

CABINET MEETING – 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Proposed variation to the Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service Contract up to 31 March 2025

Author(s):

Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet's approval to vary the existing Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service contract to include part of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant allocation to increase service provision across the City.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is requested to authorise the Executive Director Health, Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care, to undertake all necessary steps to:

- a. Procure a contract variation to the Council's existing Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service contract ("the Contract") with Change Grow Live ("CGL"), to apply retrospectively with effect from June 2022 up to 31 March 2025 to implement the new Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant allocation for the City; and
- b. Subject to the receipt of additional funding from the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant allocation for years two and/or three, to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities to agree further contract variation(s) to procure further variations to the Contract with CGL as may be required in order to implement any such further additional grant funding.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The proposal for the variation to the Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service Contract intentions was founded on CGL being the Council's primary provider of Treatment and Recovery services across Sunderland and it will enable the commencement of the delivery to benefit residents as soon as possible of:

- a. An Integrated Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Service in Sunderland
- b. Continuity of Care
- c. Consistency of a High-Quality Service
- d. Value for Money
- e. Strengthening of Pathways/Partnerships

It also seeks to achieve further integration with effective, system-wide joint planning to ensure that treatment and recovery services are available and sufficiently accessible, to help improve public health outcomes, deliver local Health and Wellbeing Board priorities and achieve the objectives of Sunderland City Plan.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The potential alternative option is follows:

- (i) Do not enter into a contract variation with CGL in order to give effect to the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant allocation for Sunderland. This is not recommended as viable improvements in the delivery of these services are available that can improve health outcomes if implemented and are critical to delivering the national targets linked to Sunderland's grant allocation in the most expeditious manner. Not implementing will result in a significant element of Sunderland's Grant allocation not being utilised.

Impacts analysed;**Equality****Privacy****Sustainability****Crime and Disorder**

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's Co-Operative Values? Yes

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes

PROPOSED VARIATION TO THE INTEGRATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECOVERY AND HARM MINIMISATION SERVICE CONTRACT UP TO 31 MARCH 2025

Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval to vary the existing Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service contract to include part of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant allocation to increase service provision across the City.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

Cabinet is requested to authorise the Executive Director Health, Housing & Communities in consultation with the Assistant Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care, to undertake all necessary steps to:

- a. Procure a contract variation to the Council's existing Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service contract ("the Contract") with Change Grow Live ("CGL"), with effect from June 2022 to 31 March 2025, to implement the new Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant allocation for the City; and
- b. Subject to the receipt of additional funding from the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant allocation for years two and/or three, to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities to agree further contract variation(s) to procure further variations to the Contract with CGL as may be required in order to implement any such further additional grant funding.

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 Sunderland continues to experience poor health outcomes around substance misuse and alcohol, and it remains imperative to ensure that Public Health Services such as those undertaken by the Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service are sustained.
- 3.2 An enhanced Treatment and Recovery service will help to deliver local Health and Wellbeing Board Priorities, Healthy City Plan and improve local Public Health outcomes.
- 3.3 The use of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant will also support the objectives of Sunderland's City Plan that by 2030 we will have:

- reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives
 - access to equitable opportunities and life chances
 - people enjoying independent lives
- 3.4 Substance misuse leads to significant crime, health and social costs. Drug use is strongly associated with a range of social issues including school absenteeism, safeguarding concerns, troubled families, homelessness and unemployment.
- 3.5 Sunderland faces multiple challenges with substance misuse related harm due to several complex issues associated with poverty, unemployment, and criminal justice involvement. Substance misuse can have profound and negative effects on communities, families, and individuals, limiting the ability to work, to parent, and to function effectively in society.
- 3.6 Evidence based drug and alcohol treatments can reduce these and deliver real savings, particularly in relation to crime, and the NHS through health improvements, reduced drug-related deaths and lower levels of blood-borne disease.
- 3.7 In 2020 Dame Carol Black was commissioned by the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Care to undertake an independent review of drugs to inform the Government's thinking on what more can be done to tackle drug related harm. From Harm to Hope, the governments 10-year drug plan followed the recommendations in Dame Carol Black's report.
- 3.8 To support delivery of this plan the government announced the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant to be used by councils to directly address the aims of the treatment and recovery. There are a number of critical targets within the Grant documentation that will have significant implications for all partners across the City involved in Drug and Alcohol services, including:
- a. a national target to increase the number of treatment places by 20%
 - b. a national ambition to prevent nearly 1,000 drug deaths in the next 3 years
 - c. reduce alcohol deaths
 - d. by the end of 2024/25 there should be 'a treatment place for every offender with an addiction'
 - e. increase access to residential rehabilitation over the course of the grant period - 2% of those in treatment

4. Current Position

- 4.1 The Council commissioned the Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service through Change, Grow, Live (CGL). This contract commenced on 1st July 2021, and offers a single integrated, recovery-oriented service, with an extensive range of treatments and interventions designed to support people to take control of their recovery journey and achieve their recovery goals.
- 4.2 The current Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service includes:
- Specialist Harm Reduction Outreach Team
 - Single Point of Contact
 - Community Alcohol Team
 - Carer's Support
 - Opiate Replacement Prescribing
 - Access to Residential and Community Detoxes,
 - Supported Access to Mutual Aid as well as Carers Support.
 - Support in Accessing Training, Employment, and Housing
- 4.3 The Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation contract with CGL commenced on 1st July 2021 for a period of 5 years with 2 x 12 month optional extensions. The estimated value of the original contract over its full term, including the potential extensions, equates to £22,674,383.
- 4.4 The existing Service Specification includes provision for variations which may be required by the Council as the need arises. Rationale for variations may include, though not be limited to:
- a. Changes resulting from alterations to Public Health funding
 - b. Emergent priorities in Drug and Alcohol Misuse
 - c. Changes in statutory requirements in Public Health delivery
 - d. Changes in local governance structures and ways of working
- 4.5 The Council received formal notification from the Office for Health Improvements and Disparities on 13 June 2022 that the projects proposed within its bid for the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant had been approved for a period up March 2025.

