

**Officer Decision Record Template**

Record of Decision of Phil Hollingsworth  
Service Director, Safer Stronger Healthier Communities,  
Communities Directorate

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**Subject**

Approval to provide additional funding to the contracted provider of substance misuse services. This is to offset the shortfall in the prescribing budget due to an increase in the cost of buprenorphine during 2018-19.

**Description of goods & services**

A significant budget pressure has been placed on the substance misuse contract for 2018-19 due to an increase in the price of buprenorphine. The contract value for drug treatment services was based on the previously lower medication costs.

Barnsley Recovery Steps (service provider is Humankind Charity) currently prescribe generic buprenorphine to individuals as part of their drug treatment programme. The cost of prescribing such drugs sits within the overall contract value with Humankind Charity. Due to a rise in the cost of buprenorphine the prescribing budget for 2018-19 increased substantially leaving the provider with a cost pressure of £182,138.

Buprenorphine is used to treat opioid dependence (addiction to opioid drugs, including heroin and narcotic painkillers) and prevents withdrawal symptoms when someone stops taking opioid drugs by producing similar effects to these drugs.

Buprenorphine is a National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) recommended treatment (NICE). There is a legal obligation under the NHS Constitution for the NHS and local authority public health services to fund and resource medicines and treatments recommended by NICE if a doctor says they are clinically appropriate for a patient.

This is a national problem that all local authorities and service providers are facing due to a shortage of the drug being manufactured by pharmaceutical companies in the last financial year.

**Authority**

Authorised by the Service Director (Safer Stronger Healthier Communities) following discussion with the Executive Director, Communities in accordance with the scheme of delegation. This was following the decision to approve the additional funding by the Senior Management Team in their meeting of 16 July 2019.

Decision Taken

To provide additional funding of £182,138 to Humankind as the contracted provider of substance misuse services to meet the shortfall in the prescribing budget incurred as a result of the increased cost of buprenorphine.

Date of Decision

15<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Signature

(Insert Officer name)



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(Insert more Officer names as required)

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Signature

Cabinet Spokesperson

(if required)

Scan / email the completed form and appendices to the Council Governance Unit and keep the original on the project file