

Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee**8th September 2021**

REPORT TITLE:	National Drug Treatment and Recovery Grant Funding
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee with an update on funding received from national government by Wirral Council for Drug Treatment and Recovery services.

Wirral Council has received three funding allocations to achieve reductions in drug related deaths, offending and illicit drug use. These are:

1. £2.8 million as part of the ADDER/Accelerator programme for which funding has now been provided for a two-year period 2021-2023.
2. £111,364 to increase capacity for residential detox for drug misusers during 2021-22. This is the Wirral share of collective funding of £651,991 allocated to Cheshire and Merseyside. Wirral has been put forward as the named lead Council to receive this funding on behalf of the nine Cheshire and Merseyside councils.
3. £210,000 to deliver the Individual Placement Support (IPS) scheme, led nationally by Public Health England, supporting drug users into employment. This funding is for 2 years.

The proposed actions affect all wards within the borough.

The decisions requested are key decisions.

The report contains two exempt appendices:

- Appendix 1: ADDER/Accelerator (Drug Treatment and Recovery) Grant Funding Programme - Menu of Interventions. This is confidential by virtue of instruction from Government that the information contained within it cannot be publicly released.
- Appendix 2: Wirral Programme Delivery Plan. This is exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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

1. Agree to the planned proposals for spending the £2.8million ADDER/Accelerator Programme grant funding as set out within the report and in more detail in Appendix 2 (EXEMPT).
2. Accept the £651,991 in-patient drug detox grant funding allocated on behalf of the 9 Cheshire and Merseyside councils and accept Wirral's Council's share of this collective funding of £111,364.
3. Accept the funding of £140,000 per annum for two years granted to Wirral Council to deliver the national Individual Placement Support (IPS) into employment scheme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 This additional funding allocated to Wirral Council will strengthen the Council's and local partners capacity to deliver a place-based person-centred approach to reduce drug related deaths, hospital admissions and 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. 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 a joint Home Office, Department for Health and Social Care, and Public Health England grant funded programme, testing an intensive whole-system approach led by local councils, local police authorities, drug treatment and recovery services, with the involvement and support of a wider collection of partners, to tackle drug misuse and drug-related crime – The ADDER/Accelerator Programme.
- 3.2 A report was brought to committee in June of this year outlining the national grant funding for drug treatment and recovery awarded to Wirral for 2021/22. Since the June report we have had confirmation of further funding allocations to achieve reductions in drug related deaths, offending and illicit drug use. This report provides an update for the committee on the three funding allocations received from national government by Wirral Council: the ADDER/Accelerator programme, the in-patient detox grant, and the individual placement support programme.

3.3 **ADDER/Accelerator programme:** Wirral has been awarded £2.8 million from the ADDER/Accelerator Programme to be spent during the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23. Merseyside Police have also been provided with grant funding targeted at enforcement and diversion interventions. A key ask is that Councils and local police forces work together in designing their delivery plans to achieve the aims and outcomes, set out Fig 1. below:

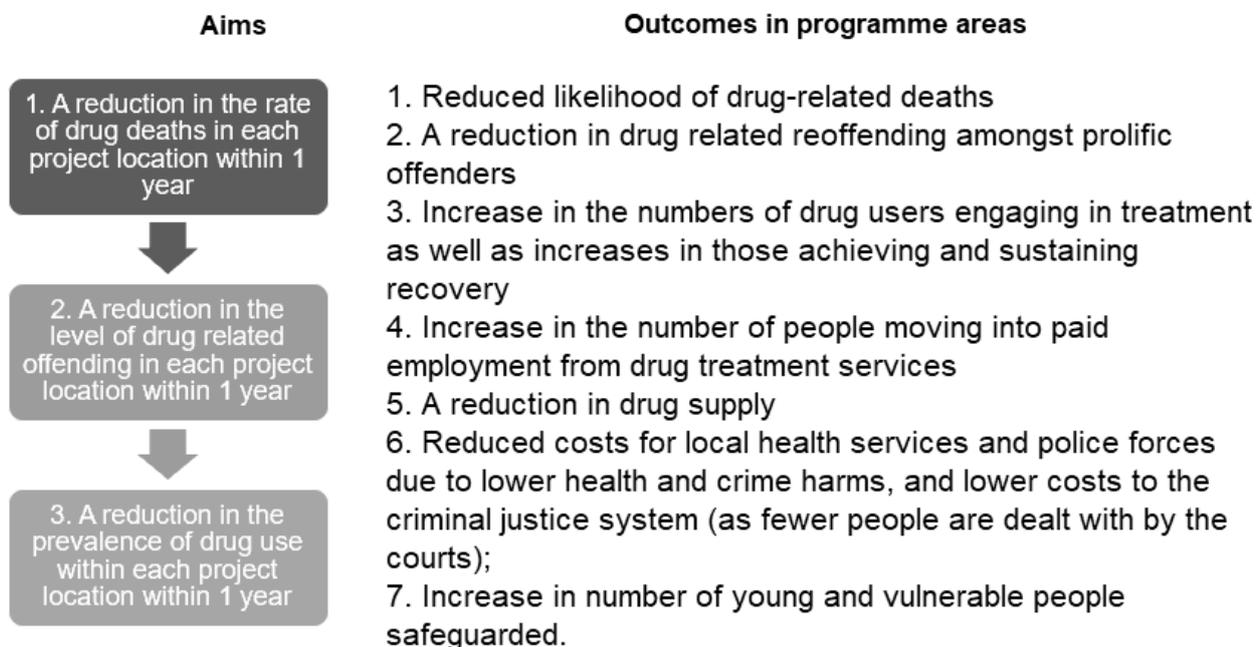


Figure 1: Overview of funding aims and outcomes

- 3.3 Wirral submitted 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. This plan was based on the menu of interventions provided nationally by Public Health England (See Appendix 1 (EXEMPT)), we received notification that it had received formal approval from the Home Office and Public Health England on June 14th.
- 3.4 The programme model is underpinned by a monitoring and evaluation framework, and we are expected to regularly report back on progress to the national Programme Team. Receiving the funding has provided an excellent 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 is one of the areas that has higher levels of drug-related deaths, hospital admissions and drug related offending. This knowledge 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 have proposed 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
- Work with community pharmacies for frontline health screening, treatment and support, safeguarding, and signposting.
- Increase proactive outreach provision
- 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

This plan is now further supported by the awarding of two additional grants to expand the availability of in-patient drug detox, and establish an Individual Placement Support (IPS) employment programme for drug users.

3.6 In-patient detox grant: Alongside the ADDER/Accelerator programme there is an additional national programme to increase capacity for In-patient Medically Managed detox facilities and placements. Cheshire and Merseyside Councils have been jointly awarded £651,991 to increase local capacity. This total is calculated using the size of the estimated drug using, and actual in-treatment, populations in each area. Wirral Council's allocation is £111,364. Wirral has been put forward as the named lead Local Authority to receive this funding on behalf of the nine Cheshire and Merseyside councils.

3.7 Individual placement support programme: This programme is led by Public Health England utilising funding provided by the Department of Work and Pensions. It is to provide focused and personalised advice, support and mentoring to drug users to enable them to gain employment. The key objective is to get people into employment. The amount of funding provided to each area is calculated to support the recruitment of what is estimated to be the appropriate number of employment advisors to work with the in-treatment population in that area. The calculation of £210,000 funding for Wirral is to specifically to recruit two full-time employment advisors and a team leader.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The delivery of the ADDER/Accelerator programme is funded via a ring-fenced two-year grant from the Home Office/Public Health England. This funding can only be used to deliver those activities 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 Public Health England.

It is proposed this funding is allocated as follows:

Intervention	Annual 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
Total	£1,400,000

The programme will be continuously reviewed and evaluated, both locally and nationally.

In addition to the above Wirral Council is now also due to receive the following:

Intervention	Value
In-patient Detox Funding: (1 year funding for 2021/22): Cheshire and Merseyside Councils	£651,991
Wirral Council allocation	£111,364
Individual Placement Support employment programme funding (Funding until 31 st March 2023)	£210,000

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Due to the tight timeframe of delivery, the prescriptive set of interventions that have been provided, and the very specific functions and purposes that these various funding streams can be utilised for, we intend to waive 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 these Wirral grants is outlined in Appendix 2 (EXEMPT). Due to the funding being available for fixed periods 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 detailed in the June 2021 report.

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>



Official Press Release
- ADDER- Liverpool -

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	7th June, 2021