

Report to Cabinet

5 February 2025

Subject:	Drug Strategy Grant: Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG)
Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing - Cllr Taylor
Director:	Liann Brookes-Smith Interim Director of Public Health
Key Decision:	Yes An executive decision which is likely to incur significant expenditure or have a significant effect on the community
Contact Officer:	Mary Bailey Addictive Behaviours Programme Manager mary_bailey@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

For the reasons set out in the report, it is recommended that Cabinet:-

- 1.1 approve the proposal for distribution of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant for a total indicative* amount of £1,182,342 as required by Office for Health Improvement & Disparities grant conditions.

*Indicative amount still subject to Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Treasury approvals - as such final allocation could vary.

- 1.1.1 approve the variation to the current Adult Alcohol and Drug Service Contract to fund additional enhanced provision totalling a maximum of £668,981 for the period 2025/26, and that delegated authority is given to the Director of Public Health to approve such variation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing;
- 1.1.2 delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to determine the distribution of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant over the grant period covering the financial year 2025/26 as detailed in the body of the report;
- 1.1.3 further to 1.1.2 above, delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to award and enter into any contract(s), on terms to be agreed by the Director of Public Health, for the provision of services funded by the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant funds;
- 1.1.4 delegate authority to the Assistant Director – Legal and Assurance enter into and execute, under seal as may be required, any contracts or ancillary documentation necessary to give effect to the proposals in these recommendations for the provision of Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant funded provisions.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 In December 2021 Government released a new National Drug Strategy '*From Harm to Hope: A ten-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives*'¹ With this Strategy the Government announced additional funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery provision. This funding was called the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) and was awarded for an initial period of 3 years covering the following financial years: 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

For 2025/26, the Government has renamed the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) to the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) which consolidates a number of drug related grants including the SSMTRG and the Inpatient Detoxification Grant (IPD) grants -both of which Sandwell receives.

- 2.2 Previous Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG -now renamed DATRIG) grant allocations covering 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 were received in line with appropriate corporate approval requirements and spent in line with grant conditions. (Please see previous report covering the previous grant period 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25)
- 2.3 Subsequent to the initially confirmed funding period, and subsequent to the Government's November 2024 Comprehensive Spending Review, it has been announced that Sandwell will receive one further year of funding for 2025/26. Sandwell's indicative allocated Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) amount for the 2025/26 period is £1,182,342*. The funding is to be additional to existing Public Health grant expenditure on substance misuse treatment services. Any future funding beyond the 2025/26 period is currently unknown.
*Indicative amount still subject to Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Treasury approvals and as such final allocation could vary.
- 2.4 The funding must be spent on interventions that aim to achieve the Drug Strategy ambition to reduce drug and alcohol related deaths and harms. The Strategy therefore requires that local areas rebuild and reinvest into local support systems towards "*a world class drug treatment and recovery system*"ⁱⁱ Monies can only be spent on provisions that fit within OHIDs menu of interventions.
- 2.5 Many of the permissible spend interventions can only be delivered through community-based substance misuse treatment services

(currently delivered via our commissioned Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment Provider).

- 2.6 Permissible spend interventions will be managed and monitored within the Sandwell Public Health commissioning team, with final sign off on the distribution of the funds between Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) and the Director of Public Health.
- 2.7 We therefore propose to secure approval to use the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) funding for 2025/26 as required by Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) grant conditions.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Council Plan?

<p>Growing Up in Sandwell</p>	<p>Maximising access and engagement with substance misuse support enables people (including those affected by someone else’s use such as children, family members and the wider community) to benefit</p> <p>Parental substance misuse can have a negative impact on children and young people. Evidence suggests that in Sandwell over 500 adults with an opiate dependency live with children, of these 48% accessed treatmentⁱⁱⁱ</p>
<p>Living in Sandwell</p>	<p>It is estimated that around 45% of acquisitive crime is committed by heroin and/or crack cocaine users in order to fund their dependency. Evidence suggests that in 2016/17 substance misuse treatment helped to prevent 4.4 million crimes^{iv}.</p> <p>Crime can have a significant impact on communities; people may feel less safe, home insurance can increase, property prices can be affected and businesses may avoid the area.</p> <p>The proposals aim to increase the number of drug dependent people accessing support which is likely to reduce crime.</p>

Healthy in Sandwell	<p>Problematic substance misuse can cause ill health and impact on mortality rates. Ensuring engagement and support with drug treatment, will help individuals live longer and enjoy a better quality of life – adding years to life and life to years.</p> <p>Enhanced delivery capacity and treatment options afforded from the DATRIG monies will ensure increased health outcomes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced alcohol and drug related deaths • Reduced blood borne viruses • Reduced comorbidities • Reduced demand on emergency services
---------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

4 Context and Key Issues

Background

4.1 In December 2021 Government released the National Drug Strategy ‘*From Harm to Hope: A ten-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives*’ With this Strategy the Government announced additional funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery provision for a period of 3 years covering the following financial years: 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Previous Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG -now renamed DATRIG) grant allocations covering 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 were received in line with appropriate corporate approval requirements and spent in line with grant conditions. (Please see Cabinet minutes - Wednesday, 22 June 2022 - Drug Strategy Grant: Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (Minute No. 128/22)

4.2 Sandwell’s indicative allocated Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) amount for the 2025/26 period is £1,182,342 (subject to DHSC and Treasury approval). The funding is dependent on maintaining existing Public Health Grant investment in substance misuse treatment and therefore

must be additional to existing Public Health grant expenditure. Any future funding beyond the 2025/26 period is currently unknown.

