

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 14 December 2021

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>The discretionary award element of the DHSC Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund Round 3 and The Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund</b>	
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All	
<b>Author:</b> Lucia Dorrington Dave Toole	<b>Job title:</b> Deputy Director – Commissioning, Adult Social Care and Contract and Quality Assurance Manager, Adult Social Care	
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Helen Holland	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Hugh Evans	
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff		
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet		
<p><b>Purpose of Report:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide information for decision to authorise the allocation of the <b>Discretionary Award</b> element of the Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund Round 3. <a href="http://www.gov.uk">Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund: round 3 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>The allocation of Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for adult social care <a href="http://www.gov.uk">adult. Guidance overview: Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for social care - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></li> </ol>		
<p><b>Evidence Base:</b></p> <p>This is Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) funding allocated to Local Authorities to support Adult Social Care provision. The Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund was first introduced in May 2020, to support adult social care providers in England to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission. This fund has been extended until 31 March 2022 to support the care sector to put in place crucial measures over the winter period. This is a new grant, with separate conditions to previous Infection Control and Testing Funds.</p> <p>The local authority <b>discretionary</b> portion of this funding consists of 3 allocations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>infection prevention and control (IPC) funding</li> <li>testing funding</li> <li>vaccines funding</li> </ul> <p>Local authorities must use 30% of the IPC allocation to support the care sector to put in place other COVID-19 infection control measures, but this can be allocated at their discretion. Local authorities must use their discretionary allocation of the testing allocation of the grant to support the care sector to operationally deliver testing.</p> <p>Local authorities should use 30% of their vaccines allocation to support staff in other care settings, including non-</p>		

registered settings, and to provide additional support to providers where required in order to undertake the following measures:

- ensuring that staff who need to attend work or another location for the purposes of being vaccinated for COVID-19 or flu are paid their usual wages to do so
- any costs associated with reaching a vaccination facility
- any reasonable administrative costs associated with organising COVID-19 or flu vaccinations where these were not being supported by other government funding streams.

The funding was paid in 2 tranches. The first 60% of the fund was paid to local authorities on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The remaining 40% of the fund will be paid in January 2022. DHSC expect the grant to be fully spent on infection prevention and control, vaccines and testing measures by 31 March 2022.

The main purpose of the **Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund** is to support local authorities to address adult social care workforce capacity pressures in their geographical area through recruitment and retention activity this winter, in order to:

- support providers to maintain the provision of safe care and bolstering capacity within providers to deliver more hours of care
- support timely and safe discharge from hospital to where ongoing care and support is needed
- support providers to prevent admission to hospital
- enable timely new care provision in the community
- support and boost retention of staff within social care
- This allocation of the grant must only be used to deliver measures that address local workforce capacity pressures in adult social care between 21 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 through recruitment and retention activity. DHSC expects local authorities to work closely with providers to determine how funding should best be spent, including passporting funding directly to providers where appropriate. It will be important to retain existing staff capacity as well as encourage new and returning entrants.
- Local authorities can use funding directly to deliver measures that help all providers of adult social care in their geographical area, this includes care home and domiciliary care, care providers with which local authorities do not have contracts, and organisations providing care who may not be registered with the CQC.
- Local authorities can also choose to passport some, or all, of the fund directly to a care provider to deliver measures that retain existing capacity or increase staffing capacity within the provider's organisation. However, they should ensure that funding is only passported directly to a provider that is registered with the CQC. A provider is legally required to register with the CQC when they carry on a regulated activity set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014

The funding will be paid in 2 tranches. The first 60% of the fund was due be paid to local authorities in late November 2021 (yet to be received). The remaining 40% of the fund will be paid by 14 January 2022. The payment of the second instalment of the fund is contingent on local authorities having returned templates to the department by 14 January 2022. The Department's expectation is that the grant will be fully spent on addressing local workforce capacity pressures through recruitment and retention activity by 31 March 2022. We are clear that 'spent' means that expenditure has been incurred between 21 October 2021 and 31 March 2022. This means the activity leading to the expense must have happened by 31 March 2022, so that the local authority is accruing the expense and it appears in the local authority's 2021 to 2022 accounts.

