

Proposal for the use of Section 31 grant funding to support stop smoking services

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Public Health

Directorate: Health and Care

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Date of Decision: July 2026

1. Power to make the decision

The decision is being taken under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.

2. Decision Sought

For 2026/27, funding for smoking cessation is ringfenced in the Section 31 Public Health Grant. We are required to allocate £680,030 of this grant to smoking cessation services. In addition to the £356,960 included in core funding of the integrated health improvement service Your Health Oldham, it is proposed that an additional £323,070 is provided to the same service.

3. Reason for urgency

The funding has been allocated for the year 26/27. This decision needs to be taken as soon as possible so that it can be allocated to the community smoking cessation service provider by a process in line with procurement regulations.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

If this decision is not taken forward, Oldham council will not meet the conditions of the Section 31 Public Health Grant due to the shortfall in spend ringfenced for tobacco. The

community stop smoking provider will receive reduced funding, which will impact delivery and outcomes for Oldham residents.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

This funding has been ringfenced for smoking cessation services only. If it is not appropriately allocated, it will be returned to OHID.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 1 July 2026
Comments

For the financial year 2026/27, the Council has received £680,030 of funding for smoking cessation via the Public Health Grant. This expenditure is included within the 2026/27 Public Health Plan and will be fully funded through the Section 31 Smoke Free Generation Grant, with no adverse impact on the Public Health budget. The award of the additional funding will ensure the Council is compliance with specified grant conditions of the Public Health Grant.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name Alex Bougatef
Date: 8th July 2026
Comments

The exercise of emergency powers should be undertaken in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council. However, the Council has not yet appointed a Leader or Deputy Leader for the current municipal year, it is therefore not possible to consult them. In addition, there is no certainty about when a Leader or Deputy Leader will be appointed as the Council has failed at three successive meetings to do so. For the reasons given in the report an urgent decision relating to the report is required and it cannot wait until the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader at some undetermined future date.