

**Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee****7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>National Drug Treatment and Recovery Grant Funding</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee with an overview of the Government's national grant funding programme for Drug Treatment and Recovery, and outlines proposals to utilise the funding to ensure the following three main objectives are achieved:

1. Reduction in drug-related deaths
2. Reduction in drug-related offending
3. Reduction in prevalence of drug use

The proposed actions affect all wards within the borough.

The decisions requested are key decisions.

The report contains two exempt appendices:

- Appendix 1: Drug Treatment and Recovery Grant Funding Programme - Menu of Interventions. This is not for sharing at the request of Public Health England (PHE) and the Home Office;
- Appendix 2: Wirral Programme Delivery Plan is not for sharing as contains commercially sensitive financial information.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is requested to:

1. Note the contents of the report and agree to accept the National drug treatment and recovery grant funding.
2. Agree the proposals for spending the £1.4 million Drug Treatment and Recovery Programme grant funding as set out within the paper and in more detail in Appendix 2 (EXEMPT).

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

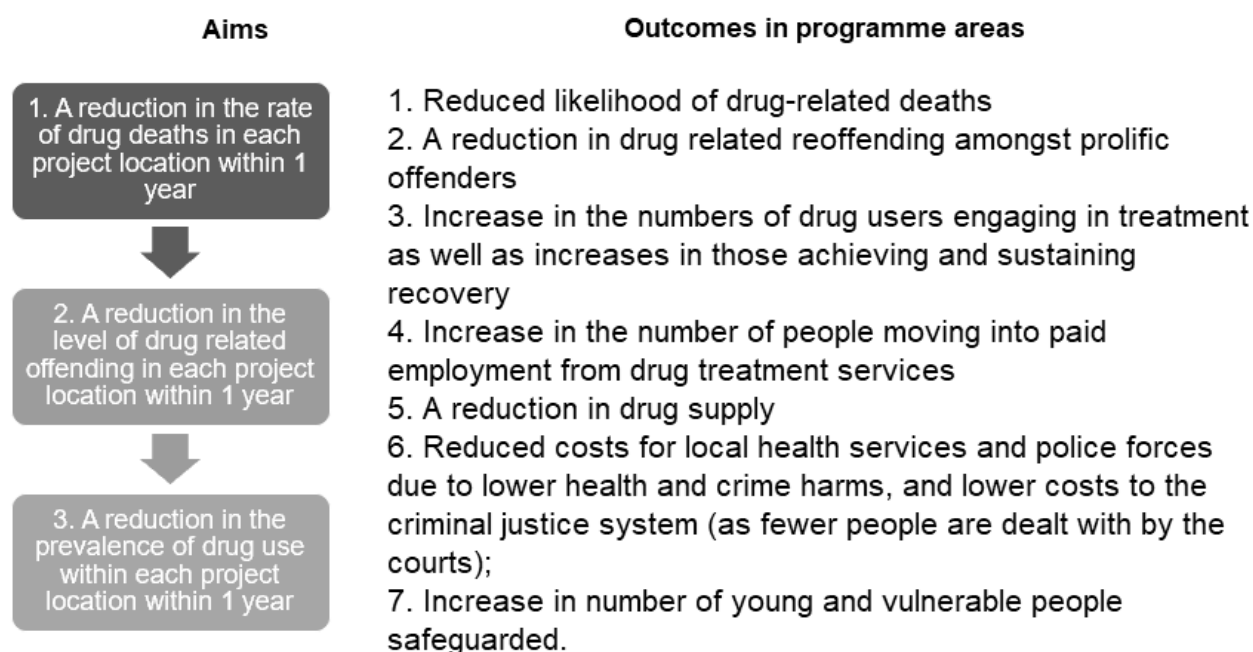
- 1.1 This funding will strengthen the Council's and local partners capacity to deliver a place-based person-centred approach to reduce drug related deaths, drug related hospital admissions, and drug related offending.

### 2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Other options were considered in relation to developing the Wirral Delivery Plan based upon the Menu of Interventions provided by Public Health England (PHE). The Wirral Programme Delivery Plan was agreed upon following review of local intelligence and consultation with a wide range of partners.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In January 2021, the government announced an additional £148 million funding package to reduce drug-related crime, and health harms. This included an announcement of a national grant funding programme. This is a joint Home Office, Department for Health and Social Care, and Public Health England programme, which is testing an intensive whole-system approach led by local authority, local police, drug treatment and recovery services, with the involvement and support of a wider collection of partners, to tackling drug misuse and drug-related crime.
- 3.2 As part of the national programme, Wirral has been awarded £1.4 million to be spent during 2021/22 financial year. Merseyside Police have also been provided with grant funding targeted at enforcement and diversion interventions, and a key ask is that Councils and local police forces work together in the design of their delivery plans to achieve the aims and outcomes as set out in Figure 1 below:



