

Operational Decision Record

Publication Date 02/11/2023	Decision Reference Number 5053
Decision Title Probation Commissioned Rehabilitative Service	
Decision Value £169,500	
Revenue or Capital Spend? Revenue	
Department People	
Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details) Aislinn Forrest, Public Health Manager – Inclusion Health, Aislinn.forrest@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Decision Taken <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To accept a total of £169,500 from the East Midlands Probation Service for a period of 18 months (£56,500 in 2023/24 and £113,000 in 2024/25).• To approve expenditure of this £169,500 to fund a criminal justice-specific programme to enhance the existing Dependency and Recovery offer to individuals in prison and on probation in Nottingham City. This will be delivered by increasing the contract value of Nottingham City Council's existing adult substance use service, Nottingham Recovery Network (NRN), for a period of 18 months to commence, subject to this approval and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).	
Reasons for Decision and Background Information <p>Nottingham City Council commissions Nottingham Recovery Network (NRN) to deliver substance use interventions to the local adult population. This includes a service offer which incorporates elements of clinical and non-clinical treatment that will complement a wide range of structured and unstructured, recovery and restorative components for criminal justice service users who are over 18 years and need support for their alcohol and drug use.</p> <p>Additional pathways are in place for those referred as a result of their offending behaviour. These pathways carry with them additional demands for response time and delivery as part of national and local guidance where service users are subject to court referral or community orders.</p>	

This funding will enhance substance use support offered to individuals remanded in custody, sentenced in custody and on community sentences. This shall be done through funding two full time equivalent Substance Use Engagement Practitioners who will focus on three areas:

- 1.) Reducing relapse and providing relapse intervention for those not receiving structured clinical intervention through NRN
- 2.) Improving alcohol intervention and building service users' social capital, to prevent relapse
- 3.) Intensive keyworker support including pre-release work for high-risk and high-need individuals, and building social capital, to improve service users' engagement and prevent relapse

This programme is expected to receive approximately 250 referrals across the eighteen-month delivery period.

NRN was commissioned following a competitive tender with an advertised core minimum contract value of £51,932,117 with further potential funding of £31,886,358 identified over the lifetime of the contract (5+2+2 years).

Due to the complexity of the number of Grants in relation to the Substance Use Budget and on NCC legal and procurement advice, tenders for these services included a financial narrative to explain the likelihood of potential future funding to be added to the contracts. This ensured any potential bidders were aware of any potential future funding and anticipated values and provided for additional funding to be added compliantly. This programme and the funding attached were included in the financial provisions and the narrative in the tender as a probable additional requirement.

Nottingham City's local service design and delivery, delivered by NRN, is informed by the national drug and alcohol strategy, [*From Harm to Hope: A 10-year Plan to Cut Crime and Save Lives*](#). This national strategy highlights "increasing referrals into treatment in the criminal justice system" as a key ambition. Strong partnerships and collaborative working between partner agencies including community substance use services, prisons and probation services is needed to achieve this goal. In addition, it has been identified locally that tailored support is needed for individuals involved in criminal justice to access and remain engaged with unstructured treatment. The proposed Probation Commissioned Rehabilitative Service is expected to address these needs.

Continuity of Care describes the continuation of substance use interventions for individuals receiving substance use treatment in prison once they return to the community. This is a key measure that the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities use to determine the success of referrals into treatment. Nottingham City's current Continuity of Care rate is below target and below the national average. As such the ambition to increase referrals into treatment needs work.

This programme, as a collaborative effort between community services, local prisons and probation, is expected to improve successful referrals.

The development of this programme is intended to improve the identification of individuals who could benefit from substance use intervention, particularly alcohol use, and ensure that there is workforce capacity to deliver tailored interventions to meet this need. The support delivered through this intervention will both engage new clients into services and work proactively to retain existing clients and prevent relapse. These aims will support the ambitions outlined in *From Harm to Hope*, as well as support Nottingham in moving closer towards OHID targets.

Other Options Considered and why these were rejected

Option 1 – Commission a separate Probation Commissioned Rehabilitative Service through an appropriate procurement process. If the Probation Commissioned Rehabilitative Service were entirely separate from the existing drugs and alcohol service, it would be unlikely to offer the value for money compared to adding the service to the existing contract. It would also take significantly greater time and resources to manage the procurement process. The funding from the Ministry of Justice must be utilised in 2023/24, with outcomes expected by 2025. This would not be possible if a competitive tender process were to be carried out. Therefore, this option is not recommended.

Option 2 - Do nothing. Do not accept the funding to deliver the Probation Commissioned Rehabilitative Service. The need for further tailored support for individuals with substance use within the criminal justice system has been identified by provider, commissioner and probation colleagues. This programme will enhance, not replace, existing substance use provision within Nottingham City, therefore not accepting this proposal would mean disinvestment in a key area of the Substance Use agenda and reduced targeted support and intervention for a high-need group. Therefore, this option is not recommended.

Reasons why this decision is classified as operational

This decision is within agreed budgets and policies to support an agreed strategic priority within the Inclusion Health agenda.

Additional Information

Observations of Finance Business Partner:

For reasons outlined by the report author, this decision seeks approval to

1. accept **£169,500** income from the East Midlands Probation Service over two years 2023/24 and 2024/25
2. approve and commission **£169,500** to fund a criminal justice-specific programme over two years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Probation Commissioned Rehabilitative Service	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Total £
Income from East Midlands Probation Service	(£56,500)	(£113,000)	(£169,500)
Contract with Nottingham Recovery Network (NRN)	£56,500	£113,000	£169,500
Total Costs	£0	£0	£0

The maximum cost of this decision is **£169,500** and is in line with Public Health priorities.

The authority should manage receipt of this funding in line with the conditions and ensure all funding is claimed in a timely manner and accounted for correctly. All funded must be spent by 31/03/2025. Any underspend may be subject to being paid back or carried forward where agreed. If the funding was to reduce in future years, the service would need to realign services within the revised available funding limit ensuring that no financial pressure arises.

There are no staffing implications included in this decision.

Once the decision is approved, a budget virement will be posted to realign the budgets, supporting budget managers to robustly monitor the budget.

The service must ensure that the actual costs are monitored closely to ensure they do not exceed the value of the approvals in place and that no budget pressure arises as a result of this decision.

Advice provided by Tracey Moore, Commercial Business Partner – Public Health, tracey.moore@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, 31st October 2023.

Procurement Observations:

Procurement have advised that the acceptance of this proposal is permissible due to the clear provision in the tender.

Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)

Lucy Hubber, Director of Public Health

Scheme of Delegation Reference Number

1

Date Decision Taken

02/11/23