- 4.3 The DATRIG includes a specific amount of grant monies specifically for Inpatient Detoxification provision of £55,086. This money is administered and managed through a regional commissioning arrangement outside of the Council’s fiscal management process/remit.

Please see Table 1 for a breakdown of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) allocations

Table 1: Sandwell DATRIG

	2025/26
Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG)	£1,127,256
Inpatient Detoxification Grant	£55,086
DATRIG Total Indicative amount	£1,182,342

- 4.4 The funding will be made available through a Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2023 grant provision. The expectation from government is that additional enhanced delivery afforded from the DATRIG commence as early as possible from Quarter 1 of 2025/26 to ensure continuity of provision from the previous 2024/25 grant period.

- 4.5 The funding must be spent on interventions that help reduce drug and alcohol related harms. The list of permissible spend options include:

- offering more treatment places, treatment options and reducing treatment worker caseload levels
- increased use of residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification placements
- expanding needle and syringe programmes to reduce blood-borne viruses

- providing more naloxone to prevent overdose deaths
- improving treatment pathways from the health and criminal justice system including courts, prisons and police custody

Please see Appendix 1 for a copy of permissions in relation to quoting our indicative allocation amount for supporting decision making and local democratic process requirements; and the menu of permissible spend interventions issued from OHID.

4.6 In order to ensure local proposed spend fulfilled national requirements as well as benefitting local treatment provision, initial consultation with the local drug treatment provider commenced prior to the first round of funding and on an annual basis for each year of the previous DATRIG grant throughout 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. Partners including members of the local Sandwell Strategic Drug & Alcohol Partnership (SDAP), local health and criminal justice providers including acute sector and ICB, and regional Public Health colleagues were also consulted annually at each relevant Strategic Drug & Alcohol Partnership (SDAP) meeting. The achievability of intended aims, feasibility, additionality to existing provision as well as fit within the permitted list of interventions outlined by the national criteria has informed spend proposals.

Subsequent consultation with SDAP partners towards the 2025/26 DATRIG announcement (SDAP meeting 18th December 2024) to ensure continuity of provisions in place from 2024/25 provisions. Sandwell Council Value for Money (VFM) Panel and Procurement Panel consulted and approvals has been secured in relation to planned spend options in line with corporate requirements.

4.7 **Current Position**

4.8 Details of proposed spend options for indicative 2025/26 DATRIG. These include the proposed contract variation elements that can only be delivered by our currently commissioned Adult Drug & Alcohol Treatment provider, alongside a range of other permissible spend options including:

- Residential rehabilitation placements
- Community grants to increase the role of the voluntary sector towards Recovery based activities
- Hospital Drug Liaison nurse
- Service User mechanisms and Recovery review work
- Expansion of treatment options and medications available

Table 2: Sandwell 2025/26 DATRIG Proposed Spend Plans

Intervention	Descriptor/Rationale	Amount
System Coordination and Commissioning	Resource to support commissioning of Recovery focussed strategy delivery.	£60,000
Enhanced Recovery Support	Development of peer opportunities & lived experience function.	
Enhanced Harm Reduction provision	Enhanced naloxone provision, incl. distribution via peer networks. Enhanced outreach & engagement, incl. street outreach for those not in contact with treatment. Enhanced needle and syringe programmes.	£139,159
Increased Treatment Capacity & Pharmacological Treatment Options	Additional Treatment Workers (3), Team Leader & Non-Medical Prescriber role.	£243,409
	Increased provision of novel long-acting OST (Buvidal).	£57,226
	Continuation of Diamorphine Assisted Treatment Pilot	£194,275
	Black Country court worker contribution to allow court assessments to be conducted	£14,000
		£55,086

	Inpatient Detoxification Provision (managed via a regional consortium arrangement)	
Residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification	Residential rehabilitation placements. (Inpatient detox provision met via a separate regionally managed grant).	£100,000
Better and more integrated responses to physical and mental health issues	Treatment Referral Generation Workers across criminal justice, primary care & wider settings	£126,428
	Hospital drug liaison nurse to ensure pathways/provision to community services.	£40,000
Enhanced Recovery Support	Community Grant recovery projects via community/voluntary sector	£150,000
	Client Recovery Support Fund	£2,759
TOTAL		£ 1,182,342

Totals shaded in grey refer to elements covered under the proposed Adult Drug Treatment contract variation and amount to a total variation amount of **£668,981**.

