

Infection Control Fund

To: Adults Committee

Meeting Date: 10th December 2020

From: Executive Director for People and Communities

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: 2020/061

Key decision: Yes

Outcome: Adults Committee are being asked to consider the allocation of the Infection Control Grant. The grant aims to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience.

Recommendation: Adults Committee are asked to:

agree the recommended allocation of the discretionary element of the Infection Control Grant. This will see 20% of the fund distributed to CQC Registered Community Providers, providers of commissioned Day Services who remain open and operational and commissioned Housing Related Support provision.

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1. Background

- 1.1 In September 2020, Officers updated Adults Committee on the purpose and allocation of the Infection Control Grant to providers of adult social care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognising that adherence to infection control guidance continues to have significant cost implications on service delivery across adult social care, central government have announced an extension to Infection Control Funding until the end of March 2021. This equates to £5,429,954 in Cambridgeshire. 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.
- 1.2 Central Government specified the fund be allocated in accordance with guidance issued:
- 80% of the funding should be allocated to:
 - Care Quality Commission (CQC) Registered Care Home providers on a per bed basis amounting to £683 per bed, and
 - CQC Registered Community Providers on a per user basis. This equates to £269 per user.
 - Local Authorities have been given discretion to allocate 20% of the funding to providers operating within the wider market to take additional steps to tackle the risk of COVID-19 infections.
- 1.3 Use of the funding by providers needs to comply with clear guidance outlined by central government. The funding is being released in two equal instalments in October 2020 and December 2020. The Council will seek to redistribute any funding remaining unclaimed by providers across the same service category of providers on release of the second instalment in January 2021.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Officers have sought the views of a wide range of internal and external stakeholders to inform the recommended allocation of the discretionary element of the fund. This has included local providers and care associations as well as operational and public health colleagues.
- 2.2 Feedback has indicated that since the last infection control fund was issued, local day services have reopened and are now supporting a significant number of people and will therefore also be managing the costs associated with implementing required infection control measures. Whilst lockdown measures announced in November 2020 have reduced this slightly, many continue to deliver services. Housing related support providers are also managing the impact of this and have not received any additional funding to date. The continuation of both service areas are critical. Day services not only enable and support people to increase their independence and reduce isolation. These services also provide vital support and respite for carers during what is, and will continue to be, a very challenging time. It has also never been more important to provide support to people to enable them to maintain their accommodation arrangement. Housing related support services responsible for this often have to manage complex and challenging behaviours for which maintaining infection control measures is key.

2.3 However, CQC Registered Community Providers continue to provide care and support to a large volume of people with often very complex needs within their own home. The costs associated with maintaining infection control measures within multiple settings are significant and increasing.

2.2 With this in mind, it is recommended that the remaining discretionary element of the fund, equating to £1,085,991, is split equally between all CQC Registered Community Providers, Day Service providers and Housing Related Support services commissioned by the Council for adults on a per person basis:

- CQC Registered Community Providers – This group of providers are already receiving support under the non-discretionary element of the fund. This allocation will be increased by £542,995 bringing the total allocation per service user to £294.75.
- Commissioned Day Services and Housing Related Support – The total funding allocation to these providers will amount to £542,995. This will equate to £276.76 per service user across commissioned providers.

2.3 To ensure adherence to state aid regulations, as well as conditions of the grant funding, all providers will be required to review and disclose any state aid implications and confirm adherence to the grant conditions prior to the award of allocated funds.

2.4 As this is a key decision, the discretionary element of the grant will be distributed in one lump sum rather than across two instalments in January 2021 following the key decision being taken by Adults Committee.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone
There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live
There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children
There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050
There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications
The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Grant Funding has been awarded by central government so will come at no additional cost to the Council. The Council have the ability to recover and redistribute sums should an error based on the information provided be made.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications
The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The Grant carries with it a number of conditions and could have implications under state aid regulations. An outline of how this is being managed is within paragraph 2.3

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The Grant carries with it a number of conditions and could have implications under state aid regulations. An outline of how this is being managed is within paragraph 2.3

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

| Implications | Officer Clearance |
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| Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? | Yes Name of Financial Officer: Stephen Howarth |
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| Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? | Yes Name of Officer: Gus De Silva |
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| 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 |
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| Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact? | Yes Name of Officer: Will Patten |
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| Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? | Yes Name of Officer: Matthew Hall |
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| Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? | Yes Name of Officer: Will Patten |
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| Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health | Yes Name of Officer: Emily Smith |
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5. Source documents

5.1 Source documents - none