

URGENT DECISION FORM



TO BE UPLOADED ON TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 28/01/2021		Ref No:	
Type of Decision:			
Cabinet Decision	Yes	Council Decision	No
Key	Yes	Non-Key	
Subject matter:			
Distribution of the Adult Social Care New Rapid Testing Fund (£0.592m) to Care Homes and other community settings to support the care sector to implement Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing.			
Reason for Urgency:			
<p>The main purpose of this funding is to support additional rapid testing of staff in care homes, and to support visiting professionals and to enable indoors, close contact visiting where possible. This includes adult social care providers with whom the local authority does not have a contract.</p>			
Freedom of Information Status			
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]		Not Applicable	
<p>1 Background</p> <p>1.1 On 2nd December 2020, visitor testing began in the first care homes with the government sending out millions of lateral flow device (LFD) tests to care homes over the course of December. Following this, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) released guidance on the use of LFD tests for visitors and visiting professionals to care homes. Further guidance for care homes on enhanced staff testing using LFD tests was published, to help further reduce the spread of Covid-19 in these settings.</p> <p>1.2 This is a new grant, with separate conditions to the original Infection Control Fund (which ran from May to September 2020) and the extension to the Infection Control Fund (which runs from October 2020 to March 2021). This additional funding will provide further help to protect residents and workers from COVID-19 and brings the total ring-fenced funding for care settings to £1.3 billion nationally.</p>			

1.3 All funding must be used to support increased LFD testing in care settings. Local authorities should pass 80% of this funding to care homes within the local authority's geographical area on a 'per beds' basis. This includes social care providers with whom the local authority does not have existing contracts.

1.4 The remaining 20% of the funding must be used to support the care sector to implement increased LFD testing but can be allocated at the local authority's discretion. This could include:

- supporting care homes or other providers that are currently experiencing an outbreak to ensure that they have the resources needed to administer the LFD tests and equipment that they need to increase LFD testing;
- supporting smaller homes to implement LFD testing as they may face relatively higher costs compared to large homes;
- supporting other settings such as supported living and extra care settings eligible for LFD testing.

1.5 Local authorities should pass the entirety of the 'per beds' allocation straight to care homes within their geographical area. This to take no longer than 10 working days upon the receipt of the funding in a local authority, subject to care homes meeting the conditions as stated in the local authority circular (January 2021). This includes social care providers with whom the local authority does not have existing contracts.

2 Financial implications

2.1 Bury's total ASC Rapid Testing Fund is £592,033. This paper seeks permission to distribute 80% of this allocation to Care Homes. The remaining 20% to be retained by the local authority to support the wider Adult Social Care sector to operationally deliver LFD testing as outlined in 1.4 above.

2.2 The funding will be paid in a single instalment in January 2021. This grant can be used to cover expenditure from 2nd December 2020 to 31st March 2021. All funding must be spent by its conclusion on 31st March 2021, and any funding that remains unspent at this point will need to be returned to DHSC.

3 Reporting

3.1 Local authorities must submit monthly returns specifying how the grant has been spent. This information will be gathered as part of spending returns for the extension to the Infection Control Fund and should be returned at the following points:

Reporting point	Department deadline	Information required
ICF2 reporting point 4	26 February 2021	LFD testing grant spending for December to January and ICF2 spending for October to January
ICF2 reporting point 5	31 March 2021	LFD testing grant spending for December to February and ICF2 spending for October to February
ICF2 reporting point 6	30 April 2021	LFD testing grant spending for December to March and ICF2 spending for October to March

LFD testing grant spending for December to March and ICF2 spending for October to March

3.2 Providers are also required to complete the Capacity Tracker or CQC homecare survey (as per government guidance) at least once per week until 31 March 2021.

<p>4 Conclusion</p> <p>4.1 Approve the Adult Social Care Rapid Testing Fund allocation based on 2.1 above and note the reporting requirements as set out in 3 above. Decision taken:</p> <p>The Emergency Powers Group is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note Bury's allocation of £0.592m from the recently announced Adult Social Care Rapid Testing Fund; • Note the grant conditions and the distribution methodology; • Note the reporting requirements January to March 2021; 		
Decision taken by:	Signature:	Date:
Chief/Senior Officer/Cabinet Chair		
<i>After consultation with:</i>		
Cabinet Member (if a Key Decision) or Chair or Lead Member (as appropriate)		
If it is a Key Decision, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee to agree that the decision cannot be deferred		
Opposition Leader or nominated spokesperson (Council Decision) or Leader or Majority Group Member on Overview and Scrutiny Committee (if a Key Decision) to agree that the decision cannot be deferred		
Leader of second largest Opposition Group (if a Key/Council Decision) to agree that the decision cannot be deferred		