

## Infection Control Funding

To: Adults and Health Committee

Meeting Date: 24 June 2021

From: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn - Executive Director for People and Communities.

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: N/A

Outcome: Adults and Health Committee are being asked to note the allocation of the Infection Control and Rapid Testing Grants. The grants aims to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes, support wider workforce resilience as well as the roll out of lateral flow testing

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Adults and Health Committee:

note the decision made under emergency powers by the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council to allocate the discretionary elements of the Infection Control and Rapid Testing Funds provided by central government.

### Officer contact:

Name: Shauna Torrance  
Post: Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning  
Email: [shauna.torrance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:shauna.torrance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07887 631 808

### Member contacts:

Names: Councillors Howitt and van de Ven  
Post: Chair/Vice-Chair  
Email: [Richard.Howitt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Howitt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk), [susanvandenven5@gmail.com](mailto:susanvandenven5@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01223 706398

# 1. Background

1.1 Adherence to infection control guidance put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has had significant cost implications on service delivery across adult social care. In recognition of this, central government have released several rounds of grant funding throughout 2020/21 and into 2021/22. The funding essentially seeks to preserve choice and continuity of care for people in receipt of Adult Social Care Services through sustaining the independent sector in the face of increasing financial pressure. Responsibility for distributing grant funding to independent sector providers of these services has been given to the local authority with guidance stipulating this should be completed in a timely manner.

1.2 The latest round of Infection Control and Rapid Testing Funding were announced in March 2021. Both funds have been issued on a one-off basis and the table below outlines the level of funding received by Cambridgeshire County Council:

Infection Control Funding	Rapid Testing Funding
£2,007,140	£1,355,490

Table 1: Total grant allocation

1.3 Infection Control covers any activity which is focused on reducing the spread or transmission of a virus or disease such as COVID-19. In practical terms, this could include the use of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), increasing the frequency of cleaning and decontamination, the use of single use equipment, use of self-isolation to manage cases of the virus amongst staffing groups delivering support and cohorting of staff within settings to manage spread where a service user has tested positive. All of the above have significant cost implications for the sector whether that been increasing the volume of PPE or equipment ordered, or funding required to secure additional staff to cover for periods of isolation required.

1.4 The purpose of the funding is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority doesn't contract, to:

- Reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care settings through effective infection prevention control practices and increase uptake of staff vaccinations; and
- Conduct additional rapid testing of staff and visitors in care homes, high risk supported living and extra care settings, to enable close contact visiting where possible.

Central Government has specified the funding be allocated in accordance guidance issued and also outlined within Table 2 below:

Fund	Mandatory	Discretionary
Infection Control Fund	70% to CQC Registered Care Homes and Community Providers	30% local authority discretion to support other measures for the care sector, including supporting other care settings (e.g. community and day support

		services) or to support resilience of providers experiencing an outbreak.
Rapid Testing Fund	60% of the allocation to CQC Registered Care Homes on a per bed basis.	40% local authority discretion to support the rollout of lateral flow testing in extra care and supported living settings as well as other settings as identified by the Council.

Table 2: Grant Conditions

- 1.5 Use of the funding by providers needs to comply with clear guidance outlined by central government. Compliance with the conditions set will be assured through the use of a grant agreement. All local authorities have been given a directive to passport the funding through to services quickly to support the sustainability of the sector, with a completion date of 30th June 2021 being stipulated.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Officers sought the views of a wide range of internal and external stakeholders to inform the recommended allocation of the discretionary element of these funds. This has included local providers and care associations as well as internal teams.

This has resulted in an approach to allocation which aligns to previous iterations of the grant funding awarded. As these funds needed to be allocated and spent by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, a decision was made under emergency powers by the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council to allocate the funding in line with the breakdown shown within Table 3 below. An urgent decision has enabled the grant agreement process to be implemented and funding to be distributed to the market within the timescales set.

Fund	Amount	Discretionary
Infection Control Fund	£602,142	CQC Registered Community providers of domiciliary care, extra care and supported living as well as providers commissioned by the Council to deliver Day Services which are open and operational and Housing Related Support. The grant will be allocated to these providers on a per unit basis.
Rapid Testing Fund	£542,196	Extra Care and Supported Living providers in line with grant conditions set. Allocation will also be extended to voluntary sector providers commissioned by the Council where they are actively engaged in lateral flow testing outside of the wider community offer.

Table 3: Allocation of the discretionary elements of the grant funding

2.3 The Council need to ensure we comply with the United Kingdom's (UK) international obligations on subsidy control within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy published on 31 December 2020. The Department for Health and Social Care considers that this grant and the measures it intends to support are consistent with the UK's international obligations on subsidy control. This is because the measures will help to detect COVID, hence reducing its incidence and spread, and are over and above that which care providers would normally be expected to provide.

### 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.

3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

Implication are outlined in paragraph 1.1

### 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 service budgets the Council. However, the Council have had to absorb and prioritise the administration of these grants within the Contract Management Team. The Council have the ability to recover and redistribute sums should an error based on the information provided be made.
- In the event of an underspend of either grant, the Council will review the proportion of underspend in each allocation and reapportion across all grant recipients.

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. An outline of how this is being managed is within paragraph 1.4

#### 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. An outline of how this is being managed is within paragraph 1.4.

The change to state aid requirements has been outlined 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.

#### 4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas (See further guidance in Appendix 2):

##### 4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation:

##### 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Positive/neutral/negative Status:

Explanation:

##### 4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation:

##### 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation:

##### 4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation:

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation:

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:

## Implications

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Stephen Howarth

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS 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: Will Patten

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: Will Patten

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Smith

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

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

## 5. Source documents guidance

5.1 None