



**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL  
DECISION**

**DECISION OF:** SECTION 151 OFFICER

**WITH ADVICE FROM:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

**DIRECTORATE:** PEOPLE

**DECISION NO:** 008  
(2020/21 ASC: COVID-19 EMERGENCY CONTROL)

**SUBJECT:** COVID-19: Infection Control Fund (ICF) Allocation to Adult Care Providers

**KEY DECISION:** YES

**REASON**

An emergency decision (decision number 007) was taken 23 October and reported to Cabinet 3 November 2020 on the allocation of part of the Covid19 Infection Control Grant Fund of £3,652,730. This decision allocated £1,461,093 to support adult social care providers with infection control measures. This second follow up emergency decision allocates a further 20% of the grant and in line with the Scheme of Delegation will be reported to Cabinet as part of the Budget Monitoring Report P7.

The second round of the Infection Control Fund makes available £3,652,730 to Bristol City Council to support adult social care providers with infection control measures. The conditions for the fund require that it is allocated in two tranches on the following basis.

The first 80% allocation to care homes and CQC registered community care providers (so mainly domiciliary care and extra care housing providers) within Bristol area (whether contracted with BCC or not). Authorisation has already been made to distribute this and payments have been processed

This decision relates to the other 20% of the funding, amounting to £730,546 which must also be used to support care providers to take additional steps to tackle the risk of COVID-19 infections but can be allocated at the local authority's discretion.

**BACKGROUND**

Between May and September 2020 BCC distributed £4.025m of Infection Control Fund monies to Bristol based providers. The second round of ICF was announced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. The 80% is allocated as follows:

Care Homes are allocated 70% based on bed numbers taken from the NHS Capacity Tracker.

Monies for Community CQC Regulated Community Care Providers allocated 30% based on 'people using service' numbers from the CQC homecare survey which is displayed on LGA Inform database.

The Infection Prevention and Control measures are listed in full here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-infection-control-fund-round-2/adult-social-care-infection-control-fund-round-2-guidance>

For the 20% there is more discretion:

Local authorities must use 20% of the funding to support the care sector to put in place other COVID-19 infection control measures but this can be allocated at their discretion. A non-exhaustive list of wider measures that this could include is below.

Providing support on the IPC measures outlined above to a broader range of care settings, including, but not limited to:

- community and day support services (the department would like local authorities to consider using this fund to put in place infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to support the resumption of services)
- other non-CQC regulated residential settings
- carers support services
- individuals who directly employ one or more personal assistants to meet their care needs
- individuals who are in receipt of direct payments
- the voluntary sector
- paying care staff their usual wages in order to attend a GP or pharmacy to be vaccinated against flu outside of their normal working hours
- measures the local authority could put in place to boost the resilience and supply of the adult social care workforce in their area to support effective infection control

Proposals from Adult Care are based on our ongoing intelligence about impact on providers, including our recent Service Continuity and Care Management Review self assessment, signed off by Mike Jackson. In looking at the 20% of the overall round over which we have discretion, Officers are proposing to further segment this discretionary amount as follows:

<b>Overall round 2 £3,652,730</b>		
80% £2,922,184	Decision already made and monies distributed to care homes and Dom Care in line with national stipulation	
20% discretionary total amount £730,546	£511k	Supported Living Providers within City Boundaries
	£200k	Non regulated community support services
	£10,696	Employment of 0.5 FTE BG12 Senior Contracts Officer 5 months to support providers with use of and reporting on, use of ICF funds to build resilience, and oversee associated work including peer support and updating of outbreak plans.
	£8,850	Budget to provide support to providers, through the production and distribution of information, virtual events, peer support and support to individual providers.
£3,652,730	£730,546	

The Officer proposal is that the discretionary 20% is distributed in Bristol on the following basis:

**£511,000 for supported living settings**

Supported Living providers face the same challenges as residential care homes, but are not regulated by CQC and have been continually under-represented in national policy. In our recent Self Assessment Supported Living providers were our area of highest concern due to demand and supply issues. In line with guidance, this funding will be distributed on basis of all supported living providers in Bristol, regardless of who funds each resident. We are therefore proposing to spend a large percentage (70%) of this discretionary amount on supported living.

