



Classification	Item No.
Open	

Meeting:	Cabinet
Meeting date:	21 July 2021
Title of report:	Distribution of Adult Social Care Infection Prevention and Control and Testing Fund July 2021-September 2021
Report by:	Councillor Simpson – Health and Wellbeing
Decision Type:	Key Decision
Ward(s) to which report relates	All wards

Executive Summary:

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 within and between care settings. In April 2021, it was consolidated with the existing Rapid Testing Fund, to support additional lateral flow testing (LFT) of staff in care homes, and enable indoors, close contact visiting where possible.

The Department of Health and Social Care have further extended the Infection Control and Testing Fund and Bury Council will now receive a combined total of £897,100 to be disseminated to appropriate care providers. This will be used to support them to:

- reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care settings through effective infection prevention and control practices and increase uptake of staff vaccination;

- and conduct testing of staff and visitors in care homes, high risk supported living and extra care settings, in order to enable close contact visiting where possible

This paper seeks permission to distribute:

- 70% of the Infection Prevention and Control Fund to Care Homes and Residential Drug and Alcohol settings (57.5%) and Community Care Providers (12.5%) such as high-risk Supported Living and Care at Home.
- 70% of the Rapid Testing allocation to Care Homes

This is inline with the grant conditions set by the Department of Health and Social Care that also requires Local Authorities to disseminate the above within 20 days of receipt. Bury Council received these monies on 13th July 2021.

Permission is also sought to distribute the remaining discretionary amounts of 30% and 30% respectively detailed below:

Infection Control Fund – 30% (£153,939)

Allocated proportionately between the following:

- Communal Neighbourhood Housing Support Services
- Extra Care Services
- In-borough day services

Rapid Testing Fund – 30% (£82,986)

Allocated proportionately between the following:

- Care at Home providers
- Supported Living providers

Once again, this is in line with grant conditions and must be distributed within 20 days of receipt

The table below provides details of Bury's Infection Control and Testing extended grant allocations:

Recommendation(s)

That: Cabinet approve the request to disseminate the above grant monies in line with Department of Health and Social Care Grant requirements.

Reasons for the decision:

The grant conditions associated with the monies requires Local authorities to disseminate the money to eligible care providers within 20 days of receipt.

Other options considered and rejected:

- No other options have been considered as action proposed is the only one in line with grant conditions

Local authority	Allocation to Care homes and Residential Drug and Alcohol settings	Allocation to community care providers	Bury Council discretionary amount	Total Infection Control Fund allocation amount (D)	Allocation to Care homes and Residential Drug and Alcohol settings	Bury Council discretionary	Total Rapid Flow Testing allocation amount	Local Authority Combined Total
Bury	£295,765	£63,426	£153,939	£513,130	£300,984	£82,986	£383,970	£897,100

Key considerations

1. Background

1.1 The Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund was first introduced in May 2020. The fund was extended in October 2020 and, again in April 2021. By June 2021 the fund had provided over £1.35billion of ring-fenced funding to support adult social care providers in England 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.

1.2 The purpose of this fund is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to:

- Reduce the rate of Covid-19 transmission within and between care settings through effective infection prevention and control practices and increase the uptake of staff vaccination.
- Conduct additional rapid testing of staff and visitors in care homes, high-risk supported living and extra care settings, to enable close contact visiting where possible.

1.3 The funding will be paid in a single payment in July 2021. All funding must be used for the measures outlined in the Appendix 1.

1.4 Local Authorities should pass on:

- 70% of the IPC allocation to care homes on a 'per bed' basis, and CQC-regulated community care providers on a 'per user' basis; and
- 70% 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 allocation is based on 1844 registered CQC beds at July 2021 and includes 57 care homes and 1232 Community Care Users at July 2021, using the Capacity Tracker service User data

- 1.5 The local authority has discretion to use the remaining 30% of the IPC allocation, and 30% of the rapid testing allocation to provide further support to the care sector, as outlined in the guidance.

2 Financial implications

- 2.1 Bury’s total allocation of the new Infection Prevention and Control and Testing Fund is £897,100 for the period 1st July to 30th September 2021. The actual amounts to be disseminated are set out in the table below-

This paper seeks permission to distribute:

- 70% of the Infection Prevention and Control Fund to Care Homes and Residential Drug and Alcohol settings (57.5%) and Community Care Providers (12.5%) such as high-risk Supported Living.
- 70% of the Rapid Testing allocation to Care Homes

Local authority	Allocation to Care homes and Residential Drug and Alcohol settings	Allocation to community care providers	Bury Council discretionary amount	Total Infection Control Fund allocation amount (D)	Allocation to Care homes and Residential Drug and Alcohol settings	Bury Council discretionary	Total Rapid Flow Testing allocation amount	Local Authority Combined Total
Bury	£295,765	£63,426	£153,939	£513,130	£300,984	£82,986	£383,970	£897,100

This is in-line with the grant conditions set by the Department of Health and Social Care that required Local Authorities to disseminate the above within 20 days of receipt. Bury Council received these monies on 13th July 2021.

Permission is also being sought to distribute the remaining discretionary amounts of 30% and 30% respectively in line with the grant conditions as detailed below:

Infection Control Fund – 30% (£153,939)

Allocated proportionately between the following:

- Communal Neighbourhood Housing Support Services
- Extra Care Services
- In-borough day services

Rapid Testing Fund – 30% (£82,986)

Allocated proportionately between the following:

- Care at Home providers
- Supported Living providers

3 Reporting

3.1 Local authorities are required to distribute the money in line with the grant circular and are required to provide 2 high level returns by the dates below. Providers will need to provide information at least one week prior to DHSC's deadline to the following timetable:

- Reporting point 1: 1st September 2021
- Reporting point 2: 29th October 2021

3.2 Providers are also required to complete the Capacity Tracker at least once per week until 30th September 2021.

4 Conclusion

4.1 Request to approve the Infection Control and Testing grant allocation based on 2.1 above and note the reporting requirement as set out in 3 above

Community impact/links with Community Strategy

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) *eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*

- (b) *advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) *foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Equality Analysis	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA.</i>
 <p>Equality Analysis - Infection Control and (EA is available on request)</p>	

**Please note: Approval of a cabinet report is paused when the 'Equality/Diversity implications' section is left blank and approval will only be considered when this section is completed.*

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to disseminate monies to Care Providers within 20 days as required by grant condition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monies received on 13th July. Cabinet approval sought on 21st July; leaving sufficient time for dissemination of monies. • Allocation of monies has already been planned for Strategic Accountant to allow for rapid dissemination.

Consultation:

- No formal consultation

Legal Implications:

Urgent approval is requested from cabinet to disseminate the grant monies within 20 days of receipt. It is a condition of the grant that the guidance is followed. There is a requirement that formal reporting on spend is reported to the Department of Health and Social Care.

Financial Implications:

This is a Government grant which has strict criteria on how it should be used to support the adult social care market. The Council only has discretion over which providers receive monies from the 30% discretionary elements of each award. The distribution proposed is in line with the previous allocation and fully utilises all of the monies as required

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Background papers:

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care