

## North Somerset Council Decision

**Decision of:** Matt Lenny (Director of Public Health)  
**With advice from:** Mark Roddan (Head of Strategic Procurement)  
**Directorate:** Public Health and Regulatory Services



### Decision No: PHRS006

**Subject:** Central Government Drug Treatment Grants (2022/23)

**Key Decision:** YES

#### Reason:

The value of the Drug Treatment Grants exceeds £500,000 (the total of the two grants is £768,509) 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 were initially for one year (2021/22) but have now been extended for a further year (2022/23) with a promise of further funding for a further 2 years (2023-2025). Due to the very late decisions by the government, the grants for 2022-23 will largely be spent over the 9 months 1 July 2022 - 31 March 23, although there will be some spend for June for planning. The grants are ring fenced 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 (IPD) Grant which is to be used to fund inpatient drug and alcohol detoxification services, predominately medically managed detoxifications. In order to obtain the IPD grant, North Somerset was required to form a consortium with other local authorities. Last year North Somerset formed a consortium with four other local authorities (Bristol, Bath and North-East Somerset, Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire) and North Somerset Council acted as the Lead Authority for the consortium and as such was responsible for holding and managing the Inpatient Grant on behalf of the other consortium members. It has been decided to keep the same arrangement for 2022-23 but in addition to the four local authorities above, Somerset and Swindon are joining as they did not join a consortium in 2021-22 and consequently lost their allocation. The grant allocated for each of the consortium members is provided below:

- North Somerset – £36,161 (8.0% of the Consortium total)
- Bristol - £140,323 (31.2% of the Consortium total)
- Bath and North-East Somerset - £40,334 (9.0% of the Consortium total)
- Gloucestershire - £95,122 (21.2% of the Consortium total)
- South Gloucestershire - £27,916 (6.2% of the Consortium total)
- Somerset – £70,484 (15.7% of the Consortium total)

- Swindon - £39,191 (8.7% of the Consortium total)
- Total - £449,531

The second grant is called The Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery (SMMTR) Grant. This has been given to each local authority on an individual basis. The SMMTR Grant for North Somerset is £318,978. The grand total of both the grants is £768,509.

**Decision:**

Both the IPD and the SMMTR Grants are to be allocated to the projects/services listed in the ‘Reasons’ section below and for this allocation of funds to be an exception from the Council’s procurement standing orders (the rationale for this exception has been included alongside each project/service in the ‘Reasons’ section).

Please note, where the cost of a project/service, funded by the IPD 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 IPD Grant equivalent to their financial contribution.

**Reasons:**

**Use of exceptions:**

The projects/services that will be funded by the two grants are listed below, as mentioned above, due to the lateness of decisions, these grants will need to be spent over the 9 months 1 July 22– 31 March 2023. Each project/service is accompanied by a rationale for an exception:

1. INPATIENT DETOXIFICATION GRANT (IPD).

In addition to the projects/services commissioned with the IPD Grant, £31,467.20 has been provided to North Somerset Council to cover any costs associated with acting as the Consortium’s lead authority.

1.1.

**Description:** 78 weeks of medically managed inpatient detoxification treatment at the ACER unit (Bristol) operated by AWP NHS Trust.

**Cost:** £190,507 for the 9 months.

**Rationale for exception:** The ACER unit is one of only two services within the Consortium ‘footprint’ (i.e. within Bristol, BANES, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Glos’, Somerset and Swindon) 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. (Exception in accordance with section 6.3.4)

1.2.

**Description:** 100 weeks of medically managed inpatient detoxification treatment at Broadway Lodge (Weston-super-Mare)

**Cost:** £206,499.99 for the 9 months.

**Rationale for exception:** Broadway Lodge is the other service, within the Consortium 'footprint' that can provide medically managed detoxification treatment. The lower bed cost for 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' but does facilitate better value for money for most individuals, hence the greater allocation. By funding Broadway Lodge as well as ACER the Consortium seeks to provide some level of choice to those requiring a detox. (Exception in accordance with section 6.3.4)

1.3.

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

**Cost:** £20,833.33 for 10 months (1 June 22 – 31 March 23) (25,000p.a.)

**Rationale for exception:** 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, managing referrals to ensure maximum bed occupancy and it will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the outcomes of treatment conducted at ACER and Broadway Lodge. 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 commence in an expedited manner. Exception in accordance with section 6.3.1, 6.3.2, and 6.3.8)

## 2. SUPPLEMENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY GRANT (SMMTR):

2.1.

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

**Cost:** £7,000

**Rationale for exception:** 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 (WAWY) are the only service that could realistically provide this programme. (Exception in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.2.

