

Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund – Provider Guidance for Care Homes (amended 12 June 2020)

This document sets out current government guidance. If government guidance changes, or is amended, the Council will update this document.

In May 2020, the government committed £600 million to Adult Social Care Infection Control in a ring fenced grant fund.

The overall objective of this fund is to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of Covid 19 transmission in care homes; and to support other workforce actions necessary to deliver infection control.

For Bradford Council, this represents a ring fenced grant of £5.3million to support the sector with expenses relating to infection control. In line with government guidance, 75% of this sum was allocated to care homes, with the allocation based on registered beds in the Bradford District. The Council has committed to use the remaining 25% to support Home Support, Supported Living and Extra Care providers.

Following recent updated guidance, we can confirm that this funding will cover the period from 13 May 2020. Providers will provide a statement certifying that that they have spent the funding on those measures by 23 September 2020.

The following is summarised from guidance on potential uses of the fund provided to Local Authorities by the Department for Health and Social Care:

In Care Homes

- To ensure that staff who are isolating in line with government guidance receive their normal wages while doing so. This includes staff with suspected symptoms of COVID-19 awaiting a test, or any staff member for a period following a positive test.
- To ensure so far as possible, that members of staff work in only one care home. This includes staff who work for one provider across several homes or staff that work on a part time basis for multiple employers and includes agency staff (the principle being that the fewer locations that members of staff work the better;
- To limit or cohort staff to individual groups of residents or floors/wings, including segregation of COVID-19 positive residents
- To support active recruitment of additional staff if they are needed to enable staff to work in only one care home or to work only with an assigned group of residents or only in specified areas of a care home, including by using and paying for staff who have chosen to temporarily return to practice, including those returning through the NHS returners programme. These staff can provide vital additional support to homes and underpin effective infection control while permanent staff are isolating or recovering from COVID-19.
- To take steps to limit the use of public transport by members of staff. Where they do not have their own private vehicles this could include encouraging walking and

cycling to and from work and supporting this with the provision of changing facilities and rooms and secure bike storage or use of local taxi firms.

- To provide accommodation for staff who proactively choose to stay separately from their families in order to limit social interaction outside work. This may be provision on site or in partnership with local hotels.

Whilst this is not an exhaustive list, please note that the guidance does not at this stage make reference to PPE or deep cleaning. We are awaiting further clarity on this issue, and will communicate this to providers as received. It is clear that this funding **must** be used for COVID-19 infection control measures and payments may be withheld or withdrawn if the Council believes the funding is not being used for infection control purposes.

Capacity Tracker

Providers must be committed to completing the Capacity Tracker on a consistent basis. If the provider has not used it or any part of it for the infection control measures for which it was provided, the Council will take all reasonable steps to recover the money that has not been so used.

Record Keeping

All providers must account for all payments from the Infection Control Fund and keep appropriate records, to be provided to the Council on request. In so far as a provider does not use the entirety of allocation for infection control measures, any remaining funds must be returned to the Council. None of the funding provided is to be used for any purpose other than the specified infection control measures.

State Aid

The Council has to consider EU State Aid Rules when administering the Infection Control grant to providers. In doing so it has to decide which rule of State Aid applies.

Providers should be aware that the Council considers this funding to be de minimis Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI) aid limited to the purposes set out in the overall objective above. SGEI are economic activities that public authorities identify as being of particular importance to citizens and that would not be supplied (or would be supplied under different conditions) if there were no public intervention. Examples are transport networks, postal services and social services.

Therefore for the Council to comply with the State Aid rule, we would request that any organisation that has received more than 500,000 Euros in de minimis SGEI aid within the last three tax years, including this grant, notify the Council in writing.

Please return the declaration below to commissioninginbox@bradford.gov.uk

Provider Declaration

I confirm that I have read and understood the guidance summary above, and undertake that all monies received from this fund will be used for infection prevention and control in line with the outlined objectives and reporting requirements.

Signed.....

On behalf of.....