## **Financial breakdown of these two funds**

### **Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund Round 3**

£2,625, 901 has been allocated to Bristol City Council in total. The Direct Award element was authorised

for payment on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 by Director of Adult Social Care, Director of Finance and Deputy Mayor).

The discretionary award element is **£818,500** for distribution as per guidance (see Appendix A).

**DECISION REQUIRED: To authorise allocation of funding as described below.**

	1 <sup>st</sup> tranche	2 <sup>nd</sup> tranche	Total	
<b>Infection Prevention Control</b>	£284 022.29	£189 348.19	£473 370	Allocate to SL and STAC providers on per user basis 1% admin fee of £4781.52 claimed by BCC
<b>Testing</b>	£172 642.20	£115 094.80	£287 737	Allocate to ECH, SL, STAC, T4U providers on per user basis
<b>Vaccine</b>	£31 566.60	£21 044.40	£52 611	Allocate to SL and STAC providers on per user basis

*Key – SL – Supported Living, STAC -Support to Access the Community, ECH – Extra Care Housing, T4U – Time for You (Carers Support). All are community- based providers which are were not allocated funds from the direct award element of the grant.*

#### **Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for Adult Social Care**

**£1, 373, 373** has been allocated to Bristol City Council for distribution as per guidance (see links to Government guidance at the end of this report).

**DECISION REQUIRED: To authorise allocation of funding as described below**

Proud to Care / Recruitment Projects	£120 000
Passported to Providers	£1 239 640
1% administration	£13 733
<b>Total allocation</b>	<b>£1 373 373</b>

<b>Passported directly to providers</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> tranche	2 <sup>nd</sup> tranche	Total
CQC registered Provider	£743 784	£495 856	£1, 239 640

#### **Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet

1. Approve the acceptance award and payment of funding to Adult Social Care providers as set out in the report.
2. Authorises the Executive Director, People in consultation with the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care to take all necessary steps to procure/extend/vary and award contract(s) to enable the implementation of short-term funding in-line with the budget envelopes outlined in this report, and including any decisions that are over £500K

**Corporate Strategy alignment:** This funding for providers of Adult Social Care fits with the Corporate Strategy vision 2022-27 for BCC to “play a leading role in driving an inclusive, sustainable and healthy city of hope and aspiration, one where everyone can share in its success” and aligns to the current strategic aims to be `Empowering and Caring` and `Fair and Inclusive`.

**City Benefits:**

1. This funding for ASC providers benefits provision of adult social care as it is there to support providers with infection prevention control measures and with workforce retention and recruitment.
2. It therefore benefits vulnerable service users with continuity of services, safety and sustainability of care and support services.

**Consultation Details:** These recommendations have been discussed at Adult Social Care Divisional Management Team and provider engagement took place with ASC Strategic Providers at the monthly engagement session on 5<sup>th</sup> November and at November Provider Forums.

**Background Documents:**

[Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund: round 3 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Guidance overview: Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£2,191,873</b>	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	Department of Health and Social Care Infection Control and Workforce Recruitment and Retention Funding
<b>Capital Cost</b>		<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	
<b>One off cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**

**1. Finance Advice:** This report authorises the acceptance, allocation and payment of £818,500 Infection Control and £1,373,373 of Workforce Recruitment and Retention Funds received from the Department of Health and Social Care. This expenditure is therefore fully funded and there should be no recurrent expenditure commitments. Bristol City Council is allowed an element of this funding for administrative costs as set out in the report.

**Finance Business Partner:** Denise Hunt, 6 December 2021.

**2. Legal Advice:** There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Legal advice will be needed in relation to any agreements needed to enable funds to be distributed to ensure compliance with procurement rules and regulations.

**Legal Team Leader:** Nancy Rollason, Head of Legal Services, 6<sup>TH</sup> December 2021

**3. Implications on IT:** TBC (No ICT implications envisaged)

**IT Team Leader:** TBC

**4. HR Advice:** The report is seeking authorisation for the allocation of the discretionary award element of the Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund Round 3 and the allocation of Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for adult social care. There are no HR significant implications arising from this report for Bristol City Council employees.

