

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

DECISION



DECISION OF: S151 OFFICER

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

DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE

DECISION NO: 016 (2021/22 ASC: COVID-19 EMERGENCY CONTROL)

SUBJECT: COVID-19: Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund Ring-Fenced Grant 2021 to 2022 No 31/5487

KEY DECISION: Yes

REASON:

To authorise the allocation of the Discretionary Award element of the Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund Ring-Fenced Grant 2021.

£2,270,788 has been allocated to Bristol City Council for distribution as per guidance. The discretionary award element is **£790,546**

[Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

BACKGROUND:

The Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund was first introduced in May 2020. It was extended in October 2020 for infection prevention and control (IPC). The Rapid Testing Fund was introduced in January 2021 to support additional rapid lateral flow testing of staff in care homes, and enable indoors, close contact visiting where possible. These funding streams have been consolidated and extended until June 2021. This is a new grant, with separate conditions to the original Infection Control Fund, the extension to the Infection Control Fund and the original Rapid Testing Fund. The total Bristol allocation is £2,270,788 with the discretionary award element of £790,546.

This funding will be paid as a Section 31 grant ring fenced exclusively for actions which support care homes and CQC-regulated community care providers mainly to tackle the risk of COVID-19 infections and enable close-contact visiting, and is in addition to funding already received.

Local authorities should pass on:

70% of the IPC allocation to care homes on a 'per beds' basis, and CQC-regulated community care providers on a 'per user' basis; and

60% of the rapid testing allocation to care homes on a 'per beds' basis within the local authority's geographical area, including to social care providers with whom the local authority does not have existing contracts.

The local authority has discretion to use the remaining 30% of the IPC allocation, and 40% of the rapid testing allocation to provide further support to the care sector. This element is the focus of this decision paper.

DECISION: To authorise allocation of funding as described below:

Local discretionary decision

Guidance states funding could be used for providing support on the IPC measures outlined above to a broader range of care settings. Supported Living and other community providers face similar challenges as residential care homes in terms of infection control and facilitating safe visiting but have not enjoyed the same priority in terms of DHSC funding or when new testing initiatives have been rolled out. Therefore the local decision is that this discretionary funding will be distributed on the basis of the number of people in supported living residing in Bristol for providers to utilise on continued IPC measures and awarded to Support To Access the Community (STAC) and Time for You Carers support (T4U) providers for the same purpose.

Guidance states funding could be put in place to boost the resilience and supply of the adult social care workforce in their area. The local decision is that this discretionary funding will also be used to continue / expand current resilience and wellbeing training programmes offered to all providers and their staff.

Guidance states local authorities may use a small amount of this funding (capped at 1% of their total IPC allocation) for reasonable administrative costs associated with distributing and reporting on this funding. We will use a small amount (under 0.5%) to pay additional hours to current staff to free time to administer this fund.

The Rapid Testing allocation will be divided amongst ECH, Bristol based Supported Living, STAC, T4U and Day Services providers.

IPC LA discretion	£372,491	Bristol based Supported Living and STAC/T4U providers	Allocated per user
	£5,000	Additional admin costs	
	£25,000	Workforce resilience	
RT LA discretion	£388,055	Bristol based ECH, Supported Living STAC, T4U Day Services providers	Allocated per user

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The grant will be paid in April 2021. This grant includes 2 distinct allocations of funding – infection prevention and control (IPC) funding and rapid testing funding. Local authorities should make the relevant payments to providers within 20 working days of receipt of these allocations. All expenditure financed by this grant should be incurred on or before 30 June 2021. Any funds not used at this point will be recovered by the department and local authorities must have measures in place to allow this to happen efficiently.

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

Care providers were aware this fund was due to become available.

RISK MANAGEMENT

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

- Allocating all monies.
- All recipients returning signed agreement regarding fund conditions
- Monitoring of grant conditions – request for returns, monitor use of Capacity Tracker.
- Monitoring of use via standard engagement with providers (Contracts and QA work, Public Health engagement etc.)

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:

Name: Denise Murray

Title: S151 Officer

Signed: 

Date: 14/5/21

Consultees:

Name: Councillor Craig Cheney

Title: Deputy Mayor Finance, Governance and Performance

Signed: 

Date: 14/5/21

Name: Councillor Helen Holland

Title: Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Signed: 

Date: 14th May 2021

With advice from:

Name: Stephen Beet

Title: Director of Adult Social Care

Signed: 

Date: 19/4/2021

Name: Hugh Evans

Title: Executive Director, People

Signed: 

Date: 19/04/2021

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