

SUBJECT: Support for Care Providers – Allocation of the Infection Control Fund Grant

BRIEF SUMMARY

1. On the 15th May 2020 Government announced that £600 million was to be made available in the form of the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund. The primary purpose of this fund is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience. A small percentage of it may be used to support domiciliary care providers and support wider workforce resilience to deal with COVID-19 infections.
2. The funding is to be paid as a Section 31 grant ring fenced exclusively for actions which support care homes and domiciliary care providers mainly to tackle the risk of Covid19 infections and is in addition to funding already received, with any unused funds returned to Government.
3. The Infection Control Fund grant cannot be used to substitute any expenditure already incurred or funds agreed as earmarked by the local authority such as the £2.5m for the Provider Market Financial Sustainability – Temporary Uplift documented in the Cabinet Report agreed on the 4th May 2020.

Infection Control Fund to Southampton Council

4. Southampton City Council have been awarded £2,025,271 for this purpose. The grant conditions require 75% of the grant, £1,518,953 is passported directly to home care providers, and 25%, £506,317 on other areas at the council's discretion.
5. The report seeks permission to delegate authority to the Executive Director Wellbeing (Health and Adults), following consultation with the Cabinet Member (Health and Adults), to administer the Council's discretionary element of the allocation (25%) of the Infection Control Fund in line with the Government guidelines and local market conditions at this time.

Allocation of the Infection Control Fund: 75%

6. The initial payments of this money are being made as a grant to care homes across the country, in line with government grant conditions. Each council is expected to pass through the first 75%, in Southampton's case this totals £1,518,953 of this grant payable on a per bed basis to homes in their local area. The funding provides support for homes regardless of their mix of clients (whether public funded or private payers). The funding has conditions attached, is payable in two phases (in June and July) and is restricted to measures to support staff when they are unable to work, limiting staff to working in only one home, and supporting the recruitment travel and accommodation arrangements of staff where necessary to prevent infection from spreading.

Allocation of the Infection Control Fund: 25%

7. The final 25% of the government grant, totalling £506,317, provides the council with greater discretion on use, while still targeted on infection control in the care sector. The report seeks permission that the discretion to award the 25% of this funding is delegated to the Executive Director Wellbeing (Health & Adults), following consultation with the Cabinet Member (Health and Adults), after consideration of the local market conditions at this time, the costs of infection prevention and control measures required within the care sector and the ongoing needs expected.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Allocation of the 75% of the Infection Control Fund

8. The Adult Social Care Infraction Control Fund conditions states that local authority **must** ensure that funding which it allocates is allocated on condition that the recipient care provider:
- uses it for the measures described above only;
 - provides the local authority with a statement certifying that that they have spent the funding on those measures by 23 September 2020;
 - if requested provide evidence that the funding has been so spent with an explanation of any matter relating to funding and its use, and
 - return any funds which are not spent on those measures.

Processes have been put in place to ensure that conditions above are met.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

9. The statutory powers to undertake the recommendation in this report are set out in the Infection Control Fund Grant Local Government circular 22nd May 2020.

OPTIONS

10. The Infection Control Fund grant conditions set outs the Local authority's responsibility to administer the fund and the timescale to be met in the administration of the fund and verification of spend of the fund, if so, requested from the provider.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

11. There is minimal risk related to the first 75% of the infection control fund monies as these are allocated on a formula from the government.
12. There is minimal risk at this stage in respect of the 25% additional funding. Priorities are identified. However, failure to spend this resource will result in money being returned to the government.

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