

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

meeting date: THURSDAY, 31 AUGUST 2023
title: SUPPLEMENTARY SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY (SSMTR) GRANT
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of a Lancashire County Council grant award that will provide additional housing support for households with drug and alcohol addiction/in recovery.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To meet the housing needs of all sections of the Community.
- Corporate Priorities – To match the supply of homes in our area with the identified housing needs.
- Other Considerations – To better support vulnerable people to meet their housing needs.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Lancashire County Council is responsible for commissioning drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services as part of their public health responsibilities. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is providing £154.3 million countrywide to upper tier and unitary authorities to improve services in line with the ambitions of the government's drug strategy. LCC have developed a plan following consultation with housing colleagues, recovery housing providers and the adult treatment system which proposes the following:

- Develop three women only supported housing projects – one each for central, east and north Lancashire.
- Develop a Lancashire wide housing 'floating support' project.
- Employ and embed 3 Housing Options workers- based within district housing teams and will to support them to address the needs of people with substance misuse issues.
- Employ a strategic housing lead.
- Deliver training and development to housing, health and treatment worker across the County.

2.2 The Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery (SSMTR) grant, aims to provide housing support interventions that will fit with the wider treatment and recovery ambitions, and support the outcomes of the Drug Strategy.

3 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (LCC) OFFER

- 3.1 As set out above LCC have developed a plan, which has been agreed with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities for their funding allocation. The two proposals particularly relevant to Ribble Valley are:
- 3.2 **Strategic housing lead post:** This post will lead the work across the Lancashire footprint and will map the provision of 'recovery housing' across Lancashire's 12 district housing options teams.
- 3.3 Currently there are numerous 'recovery housing ' providers in Lancashire that have little contact with either housing options teams or the treatment and recovery system. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the quality of support being offered is extremely variable and both housing options teams and the treatment providers have expressed concerns about the level of support offered to vulnerable people. This post will work with local providers to map provision and then to co-produce a local set of 'standards' -a quality mark. This post will also lead on developing insight and learning from the projects delivered under this programme and will disseminate the findings to the broader health, housing, and substance use treatment system.
- 3.4 **A Housing Options Worker for each of locality in Lancashire (north, central and east).** These staff will work across district housing options teams in each locality area and be hosted by one of the district councils. Hyndburn volunteered to be the host authority for the East which was agreed. They will work closely with the new strategic lead to map local need, housing options for people with substance dependency and will work to influence lettings policy of social and private landlords. They will also assist in viability studies into the provision of alternative forms of housing including floating support, housing first initiatives, recovery housing and the needs of people returning to the community post residential detoxification and rehabilitation.
- 3.5 These new roles will be provided by LCC, and it is believed will provide useful support to the Council's Housing Team, in relation to homeless presentations that have addiction issues, such presentations can require a lot of officer time. Once the Housing Options Worker is in post for the East locality, the Housing Team will ensure that the service is fully utilised, including referring any service users that have addiction issues.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 That Committee note the contents of the report.

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