5. Proposed Approach

- 5.1 In order to implement the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant, it is necessary to enter into a proposed contract variation with CGL as the Council's existing appointed provider for the services with effect from June 2022, and to be applied retrospectively.

SMTRG PROJECTS COMMENCING 22/23	COSTINGS OVER 3 YEAR GRANT PERIOD			TOTAL
	2022/2023	2023/2024 (Recurring)	2024/2025 (Recurring)	Contract variation
	£450,100	£565,301	£565,301	£1,580,702

- 5.2 It is proposed that the contract variation would be applied retrospectively with effect from 13th June 2022, when Office of Health Improvement and Disparities formally approved the projects within Sunderland final submission, thus enabling the Council to begin the implementation of critical projects to deliver our targets and meet reporting requirements, including enabling CGL to begin recruiting for roles identified as critical to local needs.
- 5.3 Year two and three allocation for the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant has not yet been confirmed by central government. Subject to the award of further funding from the year two and three allocations, it may be necessary to enter into further contract variations with CGL in order to give effect to further funding allocations if successful. As a consequence, it is therefore proposed that the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities is authorised to enter into further variations to the CGL contract as required in order to give effect to any further grant funding allocations.
- 5.4 Projects included in the Final Grant Submission to Office of Health Improvement and Disparities built on the work undertaken across Sunderland to develop a whole system integrated approach to address substance misuse and alcohol harm across the City. The projects with CGL will involve increasing and strengthening capacity and workforce to respond to the increase in treatment places. The key areas of focus to meet local needs include:
- Increased Mental health offer
 - Homeless/hostel specialist support
 - Specialist support for serious/complex cases and repeat offenders within City Centre (working with Neighbourhood Police Team)
 - Increased Pharmacy offer
 - Increased support for the Alcohol Care Team

6. Reasons for the Decision

- 6.1 The proposal for the variation to the Integrated Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Harm Minimisation Service Contract intentions was founded on CGL being the Council's primary provider of Treatment and Recovery services across Sunderland and it will enable the commencement of the delivery to benefit residents as soon as possible of:
- An Integrated Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Service in Sunderland
 - Continuity of Care

- c. Consistency of a High-Quality Service
- d. Value for Money
- e. Strengthening of Pathways/Partnerships

6.2 It also seeks to achieve further integration with effective, system-wide joint planning to ensure that treatment and recovery services are available and sufficiently accessible, to help improve public health outcomes, deliver local Health and Wellbeing Board priorities and achieve the objectives of Sunderland City Plan.

7. Alternative Options

7.1 Potential alternative options to implementing the commissioning intentions are:

- (i) Do not enter into a contract variation with CGL in order to give effect to the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant allocation for Sunderland. This is not recommended as viable improvements in the delivery of these services are available that can improve health outcomes if implemented and are critical to delivering the national targets linked to Sunderland's grant allocation in the most expeditious manner. Not implementing will result in a significant element of Sunderland's Grant allocation not being utilised.

8. Impact Analysis

8.1 A summary impact analysis for the proposed extensions is provided below.

8.2 By their nature, the services outlined here aim to reduce inequalities by providing accessible interventions to those that are most likely to experience disadvantage.

(a) **Equalities** - An equalities impact assessment has been carried out in respect of the proposals. A copy of the assessment is included in Appendix 1. The key findings are as follows:

- (i) It is anticipated that the proposal will have a positive impact on people of all ages, for example by reducing the harms caused by drugs and alcohol
- (ii) It is anticipated that the proposal will have a positive impact on pregnancy and maternity as it will help reduce drug and alcohol use during pregnancy
- (iii) Evidence shows that the most deprived wards in Sunderland experience the highest harms. It is anticipated that the contract variations will help ensure that preventative interventions are available within these areas. This will have a positive impact on changing behaviour and preventing ill-health

- (b) **Co-operative Values** – Implementation of the contract variations will support the aim of reducing health inequalities in Sunderland by continuing to offer support to those communities that have highest levels of need in an accessible way.
- (c) **Financial Implications** – The cost of the contract variation will be met from the Council's allocation of the national Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant.
- (d) **Legal Implications** – The existing substance misuse contract with CGL commenced on 1st July 2021 for an initial period of 5 years with the option to extend by the Council thereafter. The proposed variation(s) to the existing contract are not considered to be substantial for the following reasons:
- a) The proposals do not render the contract materially different in character to the one originally concluded;
 - b) The proposals do not introduce any new conditions that may have had a material impact on the original procurement process for the contract;
 - c) The proposals do not change the economic balance of the contract in favour of the provider;
 - d) The proposals do not extend the scope of the contract considerably;
 - e) The value of the proposed variations are less than 10% of the original value of the contract (including the options to extend).
- As a consequence, it is considered that the proposed variation(s) to the existing contract are lawful pursuant to Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- (e) **Policy Implications** – The scheme aims to support the shared values within the Sunderland Healthy City Plan, in particular, focusing on prevention, tackling health inequalities and equity.
- (f) **Health & Safety Considerations** – There are no current identified Health & Safety Considerations associated with the proposal, however, should these emerge as part of work streams undertaken these shall be fully considered.
- (g) **Procurement** – Corporate Procurement have been consulted regarding the alternative approach to implementing the contract. The proposal is in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. All work will be undertaken in consultation with the Corporate Procurement team.