

Equality Impact Assessment Template

Please complete this template using the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance document](#)

Version 4: January 2019

Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available)	Drug Strategy Grant: Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)
Directorate and Service Area	Ault Social Care, Health and Well-Being, Public Health
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Mary Bailey, Addictive Behaviours Programme Manager
Contact Details	Mary_Bailey@Sandwell.gov.uk
Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	N/A
Date EIA completed	05 th May 2022
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	Lisa McNally, Director of Public Health
Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member	

See [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for key prompts that must be addressed for all questions

**1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required
(Please provide as much information as possible)**

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’ With this Strategy the Government has 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.

Sandwell’s allocated SSMTRG amount for the 2022/23 period is £532,036. The funding is to be additional to existing Public Health grant expenditure on substance misuse treatment services. Future years allocations for 2023/24 and 2024/25 are as yet indicative and subject to annual approval by HMT

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” Monies can only be spent on provisions that fit within OHIDs menu of interventions

The expectation from government is that additional enhanced delivery afforded from the SSMTRG commence as early as possible from Quarter 1 of 2022/23 and continue throughout the 3-year period of enhanced funding (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25).

Many of the permissible spend interventions can only be delivered through community-based substance misuse treatment services (currently Cranstoun). We have already secured Cabinet approval to vary the existing Cranstoun contract to accommodate 2022/23 SSMTRG provisions. Furthermore, we have already secured Cabinet approval to procure future treatment services including use of SSMTRG within those future contract provisions (given the current Cranstoun contract expires 31st January 2023 therefore ending before the SSMTRG grant term period). Please see Appendix 1 and 2 for details of previous Cabinet reports and approvals. Other permissible spend interventions will be managed and monitored within the Sandwell Public Health commissioning team.

We therefore propose to secure approval to use the remaining SSMTRG (the monies not already covered by previous Cabinet approvals) as required by Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) grant conditions.

The proposed additional interventions would add value to the existing drug treatment contract through increased integration and improved care pathways, additional treatment capacity, enhanced harm reduction and the expansion of options in relation to opiate substitution therapy (in line with current NICE guidance). Furthermore, Cranstoun, the current provider of adult drug treatment services is performing to a satisfactory standard and could fully integrate the additional services into existing provision within a minimal timescale, subject to recruitment.

Please see Cabinet report for further details as necessary

2. Evidence used/considered

The proposals aim to reduce drug related crime and reduce drug related deaths. The following evidence and guidance was used to inform the proposal:

- Opioid dependence: buprenorphine prolonged-release injection (Buvidal), (NICE, 2019)
- Monitoring the legal provision of foil to heroin users (Home Office, 2016)
- Widening the Availability of Naloxone (Public Health England, 2019)
- Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management (DHSC, 2017)
- Local data from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System
- Local data from the drug related death review process.

3. Consultation

In order to ensure local proposed spend fulfil national requirements as well as benefitting local treatment provision, consultation with the local treatment provider commenced during the week of 21st February 2022 just after an indicative allocation amount was announced. Partners including members of the local Strategic Drug & Alcohol Partnership (SDAP), local treatment service providers including acute sector and CCG, and regional Public Health colleagues were consulted throughout March and at the SDAP meeting held March 2022. 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 inform spend proposals.

4. Assess likely impact

It is assessed that the proposals in the report will not have an adverse impact on groups or individuals with protected characteristics.

The service to be delivered will not discriminate against individuals or groups with protected characteristics.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

4a. Use the table to show:

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact ✓	Negative Impact ✓	No Impact ✓	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
Age	✓			The proposals will enhance existing service provision benefitting Sandwell residents who use substances, their families and the wider community. No negative impacts have been identified.
Disability	✓			The proposals will enhance existing service provision benefitting Sandwell residents who use substances, their families and the wider community. No negative impacts have been identified.

Gender reassignment	✓			<p>The proposals will enhance existing service provision benefitting Sandwell residents who use substances, their families and the wider community.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	✓			<p>The proposals will enhance existing service provision benefitting Sandwell residents who use substances, their families and the wider community.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity	✓			<p>The proposals will enhance existing service provision benefitting Sandwell residents who use substances, their families and the wider community.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>
Race	✓			<p>The proposals will enhance existing service provision benefitting Sandwell residents who use substances, their families and the wider community.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>
Religion or belief	✓			<p>The proposals will enhance existing service provision benefitting Sandwell residents who use substances, their families and the wider community.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>

Sex	✓			<p>The proposals will enhance existing service provision benefitting Sandwell residents who use substances, their families and the wider community.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>
Sexual orientation	✓			<p>The proposals will enhance existing service provision benefitting Sandwell residents who use substances, their families and the wider community.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>
Other	✓			<p>Problematic substance misuse can cause ill health and impact on mortality rates. The proposal ensures that some of the boroughs most vulnerable individuals are supported. Engagement and support with drug treatment, will help individuals live longer and enjoy a better quality of life.</p>

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes ☐ No ☒

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

N/A

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

N/A

7. Monitoring arrangements

Monitoring and management of the SSMTRG spend shall take place through quarterly Statement of Grant Usage reports back to the Office of Health Inclusion and Disparities (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

8. Action planning

Please see table below.

Question no. (ref)	Action required	Lead officer/ person responsible	Target date	Progress
7	Quarterly contract monitoring	Mary Bailey	Quarterly throughout SSMTRG period	
7	Quarterly activity reports to Public Health England	Mary Bailey	Quarterly throughout SSMTRG period	

9. Publish the EIA

Where can I get additional information, advice and guidance?

In the first instance, please consult the accompanying guide “Equality Impact Assessment Guidance”

Practical advice, guidance and support

Help and advice on undertaking an EIA or receiving training related to equalities legislation and EIAs is available to **all managers** across the council from officers within Service Improvement. The officers within Service Improvement will also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EIA documents.

Please contact:

Kashmir Singh - 0121 569 3828