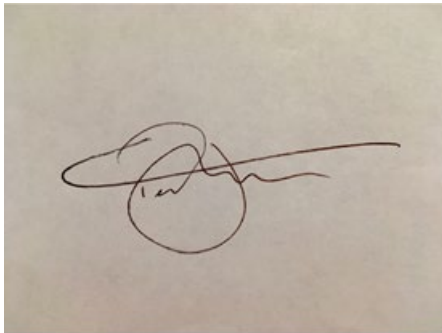


Title: Director of Public Health and Regulatory Services

Date: 6 May 2021

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Ted Sherman (Commissioning Manager Substance Misuse, Public Health)

A square image showing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized, starting with a large loop and ending with a long horizontal stroke.

Signed:

Title: Commissioning Manager Substance Misuse, Public Health

Date: 6 May 2021

**Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable:**