The remaining discretionary fund to be used as follows:

**£200,000 for non regulated services that support people in the community under our “Community Support Services”**

This does not include building based day care providers whom we have provided additional support for in other ways. It does include services such as access to the community and services that enable

carers to have a short break by supporting the person they care for. These services were also an area of concern in our self assessment, because of the need to better support unpaid family carers.

**£10,696 to be retained by Bristol City Council to employ a 0.5 FTE BG12 senior contract post for 5 months** (projected cost £10,696.50 for top of scale post) to:

- Support providers to make the monthly returns now required and for BCC to make our return on the basis of that (this is a considerable new burden with the second tranche of monies).
- Ensure access to advice and information for all providers, DP holders and family carers on issues relating to infection control. This will include supporting providers to ensure they are able to plan their rotas etc to address infection control issues including the need to isolate staff etc.

**£8,850 fund to support infection control information and practise**

The holding of a pool that can be used to support the resilience of specific providers, should we experience major outbreaks, including supporting further access to agency staffing. Continual production and update of outbreak management plans, and associated actions, including provider peer support, training etc.

Usage of this pool would be in line with our outbreak management plans co- produced with public health and providers, so has transparency with providers.

**DECISION**

1. To authorise the allocation of the 20% of Infection Control Fund monies totalling £730,546 to be distributed in two tranches, and allocated as follows:

	<b>Tranche 1 (November)</b>	<b>Tranche 2 (December)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Supported Living	£255,500	£255,500	£511,000
Community based providers of non regulated support (Access to Community/ Carers Support)	£100,000	£100,000	£200,000
Additional staff Support for infection control measures to be retained by Bristol City Council	£5,348	£5,348	£10,696
Pool for further targeted infection control and contingency measures to support specific providers with infection control measures	£4,425	£4,425	£8,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>£365,273</b>	<b>£365,273</b>	<b>£730,546</b>

2. To authorise the creation of and recruitment of a 5 month fixed term, part time, Senior Contracts Officer (BG12) to support this work.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The second round of ICF totalling £3.6m will be received in two instalments, 50% already received on 1<sup>st</sup> October and the remaining 50% balance is scheduled for receipt in December. The DHSC expect the grant will be fully spent on infection control measures (as outlined in the grant determination letter) by 31 March 2021. DNSC are clear that ‘spent’ means that expenditure has been incurred on or before 31 March.

The Grant Circular includes a reporting templates and the second round will require monthly returns.

## **LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

The Council has a duty to support the care market and ensure capacity and sustainability.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **CONSULTATION**

Discussions have taken place with care providers.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk of claw back of the Allocation has been addressed by:

- Allocating all monies.
- Agreement to be returned signed advising that in order to retain monies they must be used for infection control sent to providers.
- Providers must continue to use the NHS Capacity Tracker or CQC homecare survey at least once week and this will be monitored by ASC. Both record COVID and infection control related data.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? ~~Yes~~ / No

An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

None, other than those already highlighted

This decision is being taken under the urgency/emergency powers provided in the Council's Constitution and scheme of delegation.

The Head of Paid Service and / or Section 151 Officer can take emergency action on behalf of the Council on any matter in cases of urgency or emergency, wherever possible in consultation with the Mayor or Deputy Mayor for Finance, Governance and Performance and subject to a full report as soon as possible afterwards to the relevant forum explaining the decision, the reasons for it and why the decision was treated as a matter of urgency.

## **SIGNATORIES**

### **DECISION MAKER**

Signed:



Hugh Evans

Note: If electronic signature used email from Director confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached

**S151 Officer**

Title: **Director of Finance/s151 Officer**

Signed:

Date:

**Consultees**

Title: **Deputy Mayor  
Cabinet member for Finance, Governance, Property and Culture**

Signed:

Date:

Note: If electronic signature used email from the relevant certifier confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached. If consultation undertaken verbally Director must record date and time of the conversation and any agreement/concerns raised by consultee.