

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Disbursement of Adult Social Care Rapid Testing Fund
Divisions Affected:	All divisions
'Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

On 15th January 2021 the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) published details of the ADULT SOCIAL CARE (ASC) RAPID TESTING FUND.

This fund is to support ASC providers to conduct rapid flow device (RFD) tests for COVID-19, primarily in care homes.

Surrey County Council's (SCC) funding allocation is £4.7m. This was paid to SCC on 21st January 2021.

The key aspects of the fund are as follows:

- Funding is for costs associated with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing only, incurred in the period 2nd December 2020 – 31st March 2021.
- 80% (£3.8m for Surrey) is ringfenced for rapid testing in care homes and must be distributed on a per bed basis within 10 working days of receipt of the funding.
- 20% (£0.9m for Surrey) is discretionary in terms of how it is allocated to ASC providers, although it can still only be spent on rapid testing in CQC registered ASC settings.
- To be eligible to receive funding, ASC providers must complete the national capacity tracker at least weekly and also provide monthly expenditure returns to SCC.
- SCC must complete a monthly return to DHSC setting out how much funding has been distributed and how much providers have spent the funding allocated to them. The timetable for this is aligned with the reporting requirements for Infection Control Fund round 2.

Decision made

It was agreed that SCC would distribute all of Surrey's Rapid Testing Fund, including the 20% discretionary element, to care homes who are compliant with the grant conditions based on the number of registered beds in each home.

Reasons for Decision:

To support COVID-19 infection control in ASC care homes across Surrey and ensure SCC is compliant with DHSC's grant conditions.

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:	26 th January 2021
To be implemented on:	Funding will be paid to care homes in Surrey who are compliant with the grant conditions in the first week of February 2021.

Alternative options considered

SCC must spend the Rapid Testing Fund in line with the grant conditions and all funding must be fully spent by 31st March 2021.

SCC could have chosen to distribute the 20% discretionary element differently, for instance holding this back and asking providers to submit requests evidencing their additional need.

However, given the seriousness of the current status of the pandemic, it is considered most appropriate to distribute 100% of the funding across all grant compliant care homes as quickly as possible.

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 Rapid Testing Fund 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

Cabinet report 31 st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.	 SCC Response to COVID-19
Link to Rapid Testing Fund guidance	Adult Social Care Rapid Testing Fund - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)