

Report to Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing

April 2024

Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant 2024-2025

Report by Alison Challenger, Director of Public Health

Electoral division(s): All

Summary

The government has announced additional funding for local stop smoking services and support over the next five financial years, commencing from 1st April 2024 until 31st March 2029.

The Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant 2024-2025 is ring fenced for local authority-led stop smoking services and support. The funding allocation is based on current smoking prevalence in that local authority area.

West Sussex County Council has been allocated £1,075,536 for the 2024/25 financial year, with funding for subsequent years subject to spending review settlements, following the routine practice for all government expenditure.

The grant agreement must be signed by the Director of Public Health and returned to the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) by 24th April 2024 in order for the 2024/25 grant to be awarded.

Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing is asked to approve:

- (1) receipt of grant funding, its terms and conditions, as set out in section 1 of the report and the authorisation of the Director of Public Health to sign the letter of agreement required by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID);
 - (2) the delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health to allocate funds in line with government guidance and within the agreed grant criteria; and
 - (3) that further grant receipts and these allocations will be reported through the County Council's Quarterly Performance and Resources Report.
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1 Background and context

- 1.1 In October 2023 the government announced a comprehensive plan to create a smokefree generation. The plan acknowledged harms smoking causes to our society and evidence-based measures to reduce smoking prevalence.
- 1.2 As part of a wide package of measures, the government announced an extra £70 million per year over the next 5 years to increase support available for smokers to quit, starting from 1st April 2024 until 31st March 2029.
- 1.3 This ringfenced investment, in addition to the Public Health Grant (PHG), is available for local authorities who meet the following conditions: maintain existing spend on stop smoking services and support from the PHG, and report outcomes in the stop smoking services data collection.
- 1.4 The funding allocated to each local authority is based on local smoking prevalence.
- 1.5 The grant agreement must be signed by the Director of Public Health and returned to the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) by 24th April 2024 in order for the 2024/25 grant to be awarded.
- 1.6 An authority must, in using the grant:
 - 1.6.1 Invest in enhancing local authority commissioned stop smoking services and support, in addition to and while maintaining existing spend on these services and support from the PHG. This should not replace other/existing programmes which support smokers to quit, for example the Tobacco Dependency Programme delivered within the NHS Long Term Plan;
 - 1.6.2 Build capacity to deliver expanded local stop smoking services and support;
 - 1.6.3 Build demand for local stop smoking services and support; and
 - 1.6.4 Deliver increases in the number of people setting a quit date and 4 week quit outcomes, reporting these additional outcomes in the national Stop Smoking Services Collection.

2 Proposal details

It is proposed that:

- 2.1 the funding be accepted and used to increase local stop smoking service provision and support across West Sussex.
- 2.2 authority be delegated to the Director of Public Health to allocate funds in line with government guidance and within the agreed grant criteria.
- 2.3 these allocations of Grant Funding continue to be reported through the County Council's Quarterly Performance and Resources Report.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 Reject the funding (Do nothing). Rejecting the funding has been considered and is not proposed because tobacco is the top preventable risk factor linked to

early death and disability. In West Sussex, there are an estimated 88,804 current smokers aged 18+ (12.5%).

3.2 National best practice guidance from the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence NICE (ref four) recommends engaging 5% of the smoking population in a quit attempt each year. In West Sussex this equates to 4,440 quit attempts. Capacity has been limited in community services due to the additional pressures due to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent pressures in Primary Care, therefore there is a need to increase local stop smoking service provision and support to reach the required annual targets as set out in the grant conditions.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

4.1 Engagement has been carried out with existing providers of local stop smoking services in West Sussex so that they are aware that this additional funding provision is being allocated and, as experts in stop smoking service provision, are working with public health commissioners to consider the best use of this funding for our population.

4.2 Future engagement is planned with key partners and stakeholders mainly through the established Smokefree West Sussex Partnership. The partnership includes both cross council and multiagency representation.

5 Finance

5.1 The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) will provide the funding to the County Council under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, who will administer the scheme.

5.2 West Sussex County Council has been allocated £1,075,536 for 2024/25, with funding for subsequent years subject to spending review settlements.

5.3 Local authorities are required to submit a financial report to DHSC on a quarterly basis and a final statement of grant usage must be submitted to DHSC following the expiry of the Financial Year certified by the authority's Chief Executive Officer.

5.4 Revenue consequences

	Current Year 2024/25 £m	Year 2 2025/26 £m	Year 3 2026/27 £m	Year 4 2027/28 £m	Year 5 2028/29 £m
Revenue budget	1,075,536	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Change from Proposal	None	None	None	None	None
Remaining budget	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

5.5 The effect of the proposal:

(a) How the cost represents good value

This is additional grant funding available to local authorities who maintain existing spend on stop smoking services and support from the public health grant, and report outcomes in the stop smoking services data collection. Initiatives to stop smoking have positive impacts across the wider social care and health sector and are well evidenced (ref five– return on investment)

(b) Future savings/efficiencies being delivered

Smoking continues to have significant health impacts in West Sussex, as well as costs to our local health and care services and our economy. Data from Action on Smoking and Health ready reckoner 2022 suggests that £18.5 million is spent in West Sussex, each year on smoking related social care costs and that £3.3 million is lost each year due to smoking related fires.

Action on tackling smoking can generate significant savings for the local health and social care system and reduce pressure on services. NICE estimates that every £1 invested in smoking cessation saves £10 in future health care costs and health gains¹. Reducing tobacco consumption returns money to some of our most deprived communities, as well as boosting local economic development by increasing productivity.

