**KHOG Briefing July 2022- Community Drug and Alcohol Services**

KCC will be receiving additional funds from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) from 2022-2025 to support access and quality within our community drug and alcohol services. The grants follow the Dame Carol Black review[[1]](#footnote-1), which was commissioned by the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social care to independently review drugs to inform thinking on what more can be done to tackle the harm that drugs cause. In 2021, a three-year funding package was been announced in the National [Drug Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives) to implement the recommendations outlined in the review through additional funding outside of the Public Health Grant to local authorities. This has led to several grants being implemented two of which are relevant and are detailed below.

* **Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)**

The aim of the SSMTRG is to increase the number of treatment places by 20% over a three-year trajectory. There is a particular focus on unmet need in our population for drug and alcohol treatment and targeting those under-represented. As well as expanding treatment capacity, there is an expectation that the grant will be invested in improving quality – including by reducing caseloads and increasing the professional staff mix. A large proportion of the SSMTG will go directly to the service providers delivering the front-line services.

Over the course of the 3-year grant period, we will be working closely with our Public Health Consultants and service providers to plan and evaluate where the additional resources will be targeted.

* **Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG)**

Canterbury and Thanet Districts have been selected for phase 3 of the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) from 2022 to 2025. This is a recognition of the high levels of rough sleepers these districts have. The funding and coordination of the grant have come directly to KCC as the focus of the grant is to improve access and engagement of rough sleepers in drug and alcohol treatment services. The grant should not be used to meet their housing needs.

Districts in Kent outside of Thanet and Canterbury will not receive this additional funding.

The funding is secured by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and managed and coordinated by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID).

Following meetings with other local authorities, District Commissioners, OHID and KCC Commissioners, we have identified that enhanced drug and alcohol support for rough sleepers will be met by the Rough Sleeper Initiative grant that Districts receive. However, there is a drug and alcohol support need for those at risk of homelessness, particularly those supported by Kent Homeless Connect which is due to be decommissioned. Commissioners are therefore planning to focus the RSDATG grant on those in supported accommodation at risk of homelessness.

*Community Drug and alcohol Service Providers:*

* *West Kent Adults: Change Grow Live (CGL) in Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Gravesend, Tonbridge & Malling, Sevenoaks and surrounding areas* [*https://www.changegrowlive.org/westkent*](https://www.changegrowlive.org/westkent)
* *East Kent Adults: The Forward Trust in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone, Thanet and Sittingbourne* [*www.eastkentdrugandalcohol.org.uk*](http://www.eastkentdrugandalcohol.org.uk/)
* *Young Person’s Service- Kent wide delivered by We Are With You* [*https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/kent-for-young-people/*](https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/kent-for-young-people/)

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-review-of-drugs-by-professor-dame-carol-black> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)