- 4.10 The above listed spend elements will be managed internally within the Public Health commissioning team in accordance with grant conditions and managed/administered in line with internal Council approval processes.
- 4.11 In line with DATRIG grant conditions, should any slippage occur in one area of spend, the national team will be notified and spend reprofiling managed in line with national Office of Health Disparities & Inclusion (OHID) grant processes. Any such reallocation will be subject to approval from the Director of Public Health on behalf of the Council and the OHID Grants team.
- 4.12 Monitoring and management of the DATRIG spend shall take place through quarterly Statement of Grant Usage reports back to

OHID alongside quarterly activity reporting against key Drug Strategy ambitions (numbers accessing treatment, drug related deaths etc). The grant will be managed within the Public Health commissioning team in accordance with OHID grant conditions and in line with internal Council processes.

- 4.13 The additional interventions afforded from the DATRIG monies will add value to the existing substance misuse support offer enabling increased access to a wider range of treatment and recovery options, increased integration and improved care pathways, together with additional treatment capacity provision.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Do not approve distribution of the DATRIG as required by OHID and not utilise the additional funding but simply return the monies to government. This will mean that the local treatment population will not benefit from the potential quality and capacity improvements that the monies could afford.

6 Implications

Resources:	<p>Sandwell's confirmed 2025/26 DATRIG allocation is £1,182,342 (note this includes a specific Inpatient Detoxification Grant amount of £55,086 which is managed via a regional consortium arrangement -OHID have confirmed that the regional consortium lead will receive this element on behalf of Sandwell Local Authority).</p> <p>The funding will be made available from Government through Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 grant provisions and the Section 151 Officer will need to confirm that spending has been on additional services. The funding is exclusive to enhancing the local substance misuse support offer and can only be spent in line with a specific menu of interventions specified by OHID.</p>
-------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Legal and Governance</p>	<p>Legal implications including regulations/law under which proposals are required/permitted and constitutional provisions:</p> <p>The funding will be made available from Government through Section 31 of the Local Government Act 20023 grant provisions and the Section 151 Officer will need to confirm that spending has been on additional services. The funding is exclusive to enhancing the local substance misuse support offer and can only be spent in line with a specific menu of interventions specified by OHID.</p> <p>Section 31 Local Government Act 2023 permits central government to pay a grant to a local authority in England towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred by it.</p> <p>The Council will need to comply with all conditions attached to the grant, particularly in respect of the use of the grant and the circumstances in which the whole or part of the grant must be repaid.</p> <p>Any onward grant funding or contractual arrangements paid for from the DATRIG grant monies will need to contain provisions to ensure that claw-back obligations on the Council within the DATRIG grant are passed on to recipients of grant monies.</p> <p>Any variation of the existing contract will be subject to compliance with the Provider Selection Regime and the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>Whilst the current Adult Drug & Alcohol Treatment service was procured under Public Contracts Regulations 2015 it is most likely that these services will now fall within the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 (PSR). The PSR does allow modifications where: The modification is made in response to external factors beyond the control of the relevant authority and the provider, including but not limited to changes in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patient or service user volume • prices in accordance with a formula provided for in the contract documents (e.g., uplifts in prices published in the NHS Payment Scheme or index linking) which do

	<p>not render the contract or framework agreement materially different in character.</p> <p>Because of the value, a transparency notice will need to be published outlining the modification.</p>
Risk:	<p>A risk assessment exercise has been undertaken in line with the corporate Council risk management strategy and policy. For the risks identified there are suitable measures in place to mitigate and manage the risks to acceptable levels.</p>
Equality:	<p>An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted and the proposal would have no negative impact on protected groups. The proposal ensures that some of the boroughs most vulnerable individuals are supported.</p> <p>For further details please see Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment</p>
Health and Wellbeing:	<p>This proposal would result in positive implications for health and well-being. Should the proposal not be accepted, and the additional investment is not utilised but simply returned to Government, this would stop the commencement of interventions that would be of benefit to Sandwell residents.</p>
Social Value	<p>The proposal will result in expanding Recovery based activities and opportunities both for local Community/Voluntary sector organisations in delivering those, but also for individuals in recovery towards skills development and employment opportunities.</p>
Climate Change:	<p>Delivery of the Drug Strategy ambitions towards reducing demand for drugs and alcohol should result in a reduction of the negative environmental impacts from drug and alcohol production.</p>
Corporate Parenting:	<p>Delivery of the Drug Strategy ambitions towards reducing demand for drugs and alcohol should result in increased capacity and support for dependent parents and their children.</p>

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Sandwell’s indicative DATRIG grant allocation and permissions in relation to quoting our indicative allocation, Menu of permissible spend interventions.

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

8. Background Papers

Cabinet minutes - Wednesday, 22 June 2022 - Drug Strategy Grant: Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (Minute No. 128/22):

<https://sandwell.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g6231/Printed%20minutes%2022nd-Jun-2022%2015.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>

9 Evidence references:

ⁱ National Drug Strategy 2021: ‘From harm to hope’:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

ⁱⁱ National Drug Strategy 2021: ‘From harm to hope’:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-alcohol-and-drug-use-understanding-the-problem>

^{iv} <https://app.box.com/s/p52mrjh78yryshd9smogm350s7ougg1l>

^v National Drug Strategy 2021: ‘From harm to hope’:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>