

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Disbursement of Infection Control Grant Funding
Divisions Affected:	All / List
Key Decision:	Yes / No
Reason Key:	Over £500,000 / Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

On 22nd May the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) published details of the ADULT SOCIAL CARE INFECTION CONTROL FUND RING-FENCED GRANT 2020.

£600m of funding is being paid to local authorities to pass onto care providers to spend on a range of stipulated measures to help control the spread of the COVID-19 infection in care home and other care settings.

Surrey County Council (SCC) is receiving £19.178m of funding.

SCC is required to pay 75% of this funding (£14.384m) directly to all care homes in Surrey on a 'per registered care bed' basis in line with the stipulated grant conditions (see enclosed DHSC Grant Circular for more information). Key among these conditions is for each care home to register on the national Capacity Tracker and complete it on a consistent basis.

SCC has discretion over how to allocate the remaining 25% (4.794m) across care providers in Surrey to support infection control measures. Surrey's Adult Social Care (ASC) is working closely with the Surrey Care Association and other partners to agree the best use of this funding within the grant conditions.

Grant funding is being paid to SCC in two equal instalments. The first instalment was paid on 27th May 2020. The second instalment is due to be paid in July 2020, although this is dependent on the government being satisfied that the first instalment has been spent in line with the specified grant conditions.

A delegated decision paper was previously agreed on 9th June 2020 to confirm that SCC would disburse the first 75% of Infection Control Fund grant funding to all care homes in Surrey in line with the grant conditions.

This paper confirms use of the remaining 25% of funding.

Decision made

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Reasons for Decision:

No decision made.

Decision taken by:	Leigh Whitehouse – Executive Director for Resources and Section 151 Officer Simon White – Executive Director for Adult Social Care Sinead Mooney – Cabinet Member for Adults
Decision taken on:	7 th July 2020
To be implemented on:	Payments will be made to care providers in July

	as soon as SCC has been paid the remaining funding by government.
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Alternative options considered

SCC must spend the Infection Control Fund grant in line with the grant conditions and all funding must be fully spent by 30th September. The only alternative options therefore relate to how the 25% discretionary element is distributed. SCC could have chosen to hold back more or less funding as a discretionary fund. Given the need for providers to spend all of the funding by 30th September and the urgency of supporting infection control, SCC decided that only a small proportion (£0.5m) of the total funding should be held back as a discretionary fund.

Summary of any financial implications

There are no direct financial implications to SCC as all of the money paid out to care providers will be funded out of the Infection Control Fund grant funding SCC receives from DHSC.

Payment of this funding to care providers is intended to help sustain and improve infection control in ASC care settings across Surrey. This will provide crucial support to vulnerable residents and at the same time should lead to indirect financial benefits for SCC.

Declarations of conflicts of interest


None




Consultation/Process Followed

Decision taken in consultation with the Surrey Care Association, other local partners, the Executive Directors for Adult Social Care, the Executive Director for Resources and the Cabinet Member for Adults.

Background Documents

Exempt:

Cabinet report 31 st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.	 SCC Response to COVID-19
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<p>Department of Health and Social Care Infection Control Grant Circular</p>	 DHSC Grant Circular
<p>Surrey Care Home Plan Cover Letter</p>	 Surrey Care Home Support Plan Cover
<p>Letter confirming Surrey County Council's use of the 25% discretionary element of Surrey's Infection Control Fund</p>	 Use of 25% discretionary Surrey