

# OFFICER DECISION NOTICE



**Reading**  
Borough Council  
*Working better with you*

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.

<b>1. Title of decision:</b>	Multiple Disadvantage Outreach Team (MDOT) Contract Extension
<b>2. Date of the decision:</b>	10 March 2025
<b>3. The decision maker:</b>	Executive Director of Communities & Adult Social Care

## **4. Decision details:**

Authorise the Multiple Disadvantage Outreach Team contract 18 months extension to the existing drug and alcohol treatment provider, Change, Grow, Live (CGL), who competitively bid to win the contract in 2023/24.

## **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 2023/24 for a 1year contract and 18months extension and won by Change, Grow Live, Reading.

The contract was tendered in line with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules in 2023/24 to ensure the services procured for Reading offering the best value for money.

It was agreed at Policy Committee (25 September 2023) that the Council enter a contract for a period of one year from April 2024, with the option to extend for 18 months.

Delegated authority was granted to the Executive Director of Communities & Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Education and Public Health.

The 18 month extension is to take effect from 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2026.

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.

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

The MDOT service is funded by the Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG).

- 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

<sup>1</sup>[Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant 2025 to 2026 funding allocations - GOV.UK](#)

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 25/26 was agreed by Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities in February 2025.

## 7. List of open Background Papers:

[Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant 2025 to 2026 funding allocations - GOV.UK](#)

[Printed minutes 25th-Sep-2023 18.30 Policy Committee.pdf](#)

## 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 2023/34 when the contract was procured.

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.

<sup>1</sup>[Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant 2025 to 2026 funding allocations - GOV.UK](#)

## **10. Legal considerations**

The 18 month extension and delegation were included within the original Policy report in September 2023. 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, Lead Councillor for Education and Public Health.

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 February 2025.

## **11. Financial considerations**

Government has announced £58.7 million for the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant for 2025 to 2026. This commitment will fund local areas 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.<sup>1</sup>

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)

<b>13. The name of the Committee:</b>	Policy Committee
<b>14. Date of the meeting:</b>	25 September 2023
<b>15. Minute number:</b>	26(2)

<sup>1</sup>[Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant 2025 to 2026 funding allocations - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rough-sleeping-drug-and-alcohol-treatment-grant-2025-to-2026-funding-allocations)

<b>16. The delegation given by the Committee:</b>	That the Executive Director of Communities & Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Education and Public Health, be authorised to award the new contract from 1 April 2024 and any extensions to the contract.
<b>17. The name of any member of the committee who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:</b>	N/A
<b>18. Any councillor or officer required to be consulted prior to the exercise of this delegation and details of their response.</b>	Lead Councillor for Education and Public Health