

DELEGATED DECISION BY CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND INEQUALITIES

16th September 2025

DETOXIFICATION AND RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH PROBLEMATIC SUBSTANCE USE – DYNAMIC APPROVED PROVIDER LIST (DAPL)

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Approve the contract extensions for the Detoxification and Residential Rehabilitation Services for Adults with Problematic Substance Use- Dynamic Approved Provider List (DAPL), provided by the providers appointed onto the DAPL, for a period of 2 years as allowed for in the original contracts.**

Executive Summary

1. Detoxification and Residential Rehabilitation Services for Adults with Problematic Substance Use, are provided by 17 providers across the United Kingdom. Each provider has passed the Council's governance and insurance criteria via a procurement in 2021, to be awarded a DAPL contract to provide these services for Oxfordshire residents.
2. The current four-year contract ends on 30 April 2026. A decision on enacting the extension option in the contract must be made before 31 January 2026. The recommended two-year extension period would commence on 01 May 2026 until 30 April 2028.
3. Funding for these placements comes from Public Health (PH) and a small contribution from external grants. The contract value across all 17 providers is anticipated to be circa £1,013,000 per annum in total.

Background

4. The aim of residential detoxification and rehabilitation services is to provide comprehensive clinical detoxification treatment and/or rehabilitation for highly vulnerable people with complex substance use issues who are unable to achieve abstinence in the community, due to complex physical or mental health needs, entrenched behaviours or complexities in their social circumstances.
5. Placements made under the DAPL are funded by the Public Health Grant, a small allocation from external grants, Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol

Treatment Grant (RSDATG), the Supplementary Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG), and Adult Social Care (ASC).

6. Our community alcohol and drug treatment service supports many individuals, but those with complex health issues or challenging social circumstances may require residential treatment to prevent harm.

Service delivery

7. Residential detoxification provides medical support for safe withdrawal from substances, while rehabilitation focuses on addressing underlying issues and developing strategies for long-term recovery through counselling, education, and support. Placements are usually between 2-4 weeks for detoxification and 12 weeks for rehabilitation.
8. The DAPL comprises 17 providers which offer different styles of detoxification/rehabilitation programmes in a range of geographical locations predominately outside of Oxfordshire. This allows for the placement of people on a basis that supports individual needs and preferences, increasing the likelihood of successful completion.
9. Public Health implements a comprehensive monitoring and quality assurance framework, including on-site provider visits, to ensure that all services for this complex group are delivered to contractual standards and are registered with and overseen by the relevant national care quality bodies in England, Wales, or Scotland.

Benefits of Extension

10. Extending the contract ensures continuity of service for community alcohol and drug services, maintains high-quality service delivery, avoids disruption for people accessing residential treatment, and supports the Council's strategic aims of protecting vulnerable residents and improving health outcomes.
11. Prices for placements are fixed under the DAPL. Extending the contract is the most cost-effective option for the Council as it fixes pricing at the 2025-2026 level with any uplifts being at the discretion of the Council.

Business need

12. The Council is responsible for providing residential services as part of an effective alcohol and drug treatment system, and in line with the OHID Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant, is expected to send at least 2% of the treatment population to residential rehabilitation treatment.

Strategic Alignment

13. Provision of an alcohol and drug service, and DAPL services are aligned with the Oxfordshire County Council Strategic Plan 2023-2025¹ by tackling inequalities in Oxfordshire and prioritising the health and wellbeing of residents, as well as the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030² by reducing the impact of ill-health through provision of alcohol advice and treatment.
14. Extending the DAPL contract enables delivery of enhanced substance use support to vulnerable populations, in line with the 10-year national alcohol and drug strategy '*From Harm to Hope*', and meets local strategic priorities overseen by the Oxfordshire Combating Drugs Partnership of reducing drug and alcohol related deaths and increasing the number of people in effective treatment and becoming drug free.

Financial Implications

15. The extension term recommended is 24 months. At the current funding level, the total value of the extension would be circa £2,026,000 for the full 24 months.
16. This would be expected to be funded as previously done by the Public Health Funds and external grants as outlined in the Background section - point 7 if they are confirmed beyond 2025-26. Additional funding, if needed, will come from Public Health underspends in-year.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

17. The Council has the statutory power to undertake the substance use services delivered by this contract under section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
18. The Council has the right within the DAPL contracts to extend the term for up to 24 months upon 3 months' written notice upon the same terms and conditions and has the right to terminate the DAPL contracts at any time upon 6 months' written notice.

Comments checked by:

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Staff Implications

19. The Live Well Improve and Enable Substance Use Team within the Public Health and Community Safety Directorate will continue to performance manage the contract.

¹ [Oxfordshire County Council - Our strategic plan 2023-2025](#)

² [Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030](#)

Equality & Inclusion Implications

20. Issues with substance use are not equally distributed within the population. Strong links exist between deprivation, adverse childhood experiences and substance use, with increased risk of poor outcomes borne by vulnerable populations such as people who are homeless, sex-workers and those in contact with the criminal justice system. This service addresses the wider determinants of health, identified in regular needs assessments, by targeting services and aiming to ensure equality of access. They provide non-judgmental and accessible psychosocial and clinical services across Oxfordshire, engaging vulnerable groups and those not currently accessing services through targeted assertive outreach and engagement activities to ensure improved outcomes for these populations.
21. An Equalities Impact Assessment for the service was completed in July 2025.
22. A Climate Impact Assessment Summary was completed in July 2025; a full Climate Impact Assessment is not required for this service.

Risk Management

23.

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Letting contract naturally expire and not re-procuring the contract	vulnerable people may find it difficult or impossible to access appropriate support to become substance free; potential for loss of income, increase in debt, reduction in wellbeing, and risk of significant harm	Medium	Continue to provide DAPL services and progress proposed contract extension
Activity based contract, so there is the risk of an increase in demand and costs beyond estimated amounts	insufficient funds to meet demands.	Low	Continued monitoring of the Contract spend over the course of the extension period to forecast any significant increase in cost and plan to address this, .
Some providers choose to end their contract with the Council rather than enter into an extension	Possible gaps in service delivery in some areas Possible impact on partners and other Service Providers	Medium	Extend current contract in a timely manner and communicate to all existing providers. The DAPL is an open agreement, so new providers can be encouraged to apply to deliver services DAPL, Working closely with continuing providers to ensure they can provide the capacity of services required.
Budgetary reductions during extension period	Insufficient funds to meet demand	Low	The service contract includes, as a safeguard, a provision entitling the Council to terminate the purchasing terms or reduce the services, on written notice to the Service Providers, where the Council's funding is reduced.

Key Dates / Next Steps

24. The current contract expires on 30 April 2026.
25. Should extension of the current contract be approved, the contract requires a 3-month Extension Notice Period, which would therefore be required by 31 January 2026.

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Director Public Health and Communities

Background papers:
Nil

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