

Notice of Non-Key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Approval to accept Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant 2025-2026
Decision Maker:	Mark Ansell, Director Public Health
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services
ELT Lead:	Mark Ansell, Director of Public Health
Report Author and contact details:	Alain Rosenberg, Commissioner E: alain.rosenberg@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	<p>This grant supports Havering Council to meet its People Theme priorities of ensuring that people are helped to live independent, socially connected and healthier lives as set out in the Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2026/27.</p> <p>In 2025 to 2026, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is providing a total of £310 million in additional targeted grants to improve services in line with the recommendations from Dame Carol Black's independent review. This builds on the confirmed allocations through the public health grant which were published in February 2025 in Public health grants to local authorities: 2025 to 2026.</p> <p>In line with government policy, for 2025 to 2026, several grants that were previously used to support drug and alcohol treatment and recovery have been consolidated into a single Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG).</p>
Financial summary:	The Council has been allocated a total of £377,801.00 from the Office of Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) for 2025/26.

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	The grant expenditure will be spent on revenue activities agreed between the Council and the local drug & alcohol treatment service provider (Change, Grow, Live) and incurred over a period of 12 months starting as early as possible in the first quarter of the financial year 2025/26.
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	People OSC
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes, it is a Non Key decision by officer

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well **X**

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

This decision paper recommends the Director of Public Health:

- i) To note the acceptance of the section 31 local authority grant for £377,801.00 from the Office of Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) to provide drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services in 2025/26; and
- ii) To note the execution of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and sign the relevant documents in the form set out by OHID for the grant, as set out in this report; and
- iii) To vary and apply the grant the Council's existing contract with Change, Grow, Live (CGL) for drug and alcohol treatment services to enhance the existing services during 2025/2026 as set out in this report.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

Scheme 3.3.3 - Powers common to all Strategic Directors

1.General

1.1 To take any steps, and take any decisions, necessary for the proper management and administration of their allocated directorate

5. Grants

5.1 To apply for, accept, and thereafter spend/allocate any grant funding connected with their directorate provided that any match funding or residual liabilities can be met from the existing budget of the directorate. For the avoidance of doubt this delegation shall allow the acceptance of any grant offered/ allocated to the Council without any application.

Scheme 3.3.4c

Specific powers of the Director of Public Health. The Director of Public Health shall be entitled to exercise those powers detailed at 3.3.3 above but provided that such functions shall only be exercised in respect of areas directly affecting Public Health.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In December 2024, the government announced in a letter to Directors of Public Health (DPH's) that a Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG) was replacing the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) and the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG). SSMTRG had been in place for three years between 2022-2025. Havering received SSMTRG but not RSDATG.

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For 2025-2026, Havering Council has been allocated £377,801.00. This funding is in addition to the money Local Authorities (LAs) already spend on substance misuse services from the Public Health grant. The Council's contract for drug and alcohol intervention services commenced on 1st April 2021 with an initial term of 5 years, expiring on 31 March 2026. The Council has worked closely with its existing treatment provider (Change, Grow, Live; CGL) to develop a grant spending plan as required by OHID. This plan includes ambitions for 25/26 relating to number of people in treatment across all drugs groupings, continuity of care for people released from prison and residential rehabilitation placements.

OHID has provided specific requirements for the expenditure of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG). The current contracted provider, CGL, collaborates with the Council to deliver services that align with the grant objectives and desired outcomes (outlined below). The grant will be used by the Council to be applied to CGL's contract, to maintain and enhance the existing Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery services in accordance with terms of the MOU.

The Council will realise the programme aims by working with their local partner (CGL) to achieve the following outcomes:

- increasing the quality of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery systems
- reducing likelihood of premature deaths caused by drug misuse or alcohol dependence
- •a reduction in drug and alcohol related offending
- increasing in the numbers of people who use drugs and alcohol, especially offenders, engaging in treatment as well as increases in those achieving and sustaining recovery
- reduced costs for local health services, police forces and other public services due to lower health and crime harms, and lower costs to the criminal justice system (as fewer people are dealt with by the courts)
- preventing harms for people experiencing rough sleeping with drug and alcohol treatment needs (in eligible areas)
- improving housing support for people with drug and alcohol treatment needs (in eligible areas)

Interventions will be monitored both locally and nationally through quarterly grant returns. To achieve the ambitions relating to continuity of care, improved pathways from the criminal justice system and increased use of community sentence treatment requirements will be key.

OHID provided priority focus areas for which this additional expenditure has been approved. Below is a summary of the focus areas that DATRIG budget could be used for:

- a) Quality system coordination and treatment.
- b) Improving capacity and co-ordination of children and young people's drug and alcohol services.
- c) Outreach and harm reduction provision.
- d) Strong care pathways and integration between education, criminal justice, health, housing and social care services and alcohol and drug treatment.
- e) High quality of treatment services

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- f) Increased capacity and quality of recovery support services
- g) Strengthened local recovery community

Taking the above requirements into consideration, the Council and the local contracted adult drug and alcohol treatment Provider (CGL) to deliver the following service improvements in 2025/26: -

- a) improve continuity of care, especially between prisons and the community (a greater proportion of offenders who leave prison are successfully engaged in the community to reduce reoffending)
- b) reduce drug-related deaths, principally from overdose poisoning but also from infections, drinking, etc.
- c) more treatment and recovery capacity, primarily for offenders (more offenders enter treatment, offending is reduced, more people recover)
- d) increase in use of residential provision (more complex drug users achieve and sustain abstinence and recovery)
- e) improvement in the quality of treatment services including reducing caseload sizes, implementing caseload segmentation approaches, increased clinical supervision and training and development.