**Figure 1: Overview of funding aims and outcomes**

- 3.3 Wirral has been asked to submit a detailed delivery plan setting out what will be delivered, for how much and by when, as well as highlighting clear links between the interventions to be funded and the aims and objectives. To steer us in the development of our local delivery plan PHE have provided a menu of specific interventions to consider including, which are known to have clear evidence of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. Local areas are required to develop proposals for funding based on this menu. The menu of interventions is provided in Appendix 1 (EXEMPT).
- 3.4 The programme model is underpinned by a monitoring and evaluation framework and we will be expected to regularly report back on progress to the national Programme Team. Receiving the funding provides an opportunity to network and learn from the other areas, and to develop the evidence base for further roll out, future Government intervention, and a renewed national investment in this field.
- 3.5 In order to co-ordinate and develop the delivery plan, and to ensure successful delivery and reporting, a multi-agency Wirral Steering Group has been established. The Wirral Steering Group undertook a rapid review of current local system deficits to develop an understanding of investment needs, based upon the menu of interventions provided. When compared to other areas Wirral has high-levels of drug-related deaths, high numbers of drug related hospital admissions, and higher levels of drug related offending. This informed the development of a local delivery plan that builds on and enhances existing local interventions and which can be delivered through local agencies working together in a whole-system approach.

Full details of the Wirral Delivery Plan can be found in Appendix 2 (EXEMPT).

We propose the additional resources will be used to:

- Strengthen Criminal Justice programmes
- Enhance pathways from Acute Hospital Care to Community Treatment services
- Enhance specialist mental health support
- Utilise the community pharmacies for frontline health screening, treatment and support, safeguarding, and signposting.
- Increase proactive outreach provision
- Increased Criminal Justice in-reach to custody suites, courts and prisons.
- Deliver Primary Care Outreach services
- Respiratory Outreach services
- Mobilise peer Naloxone distribution
- Support for families and peers
- Focus on Early intervention and provision for 18-25's
- Benzodiazepine & Z-Drug Specialist
- Enhance support to sustain housing and accommodation
- Enhanced support to gain employment skills and employment
- Increase capacity for system co-ordination, monitoring, evaluation and learning

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The delivery of this programme is funded via a £1.4million ring-fenced PHE Grant for drug treatment and recovery. The funding can only be used to deliver these activities

as outlined within the Menu of Interventions that comes with the programme. The grant cannot be overspent, if there is any underspend, the Council will be required to return this to PHE.

It is proposed this funding is allocated as follows:

Intervention	Value
Enhanced harm reduction provision	£613,000
Enhanced recovery support	£84,000
Increased integration and improved care pathways between the criminal justice and other settings, and drug treatment	£272,000
Increased pharmacological and psychosocial treatment capacity	£295,000
System coordination and evaluation	£136,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,400,000</b>

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Due to the tight timeframe of delivery, and the prescriptive set of interventions that funding can be allocated; we intend to waive the procurement processes. Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations allows contracts with providers to be varied to up to 10% of the total contract value and the proposed usage of additional grant funding falls within that limit. Legal and procurement advice has been sought and continued legal support will be provided in relation to these matters.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 Details of roles to be funded utilising Wirral grant is outlined in Appendix 2 (EXEMPT). Due to the funding being available for a 1-year period these posts will be recruited on fixed-term contracts.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

