

OFFICER DECISION NOTICE



Reading
Borough Council
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This notice is to be used for the following types of officer decisions. (Select one option).

A. Decisions taken by officers under a specific express delegation from Council or a Committee.

B. Decisions taken by officers under a general delegation from Council or a Committee, which relates to (i) a permission or a licence, or (ii) the rights of an individual, or (iii) a contract or expenditure over £100,000.

1. Title of decision:	Multiple Disadvantage Outreach Team (MDOT) Contract Extension
2. Date of the decision:	04 July 2023
3. The decision maker:	Melissa Wise, Executive Director Social Care and Health,

4. Decision details:

Authorise the Multiple Disadvantage Outreach Team contract 1 year extension to the existing drug and alcohol treatment provider, Change, Grow, Live (CGL), who competitively bid to win the contract in 2021

5. Reasons for the decision:

This notice sets out the decision to extend the “Multiple Disadvantage Outreach Team” (MDOT) contract. A tender process was carried out in 2021 for a 15month contract plus one year extension and won by Change, Grow Live, Reading.

The contract was tendered in line with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules in 2021 to ensure the services procured for Reading offering the best value for money.

It was agreed at Policy Committee (12.07.2021) that the council enter a contract for a period of 15 months from Jan 2022, with the option to extend for one year. Delegated authority was granted to the Director of Adult & Health Care Services, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Health and the Director of Finance and the Head of Legal & Democratic Services.

This service is known locally as Multiple Disadvantage Outreach Team and is delivered from the Council’s property at 4 Waylen Street/127 Oxford Road, RG1 7UR.

The 12month extension is to take effect from 1st April 2023 to 30th March 2024.

It is necessary to ensure that the contract be extended to ensure no disruption to the provision of drug and alcohol services for those individuals experiencing and/or at risk of rough sleeping.

Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG)

Reading was awarded the Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) in 2021 to implement evidence-based drug and alcohol treatment and wrap around support

for people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough, including those with co-occurring mental health needs. Reading was awarded a further 2 years funding to March 2024.

The Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant is additional funding to support improvements in the quality and capacity of drug and alcohol treatment 2022/23 to 2024/25. Reading is eligible to receive these monies through a Section 31 grant.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant	£637,000	£737,665	£746,584

6. Alternative options considered (if any) and rejected:

- 1) Do not apply extension – Reading would need to find additional capacity within an already over capacity drug and alcohol treatment service. Local intelligence from service users tells us that these individuals are unlikely to engage in 9-5pm treatment services. Service users’ vulnerabilities will be at risk where change can disrupt engagement and treatment success. Reading Borough Council would be required to return the grant monies to Government. The inability to meet service demand would lead to potential but probably negative implications on the Borough both reputationally and as in-direct negative impact to other statutory and non-statutory services such as other Public Health, Housing and Community services.

- 2) The Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment grant spend must be signed off by Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities annually. All annual spend requires Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities sign off. The annual spend for 23/24 was agreed by Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities in December 2022, due to Reading re-profiling and re-designing the service based on service user and stakeholder involvement.

7. List of open Background Papers:

[Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant 2022 to 2024 funding allocations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers:

N/A

9. Any other matters taken into consideration:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legitimate expectation of consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> Procedural requirements |
|---|--|

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Health implications	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental or Climate Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management implications
<input type="checkbox"/> Transparency of Information (FOI etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Privacy Impact Assessments
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Act Duties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Parenting	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory duties	<input type="checkbox"/> EU withdrawal
<input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Covenant	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Details of the matters taken into account:

An equality impact analysis assessment has not been undertaken for this extension. An equality impact assessment had been completed in 2021 when the contract was procured. The re-profiling of the Multiple Disadvantage Outreach Team service in December 2022, included service user representation which informed us of a need for:

- Personalised outreach drug and alcohol support and interventions
- Improved communication amongst partners – health, social care and criminal justice
- Evening appointments and a flexible scripting pathway
- Reduced waiting times
- Fewer changes to keyworkers

Lived Experience is central to the delivery of this service and as such the Provider; Change Grow Live Reading is required to ensure service improvements and delivery continue to reflect strong service user engagement and co-production with lived experience groups and forums in Reading.

The extension will allow a more accessible service for this vulnerable cohort to be offered.

10. Legal considerations

The 12-month extension and delegation were included within the original Policy report in July 2021. The extension is a clause of the contract, and the Council is satisfied that the current Provider Change Grow Live is meeting the expectations of the contract, therefore, the delegation to award this extension is given to the Interim Executive Director – Adult Social Care & Health and can be awarded via this Officer delegation form, in consultation with Councillor McEwan, the Director of Finance and Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services.

The extension once drafted by Legal will include the obligation to operate in line with the Council’s newly required delivery model, agreed with Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities in December 2022.

The Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services will prepare the necessary legal documents with Change Grow Live Reading extending the existing contract for the period 1st April 2023 to 30th March 2024.

11. Financial considerations

Government announced up to £186.5 million for 2022 – 2024 in the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant.

Reading was successful in securing the Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment grant funding for the Multiple Disadvantage Outreach Team contract.

Conditions of this funding is that the spend is in accordance with the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant Scheme for which it is awarded and that the appropriate data and documentation is submitted to Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, when requested. The grant conditions state that the funding can only be spent in accordance with the proposal that has been submitted.

Grant payments will be awarded by Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to the Local Authority as a section 31 grant, under the Local Government Act 2003.

Risks – If we do not spend the grant monies, this will have to be returned to Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

12. Internal consultations

The proposal to extend the Contract has been discussed and agreed with Director of Public Health, Reading Public Health, and Change Grow Live Reading.

Sections 13- 18: To be completed only for Decision A (express delegation from a Committee)

13. The name of the Committee:	Policy Committee
14. Date of the meeting:	12 July 2021
15. Minute number:	19.
16. The delegation given by the Committee:	That the Executive Director Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Health, Wellbeing and Sport and the Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to award the new Rough Sleeper Grant Phase 2 contract for a period of up to four years commencing in January 2022
17. The name of any member of the committee who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:	N/A
18. Any councillor or officer required to be consulted prior to the exercise of	Councillor McEwan – agreed 3.7.23 Michael Graham, AD legal and Democratic – agreed 9.4.24

this delegation and details of their response.	
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