**Description:** Community Rehab

**Cost:** £67,500

**Rationale for exception:** This will cover the cost of the staffing to run 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 WAWY there are no other realistic alternative providers that could quickly or easily be integrated into the existing pathways of care. (Exception 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:** £58,583

**Rationale for exception:** 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. 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 WAWY there are no suitable alternative providers. (Exception in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.4.

**Description:** Expansion of harm reduction provision

**Cost:** £56,779

**Rationale for exception:** This money will be used to provide a dedicated Harm Reduction specialist within the North Somerset Substance Misuse Service who will expand the specialist needle exchange service, including providing satellite services in smaller towns, oversee the peer to peer naloxone provision, assist local pharmacies, develop bespoke harm reduction packages for hard to reach and vulnerable groups and run outreach health clinics in conjunction with our GP provider from the MAVIS bus. This funding will also be used to provide the additional specialist equipment required (ECG monitor, spirometry), staff training, purchase of pneumococcal vaccines to protect some of the most vulnerable cohort (rough sleepers, ex-offenders) and the hire of the MAVIS bus for the outreach clinics. (Exception in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.5

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

**Cost:** £30,833

**Rationale for exception:** This money will be used to provide a dedicated substance misuse and criminal justice worker within the Council's Start to Finish Team. Through this scheme private landlords will be provided with the necessary incentives and multi-disciplinary support to accommodate drug using offenders. Service users will be supported to: maintain tenancies; access financial support; attend appointments including health, court, probation etc to support their engagement with the treatment service to help sustain their recovery. As this will be integrated quickly into an existing service it is considered that there is no alternative provider. (Exception in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.5.

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

**Cost:** £12,000

**Rationale for exception:** This money will fund a part-time worker to work with both Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS) and Opportunity North Somerset to support individuals within the WAWY service, including prison leavers to access education, skills and employment and Mutual Aid recovery meetings. VANS already provides trusted community leadership so is considered the best provider to quickly integrate this support into our local community. (Exception in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.6

**Description:** Expansion of the alcohol provision.

**Cost:** £36,283

**Rationale for exception:** This will fund a full-time dedicated alcohol worker, staff training and associated testing kit to expand the provision of treatment places for people dependant on alcohol. Particular focus will be for women (as highlighted in recent alcohol related deaths and overs 50's). As this is an expansion of the service already provided by WAWY there are no suitable alternative providers. (Exception in accordance with section 6.3.4)

2.7.

**Description:** Expansion of Mental Health Provision.

**Cost:** £50,000

**Rationale for exception:** Mental Health is a significant problem for the majority of service users including individuals recently released from prison which significantly affects their ability to fully engage with treatment services, especially as their drug use reduces, however most do not meet the criteria for support from the HNS specialist mental health service. This money will be used to fund a dedicated Mental Health nurse within the specialist treatment service to work along the clinical psychologist to support the most complex individuals. As this is an expansion of the service already provided by WAWY there are no suitable alternative providers. (Exception in accordance with section 6.3.4)

### **Options Considered:**

The project/services funded by the IPD grant have been developed through several weeks of discussions and negotiations between the Consortium members and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC – formally Public Health England).

The project/services funded the SMMTR Grant have been developed in consultant with all relevant local stakeholders and DHSC.

### **Financial Implications:**

#### **Costs:**

All costs will be covered by the IPD Grant (2022/23) and the SMMTR Grant (2022/23)

#### **Funding:**

There will be no further costs associated with these projects which will end on 31 March 2023 unless further grant funding is provided by central government.

## **Legal Powers and Implications:**

Both the IPD and the SMMTR 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 Southwest Northern Consortium have held regular project development meetings since February 2022. The IPD Grant plan has been reviewed by each of the Consortium members and Department of Health and Social care. A number of consultations on the plan for the North Somerset SMMTR Grant plan have been conducted with local stakeholders via email and Teams to agree this plan.

## **Risk Management:**

- The performance of the IPD Grant projects/services will be monitored through a quarterly Consortium meeting.
- Any changes to the IPD Grant projects/services will be agreed by the Consortium members and reported to DHSC
- The management of the monies associated with IPD Grant will be covered by a memorandum of understanding between all the Consortium members.
- The projects/services funded by the SMMTR Grant will be monitored either through existing performance management meetings (WAWY) or newly created performance meetings.
- The requirements, including expected outcomes, for each project/service funded by either the IPD or SMMTR 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: 28 June 2022

**WITH ADVICE FROM**



Signed:

Title: Head of Strategic Procurement

Date: 28 June 2022