

# URGENT ITEM

Agenda Item No:

## Allocation of Adult Social Care Omicron Support Funding in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

To: Adults and Health Committee

Meeting Date: 13 January 2022

From: Charlotte Black, Executive Director of People and Communities

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: 2022/033

Outcome: The grant conditions stipulate this funding is being brought in for January 2022 and should be distributed as soon as possible. An urgent decision is therefore required to ensure grant agreement processes can be implemented and funding distributed within the timescales set.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to:

- a) approve the recommended allocation of the Adult Social Care Omicron Support Fund, which have been issued by central government on a one-off basis to cover spend from January 2022 and to spent as soon as possible, where this falls in line with grant conditions set.
- b) delegate future decisions relating to the distribution of urgent Government grant funding, where it is not practical to wait until the next committee meets, to the Executive Director of People and Communities in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.

### Officer contact:

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### Member contacts:

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 Acknowledging the ongoing cost of adhering to infection control guidance and in response to the additional pressures associated with the new Omicron strain of COVID-19, on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the Government announced £60m of additional funding to support the adult social care sector with infection prevention and control measures. Local allocations and government guidance on the grant were published on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. These funds have been issued on a one-off basis and the allocation for Cambridgeshire County Council is £581,014.
- 1.2 This funding is in addition to existing government grant; including the Infection Control and Testing funding and the Workforce Capacity Fund (Rounds 1 and 2). Due to the specific conditions and purpose of the grant, it is also in addition to the market pressures funding proposals being presented to this January Committee. Therefore, the recommendation contained within this report does not impact on any other recommendations the committee is being asked to consider today.
- 1.3 The notification of the Government grant was announced after the publication of the Adults and Health Committee agenda. Officers have therefore followed the relevant extracts in the Council's Constitution relating to urgent decisions by committee when an agenda has already been published. The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the item does meet the urgency criteria and the Chair of the Committee has been informed of the urgent action needed to distribute this funding in this financial year. As this item is also a key decision, the Chair has sought agreement from the Vice-Chair of Council to take the decision.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The purpose of the funding is to support the adult social care sector with measures already covered by the infection control allocation of the Infection Control and Testing Fund (round 3) to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care settings through effective infection prevention control practices.
- 2.2 Local authorities have discretion to use the funding as needed locally to support the adult social care sector. Local Authorities are expected to consider the following as appropriate uses of the grant:
  - ensuring that staff who are isolating in line with government guidance receive their normal wages and do not lose income while doing so
  - paying for temporary cover for staff who are unable to work because they are unwell due to COVID-19 and/or are isolating in line with government guidance, in order to maintain safe workforce capacity in care services
  - paying for temporary staffing (overtime or agency) to maintain safe staffing levels
  - limiting staff movement between settings in line with the latest guidance, to help reduce the spread of infection – this includes staff who work for one provider across several settings, staff that work on a part-time basis for multiple employers and agency staff
  - limiting or cohorting staff to individual groups of people receiving care, including segregation of COVID-19 positive residents in care homes

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- steps to limit the use of public transport by members of staff
- providing accommodation for staff who proactively choose to stay separate from their families in order to limit social interaction outside work
- support to providers in purchasing CO2 monitors or air cleaners for use in care homes to monitor and improve ventilation
- enhancing local authorities' current direct payment offer to support care provided by friends and family, including any additional support the carer may need to assist them to continue in their caring role
- providing additional support to care homes or other providers that are currently experiencing an outbreak to ensure that they are able to put in place sufficient IPC measures
- providing support to community groups and paying volunteer expenses

2.3 The funding is being paid in full to the Council in January 2022 and the expectation is that the funding is used as quickly as possible. Reporting requirements and conditions have been minimised to help facilitate this.

2.4 Use of the funding by providers needs to be spent on the COVID-19 response in line with the government guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-omicron-support-fund/adult-social-care-omicron-support-fund-guidance> ).

2.5 Following ongoing consultations with local providers, care associations, other Councils from across the region and public health, it is recommended to allocate 100% of the funds direct to providers. This will include CQC registered care homes and CQC registered community providers of domiciliary care, extra care and supported living. The grant will be allocated to providers on a per unit basis.

2.6 In the event of an underspend of the grant, the Council will review the proportion of underspend in each allocation and reappportion across all grant recipients.

2.7 The notification of this grant funding does not always coincide with meetings of the Adults and Health Committee. Given the need to allocate this funding quickly, it is proposed that the Committee delegate authority to distribute urgent Government grant funding, where it is not practical to wait until the next committee meets, to the Executive Director of People and Communities in consultation with Spokes.

## 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

### 3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 3.2 A good quality of life for everyone

Distribution of this funding will help to support the safe and quality provision of adult social care provision throughout the pandemic, enabling people to be supported in the right way, in the right place at the right time, ensuring the best outcomes for people.

### 3.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full

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There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment  
There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us  
There are no significant implications for this priority.

## 4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications  
The report above sets out details of significant implications in paragraph 2.5

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications  
There are no significant implications for this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications  
There are no significant implications for this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications  
There are no significant implications for this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications  
There are no significant implications for this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement  
There are no significant implications for this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications  
There are no significant implications for this category.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas:

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.  
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral  
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.  
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral  
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.  
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral  
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.  
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral  
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this

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4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Justine Hartley

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement? Yes

Name of Officer: Henry Swan

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?

Yes

Name of Officer: Charlotte Black

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes

Name of Officer: Matthew Hall

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Charlotte Black

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Kate Parker

If a Key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

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## 5. Source documents guidance

### 5.1 Adult Social Care Omicron Support Fund: Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-omicron-support-fund/adult-social-care-omicron-support-fund-guidance>

### 5.2 Council Constitution

[Council Constitution - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)