In more detail, the Council applied to fund the following specific interventions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment capacity for police and court custody assessments • Collaboration with L&D, courts and probation • Continuity of care post prison release • Continuity of care from non-criminal justice settings 	Lead development and co-ordination of enhanced CJ offer, line manage CJ staff, develop and maintain partnerships and ensure legacy planning. to deliver specialist CJ provision incl. presence/assessments in court, cells, probation; provide prison-link services for prison releases including gate pick up and accompanying to treatment appointments.	x1 0.60 Criminal Justice Lead	£30,635
		x1 0.40 Criminal Justice Practitioner	£18,697
		x1 Team Leader	£52,348
Development and expansion of a recovery community and peer support network, including	Enhance offer to respond to extra diversion. Role will deliver CGL's evidence-based Foundations of	x1 Recovery Coordinator-Opiate	£42,396
		x1 Recovery Coordinator-Alcohol	£42,396

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in treatment, to sustain long-term recovery, increase the visibility of recovery and support social integration.	Rehabilitation Group Work Programme and additional non-opiate and DRR group, including theme based recovery support workshop that supports mental and wellbeing.	x1 Recovery Coordinator- Non Opiate	£42,396
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The grant application was submitted to OHID on 28th March 2025 and approved by OHID and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in a formal approval letter and MOU that was sent to the Director of Public Health and signed on 9th April 2025.

The maximum funding allocation is £377,801.00 to be spent in financial year 2025-2026 based on the approved yearly submitted detailed proposal and returned MOU.

The 2025 to 2026 grant will be paid to the local authorities in two instalments. In the first quarter of the financial year, local authorities will receive 70% of their allocated financial year's funding, with the remaining 30% being paid in February 2026 as below.

All conditions of the funding are outlined in Annex B of the MOU.

Payment Dates	Payment Amount
Quarter 1 – June 2025	£264,460.70
Quarter 4 – February 2026	£113,340.30
Total	£377,801.00

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do nothing and declining the grant was considered and rejected because by not accepting the funding, the Council residents would be deprived of additional substance misuse service provisions.

Procuring another contract to deliver the services as set out in the grant would incur higher cost, longer lead time, more administration burden and have less of an overall impact than to vary the contract with the existing provider to enhance current services. Therefore, this option was considered and rejected.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

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Throughout the grant funding application process, the Director of Public Health has been engaged and kept apprised of the objectives and targets for the fiscal year 2025/26. The pre-decision date was April 9, 2025.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Alain Rosenberg

Designation: Commissioner

X



Alain Rosenberg

Signature: Signed by: Alain Rosenberg

Date: 25/04/2025

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has a duty under Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area including providing services or facilities for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness. It also has a general duty under section 1 of the Care Act 2014 to promote the well-being of individuals. "Well-being" in relation to an individual is defined within the 2014 Act as including (b) physical and mental health and emotional well-being. The Council may also rely upon s111 Local Government Act 1972 which allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything an individual can do. The recommendations in this report are in keeping with this power and the Council has the power to receive grant funding. The contract was procured under Public Contract Regulation 2015 (PCR 2015) and the modification set out in this report is below the Light Touch Regime Threshold. Therefore, the modification is compliant with regulation 72 (5) of the PCR 2015. The value of this variation is £377,801 and is less than 10% of the initial contract value. Also, the DATRIG grant is allowable under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

The terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provide that the Council must maintain investment in drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services in line with its revenue outturn in 2020/1; the spend is in accordance with its agreed proposal for the DATRIG grant; and that the appropriate documentation was submitted to OHID when requested. Officers should ensure they are familiar with and comply with the reporting requirements. Failure to comply with the MOU conditions may result in all or part of the funding being subject to clawback.

The proposal to vary the contract set out within this report is allowable under clause B22.2 of the CGL service contract, provided that the officers follow the procedures set out within the contract terms and conditions.

The officers are satisfied that the variation of the current contract is in line with the MOU conditions.

For the reasons set out above, the Council may accept and apply the DATRIG grant as set out in this report and vary the contract with CGL.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the acceptance of the grant and to enter an MOU (memorandum of understanding) as per the OHID Grant conditions.

The planned expenditure against the grant in the 2025/26 financial year is £377,801, which is the full grant allocation. The DATRIG is funding provided for a period of 12 months.

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The grant conditions state that the funding can only be spent in accordance with the proposal that has been submitted and in the event that an under spend is forecast, this will be reported as soon as possible.

Risks

Whilst there is low risk of underspending any unspent grant at the end of the financial will need to be returned to OHID

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

An EqHIA (Equality and Health Impact Assessment) is usually carried out and on this occasion this is/isn't required/attached

The Council seeks to ensure equality, inclusion, and dignity for all in all situations.

There are /are not equalities and social inclusion implications and risks associated with this decision

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no environmental and climate change implications of, and risks relating to, the proposed decision.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant 2025-2026 introduction letter
- Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery improvement grant for the financial years 2025-2026

APPENDICES

None

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Part C – Record of decision

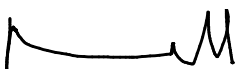
I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed


mark ansell (May 13, 2025 10:07 GMT+1)

Name: **mark ansell**

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date: **13/05/2025**

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____