**HR Partner:** Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner, December 6<sup>th</sup> 2021.

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Hugh Evans	6 December 2021
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Councillor Helen Holland	6 December 2021
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	6 December 2021

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
<p>The <b>Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund</b> was first introduced in May 2020, to support adult social care providers in England to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission. This fund has been extended until 31 March 2022 to support the care sector to put in place crucial measures over the winter period. This is a new grant, with separate conditions to previous Infection Control and Testing Funds.</p> <p>The local authority <b>discretionary</b> portion of this funding consists of 3 allocations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• infection prevention and control (IPC) funding</li> <li>• testing funding</li> <li>• vaccines funding</li> </ul> <p>Local authorities must use 30% of the IPC allocation to support the care sector to put in place other COVID-19 infection control measures, but this can be allocated at their discretion.</p> <p>Local authorities must use their discretionary allocation of the testing allocation of the grant to support the care sector to operationally deliver testing.</p> <p>Local authorities should use 30% of their vaccines allocation to support staff in other care settings, including non-registered settings, and to provide additional support to providers where required in order to undertake the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring that staff who need to attend work or another location for the purposes of being vaccinated for COVID-19 or flu are paid their usual wages to do so</li> <li>• any costs associated with reaching a vaccination facility</li> <li>• any reasonable administrative costs associated with organising COVID-19 or flu vaccinations where these were not being supported by other government funding streams</li> </ul> <p>The funding will be paid in 2 tranches. The first 60% of the fund was paid to local authorities on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The remaining 40% of the fund will be paid in January 2022. DHSC expect the grant to be fully spent on infection prevention and control, vaccines and testing measures by 31 March 2022.</p> <p>The main purpose of the <b>Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund</b> is to support local authorities to address adult social care workforce capacity pressures in their geographical area through recruitment and retention activity this winter, in order to: support providers to maintain the provision of safe care and bolstering capacity within providers to deliver more hours of care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support timely and safe discharge from hospital to where ongoing care and support is needed</li> <li>• support providers to prevent admission to hospital</li> <li>• enable timely new care provision in the community</li> <li>• support and boost retention of staff within social care</li> <li>• This allocation of the grant must only be used to deliver measures that address local workforce capacity pressures in adult social care between 21 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 through recruitment and retention activity. DHSC expects local authorities to work closely with providers to determine how funding should best be spent, including passporting funding directly to providers where appropriate. It will be important to retain existing staff capacity as well as encourage new and returning entrants.</li> <li>• Local authorities can use funding directly to deliver measures that help all providers of adult social care in their geographical area, this includes care home and domiciliary care,</li> </ul>	

<p>care providers with which local authorities do not have contracts, and organisations providing care who may not be registered with the CQC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local authorities can also choose to passport some, or all, of the fund directly to a care provider to deliver measures that retain existing capacity or increase staffing capacity within the provider’s organisation. However, they should ensure that funding is only passported directly to a provider that is registered with the CQC. A provider is legally required to register with the CQC when they carry on a regulated activity set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014</li> </ul> <p>The funding will be paid in 2 tranches. The first 60% of the fund was due be paid to local authorities in late November 2021 (yet to be received). The remaining 40% of the fund will be paid by 14 January 2022. The payment of the second instalment of the fund is contingent on local authorities having returned templates to the department by 14 January 2022. The department’s expectation is that the grant will be fully spent on addressing local workforce capacity pressures through recruitment and retention activity by 31 March 2022. We are clear that ‘spent’ means that expenditure has been incurred between 21 October 2021 and 31 March 2022. This means the activity leading to the expense must have happened by 31 March 2022, so that the local authority is accruing the expense and it appears in the local authority’s 2021 to 2022 accounts.</p>	
<p><b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b></p> <p>Internal discussions took place with the ASC Strategic Commissioning Leadership group. A consultation took place with ASC Strategic Providers at the monthly engagement session on 5<sup>th</sup> November and at Provider Forums.</p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>
<p><b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>
<p><b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>
<p>Appendix F – <a href="#">Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</a></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>
<p><b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>Appendix J – HR advice</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Appendix K – ICT</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Appendix L – Procurement</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>