(c) Human Resources, IT and Assets Impact

Use of the grant funding is anticipated to necessitate the creation of additional grant-funded posts and the commissioning of a stop smoking case management IT system.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Services established do not decrease smoking prevalence	Programmes will be evidence based, following NICE guidance and best practice. Staff will be trained to deliver services following National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCCT) protocols. Any services that are commissioned within West Sussex will be subject to contract management and will include break clauses as standard.
Funding is not spent (reputational risk)	A five year programme of work is being developed by the Director of Public Health and the Public Health Tobacco Control lead which fully commits funding from year one. This will be monitored closely.
Reduced funding/grant funding coming to an end in 5 years	Programmes of work will be scoped to ensure exit strategies and reductions in funding are built into their design and this will be reviewed on an annual basis. Once the programme enters year 3, the exit plans will commence to ensure next steps

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
	are fully addressed ahead of grant funding coming to an end on 31 st March 2029.

7 Policy alignment and compliance

- 7.1 Stop smoking services form part of the WSCC discharge of its functions under the Public Health White Paper 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: update and way forward which includes local activity on tobacco control. It is also part of the PHG requirements (non-prescribed functions)
- 7.2 Providing a service for working age adults also supports the targets within the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy² and Sussex Health & Care Strategy: Improving Lives Together with their focus across the life course.

Our Council Plan

- 7.3 Services to help residents to stop smoking contribute to the WSCC Plan (Our Council Plan 2021-2025) in the following ways:
- 7.3.1 Supporting a healthy place within the sustainable and prosperous economy, through offering programmes within communities for communities,
- 7.3.2 As a key programme within the ambition of Helping People and Communities to fulfil their potential through supporting people to maintain and improve their health and wellbeing through advice and support within their local area that is person-centred and addresses health inequalities that exist across the county.
- 7.3.3 Making the best use of resources due to the strong evidence base with adherence to NICE guidance, increasing the likelihood of good outcomes and value for money, both long and short term.

Legal implications

- 7.4 The Commercial Legal Team has been instructed and will advise on whether the allocation of the grant funding is best dealt with as a Grant or a Services Contract in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Subsidy Control Regime.
- 7.5 Any agreements entered into will be drafted by the Commercial Legal Team as required and will meet the requirements set out in Section 10 of the Council's Standing Orders on Procurement and Contracts.

Equality and Human Rights Assessment

- 7.6 Under the Equality Act, the council has a public sector equality duty. It must show how it has due regard to the need to:
- 7.6.1 eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- 7.6.2 advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and

- 7.6.3 foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- 7.7 The proposed programmes of work will ensure they address the needs of individuals or groups regarding these three principal duties.
- 7.8 The proposed programmes of work will consider the impact on protected groups and address these accordingly.

Climate Change

- 7.9 Cigarette butts are the most littered item worldwide and can't be recycled, do not biodegrade and leach toxic chemicals into the environment. Each year, smoking causes an estimated 33 tonnes of litter from filtered cigarettes in West Sussex, included 14 tonnes of street litter. Reducing smoking prevalence reduces smoking related litter and environmental impacts.
- 7.10 All local stop smoking service and support will be required to maximise the benefits of the programme while minimising the environmental impact

Crime and disorder

- 7.11 Reducing smoking prevalence reduces demand for illicit tobacco. Illicit tobacco has links with organised crime.

Public Health

- 7.12 Tobacco Control and smoking cessation addresses the Public Health Outcomes Framework as follows:
 - 7.12.1 **Domain 1:** improving the wider determinants of health (impact on wider factors that affect health, wellbeing and inequalities) through the provision of the services focused on cardiovascular disease risk reduction and addressing health inequalities and,
 - 7.12.2 **Domain 2:** Health Improvement (people are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices, and reduce health inequalities)

Social value

- 7.13 By embracing the Social Value Act, we will seek to ensure any commissioned services provide social benefit that can range from: securing jobs for the long-term unemployed, sub-contracting opportunities for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector or small and medium enterprises (SME), to softer but equally important benefits such as, engagement with communities or groups that might otherwise be disadvantaged.

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Appendices: None

Background papers

1. Department of Health and Social Care (2023). *Stopping the start: Our New Plan to Create a Smokefree Generation*. [online] GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stopping-the-start-our-new-plan-to-create-a-smokefree-generation/stopping-the-start-our-new-plan-to-create-a-smokefree-generation>

Smokefree West Sussex Partnership (2023). *West Sussex Tobacco Control Strategy Extension*. [online] Available at: <https://sfws-action-plan-review-2022.netlify.app/>

Local Government Association and Cancer Research UK (2019). *Tobacco control: How do you know that your council is doing all it can to reduce smoking-related harm?* [online] Available at: https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.44_Must_Know_Guide_On_Tobacco_Control_05.pdf <https://sfws-action-plan-review-2022.netlify.app/>

2. HM Government (2011). *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Update and way forward*. Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c3c65ed915d76e2ebbfec/dh_129334.pdf.
3. West Sussex County Council (2019). *West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024*. <https://jsna.westsussex.gov.uk/assets/core/FINAL-JHWS-2019-2024.pdf>.
4. Sussex Health & Care (2022). *Improving Lives Together: Our ambition for a healthier future in Sussex*. <https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2023/01/0438-NHS-Sussex-VF4-4.pdf>.
5. West Sussex County Council (2021). *Our Council Plan 2021-2025*. [Our Council Plan - West Sussex County Council](#)