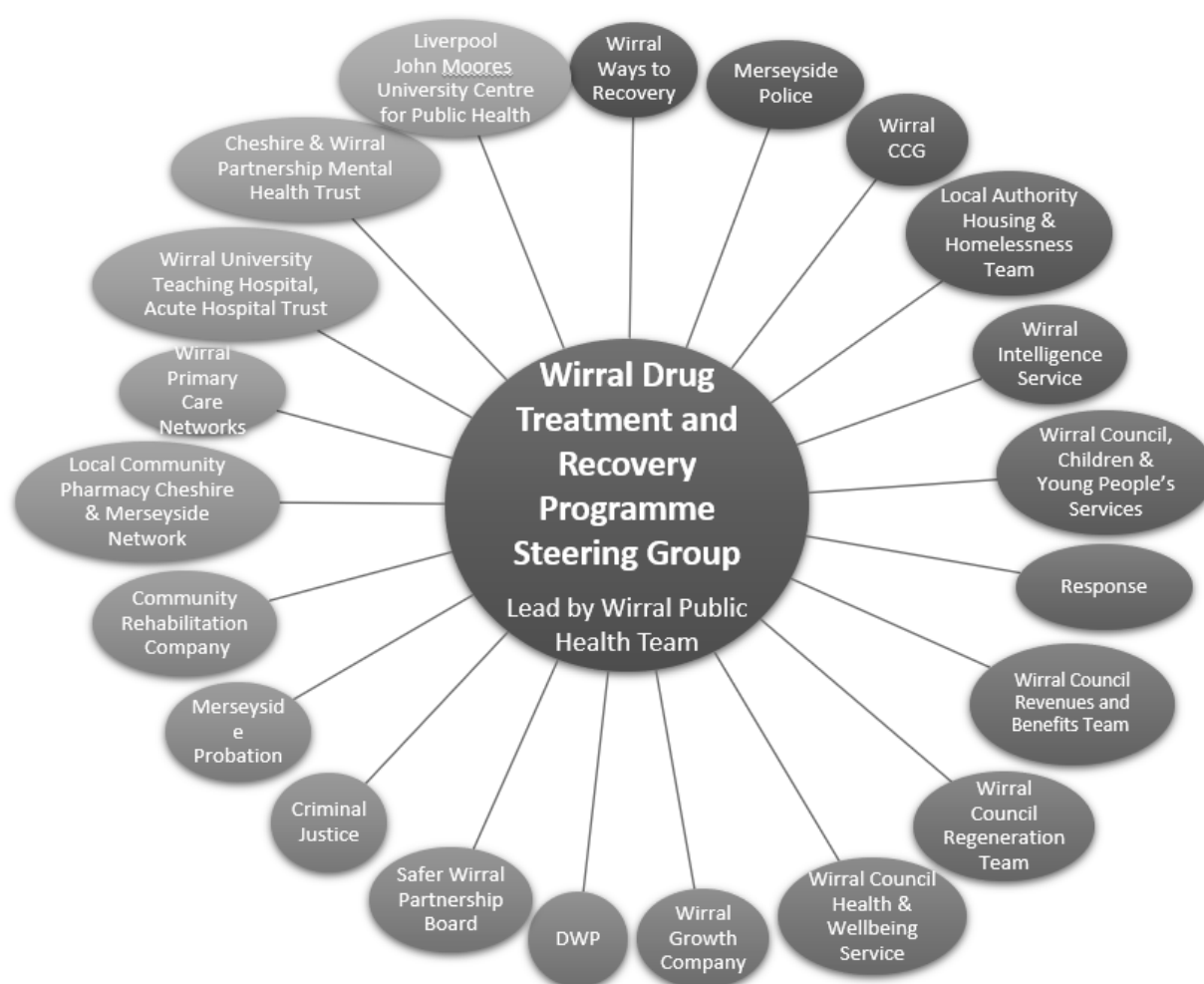
- 7.1 Risks to the delivery of the project include:
- Delay in implementing partnership work due to continuing pressures presented by COVID-19.
  - Difficulties in recruiting staff quickly enough to get the programme up to an optimal level of performance within the necessary time frame.
  - Difficulty in recruiting appropriately qualified staff for a 12-month funding scheme.
  - Continuation of service developments and enhancements, including additional posts, beyond 12 months if central funding is not extended.
- 7.2 These risks will be managed and mitigated by the Wirral Steering Group and monthly Programme review meetings with national Programme co-ordinators from PHE and the

Home Office. Conversations are already planned with partners to identify how we can ensure sustainability and continue developments beyond the 2021/22 financial year.

- 7.3 There is no risk to the Council in accepting this grant funding. The funding can only be used to deliver these specific activities as outlined within the Menu of Interventions. The grant cannot be overspent, if there is any underspend, the Council will be required to return this to PHE.

## 8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 In order to co-ordinate and develop the delivery plan, and to ensure successful delivery and reporting, a Wirral Steering Group has been established. This Steering Group is led by Wirral Council Public Health and includes a wide range of partners as set out in the Figure 2 below:



**Figure 2: Wirral Drug Treatment and Recovery Grant funding Steering Group partners**

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure that its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. Equality considerations were a key component of the guidance for the programme activities, stating that "all

interventions should bear in mind the need to ensure access for a range of disadvantaged populations: parents who use drugs; black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups; women; LGBTQ+; people with disabilities etc”. We will ensure equality implications are reviewed as part of the project delivery. If the proposed use of funding is approved an equality impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure the interventions are delivered in a way that does not discriminate.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no direct environment and climate implications arising from this report.

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## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** – Programme Menu of Interventions (EXEMPT)

**Appendix 2** – Wirral Programme Delivery Plan (EXEMPT)

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Government announced an additional £148 million funding package for reducing drug-related crime, and drug related health harm, across the country:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/148-million-to-cut-drugs-crime>

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
N/A	