

SHORT REPORT	
Subject Matter	Adult Social Care Infection Fund Ring Fenced Grant 2020
Lead Directors	Stuart Lackenby, Director of Adult Social Care Lisa McNally, Director of Public Health
Date	27 May 2020



1. Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the Adult Social Care Infection Fund Ring Fenced Grant 2020 and requests Emergency Committee approval for the Director of Adult Social Care in conjunction with the Director of Public Health to administer the Adult Social Care Infection Fund Ring Fenced Grant 2020 in line with Government guidance as set out in this report.

2. Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund

- 2.1. In Sandwell there are 86 care homes registered with CQC which provide 2223 beds to people with care and support needs. These include people funded by Sandwell Council, other Councils and self-funders.
- 2.2. The council and its partners are providing considerable support to care homes to help reduce coronavirus infections, manage outbreaks and maintain sustainability. Despite this support there has been considerable media attention in recent weeks on the impact of coronavirus in UK care homes.
- 2.3. On the 22 May 2020 the Department of Health and Social Care published the Local Authority Circular 'Adult Social Care Infection Fund Ring Fenced Grant 2020'. The circular provides details on the Governments, Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund worth £600 million nationally. Sandwell's allocation of this fund is £2.8 million.
- 2.4. The primary 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 coronavirus transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience. A small percentage of it may be used to support domiciliary care providers and support wider workforce resilience to deal with coronavirus infections. This funding will be paid as a Section 31 grant, ring fenced exclusively for actions which support

care homes and domiciliary care providers mainly to tackle the risk of coronavirus infections and is in addition to funding already received.

- 2.5. The Grant will be paid in 2 equal instalments;
 - Payment 1: May 2020 – Payment 2: July 2020
- 2.6. To receive the second instalment, authorities must have returned a Care Home Support Plan by 29 May 2020. Residential care providers, will also be required to have completed the governments Care Home Capacity Tracker at least once and be committed to completing the Tracker on a consistent basis to be eligible to receive funding. The payment of the second instalment is contingent on the first being used for infection control measures and being used in its entirety.
- 2.7. The Circular requires local authorities to pass 75% of each month's funding to care homes within the local authority's geographical area on a 'per beds' basis, including to social care providers with whom the local authority does not have existing contracts.
- 2.8. The local authority has the discretion to allocate the remaining 25% of the funding to domiciliary care providers and to support wider workforce resilience in relation to coronavirus infection control. However, no payments should be made unless certain conditions are met, including the local authority being satisfied that the funding is being used for infection control purposes. Clawback provisions apply, including that the provider must repay any amounts not used for infection control measures.
- 2.9. The infection control measures expected to be implemented through the funding are clearly defined in the grant circular. Providers must provide the Local authority with a statement certifying that they have spent the funding on those measures by the 23 September 2020.
- 2.10. Locally the Council and its Health partners support offer to care homes is well established and includes considerable infection control support to both care homes and domiciliary care providers. In line with the Local Authority Circular requirements a copy of the Councils Care Home Support Plan, will be signed off by the Chief Executive through the Councils Statutory Officers meeting by 29 May 2020 and submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care.
- 2.11. The Sandwell Care Home Support plan will meet all the requirements of the Infection Control Grant and will, subject to provider compliance, as defined in the circular passport 75% of the grant to care homes in Sandwell on a 'per beds' basis. The remaining 25% will be passported to Domiciliary care providers contracted with the Council or funded through Sandwell Council provided direct payments, again in line with requirements of the Grant. Domiciliary care allocations will be based on the numbers of hours delivered by the domiciliary care provider to Sandwell residents.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1. Emergency Committee approve the Director of Adult Social Care in conjunction with the Director of Public Health to administer the Adult Social Care Infection Fund Ring Fenced Grant 2020 in line with Government guidance as set out in this report.