

Report to Cabinet Member for:	Health & Wellbeing	Date of Issue:	8 July 2021
		Date of Decision:	16 July 2021
Subject:	Allocation of national drugs funding for additional drug treatment crime and harm reduction activity in 2021/22.		
Report of:	Head of Health and Wellbeing / Director of Public Health	Wards Affected:	All
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary

Sefton Council submitted a grant application to central government for additional drug treatment crime and harm reduction activity. The grant aims to help local areas drive down the crime associated with the drug market, particularly acquisitive crime and violent crime, and the rise in drug-related deaths. The application has been successful and £489k has been awarded to Sefton. (See Appendix 1)

The Contract Procedure Rules require the authorisation of a Cabinet Member to allocate £407k to the current provider of Substance Use: Assessment, Treatment and Recovery Services (Ambition Sefton) Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust for delivery of the interventions approved within the funded application.

There is provision for this allocation via a contract variation under Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations which states:

“Contracts and framework agreements may be modified without a new procurement procedure in accordance with this Part in any of the following cases:

b) for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor that have become necessary and were not included in the initial procurement, where a change of contractor—

(i) cannot be made for economic or technical reasons such as requirements of interchangeability or interoperability with existing equipment, services or installations procured under the initial procurement, or

(ii) would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the contracting authority,

provided that any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract;

(c) where all of the following conditions are fulfilled: —

(i) the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen;

(ii) the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract;

(iii) any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract or framework agreement.

The National Drugs Funding could not have been envisaged at the initial procurement by the LA. The funding opportunity was announced in Q4 of 2020/21 with no prior notice. The Grant funding is one - off for 12 months to reduce the impacts of substance use.

Many of the intended beneficiaries are already engaged in the Substance Use: Assessment, Treatment and Recovery Services (Ambition Sefton) commissioned from Mersey Care NHS Trust by the council.

To commission another service to provide the required interventions would be a duplication of existing service provision and costs. The additional grant funding does not exceed 50% of the original contract annual value.

Recommendation(s):

(1) For Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing to approve the proposed contract variation to the current contract with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust for the current service, Ambition Sefton to deliver the funded interventions.

(2) Delegate authority to the Head of Health and Wellbeing / Director of Public Health to formalise the agreement to add via a contract variation an additional £407K to the contract with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust for the provision of Substance Use: Assessment, Treatment and Recovery Services (Ambition Sefton).

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

- The external funder has approved the application and the breakdown of all funded activity.
- The allocation of £407k is to support a range of Treatment, Assessment and Recovery interventions for the local substance misuse population, building on and improving access to existing evidence-based activities.
- Many of the potential beneficiaries have an already established relationship with the current service provider.
- The proposal involves scaling up existing interventions provided by the service; pharmacology interventions for clients already engaged in the service; post detoxification rehab for clients who have been assessed and are known to the service. Recovery interventions for clients who are engaged in or exiting treatment from the service.
- The current service provider has well established Treatment, Assessment & Recovery pathways in place across the system and are best placed to successfully deliver the interventions within the limited 12- month time period.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

The only other option would be to procure another provider to deliver against the additional funding and this has been rejected due to economic and operational reasons, along with not having enough time to conduct a procurement exercise given the Grant conditions.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

Full costs of the proposed interventions will be covered by external Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Grant Funding.

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
External grant funding has been received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Grant Funding, of which £407,000 has been allocated for the delivery of the interventions by the Adult Community Treatment, Assessment & Recovery Service (Ambition Sefton)	
Legal Implications:	
Sefton Council and Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust will agree a contract variation subject to the terms and conditions of the existing contract to ensure delivery of expected outcomes against deliverable activities.	
Equality Implications:	
There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	N

The proposed contract variation to the current contract with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust for the current service, Ambition Sefton to deliver the funded interventions will have a neutral impact.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Investment in drug service interventions to support Sefton residents effected by substance misuse.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Investment in drug service interventions to support communities from the direct and indirect impacts of substance misuse.
Commission, broker and provide core services: not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: not applicable

Greater income for social investment: not applicable
Cleaner Greener: not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6394/21) and Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4594/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not Applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix 1- Confirmation of funding/MoU

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Sefton Council have been successful in securing £489k of external grant funding from MHCLG. The funding will be used to deliver a range of interventions aimed at reducing drug related crime and preventing drug related deaths. The Grant expenditure must be incurred over a maximum period of 12 months. Delivery of outcomes will be monitored nationally via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) and Public Health England.

2. The Proposal

2.1 Sefton's proposal has been developed in collaboration with people from across the local substance use treatment pathway and reflects identified gaps and areas of need. All the proposed interventions have been approved by National Team.

3. Breakdown of Interventions

3.1 Funding will be split between Sefton Council (82k) and Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust (407k) details outlined below.

Organisation	Funding	Funded Intervention
Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust	407k	Needle Exchange
		Naloxone Provision
		Outreach
		Novel Long Lasting Opiate Substitute Treatment Pilot
		Treatment capacity for police and court custody assessments• Collaboration with courts and probation• Continuity of care post prison release• Work with out-of-court disposal schemes and testing on arrest to provide treatment interventions
		Continuity of care from non-criminal justice settings
		Recovery communities and peer support networks
Sefton Council	82k	Commissioning Support, monitoring & BI
		Residential Rehab Placements

4. Next Steps

4.1 A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Sefton Council and Public Health England which outlines expected outcomes and the funding allocation. (Appendix1)

A steering group has been established to oversee implementation, monitoring of delivery and outcomes.

A contract variation to be drafted and signed by both parties and added to the existing sealed contract with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust.

APPENDIX 1



Sefton MoU.docx