

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Use of Local Authority Framework / Practical Support for those Self Isolating
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

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Summary

On 25th March 2021 the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) published details of the LA FRAMEWORK / PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR THOSE SELF ISOLATING GRANT.

The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to local authorities to provide practical support for those self-isolating. The funding is ring-fenced for public health purposes to tackle COVID-19 working to break the chains of transmission and protecting people.

This scope of the grant (as detailed in the document 'Guidance for councils on practical support for self-isolation') is to enable people who are self-isolating to be supported in accessing food where they are unable to rely on family, friends or other support networks. Additionally, the grant enables support to people who do not have alternative support networks in carrying out essential tasks and social / emotional support.

Surrey County Council's (SCC) funding allocation is £830,856.

The grant has been paid to SCC by DHSC in four instalments between March – June 2021.

Local authorities are required to submit regular monitoring information about the use of the grant to DHSC. Failure to do this could lead to a local authority being required to repay the grant funding to DHSC.

Decision made

It was agreed that SCC would make the full value Practical Support grant available to Surrey's 11 District & Borough (D&Bs) Councils subject to D&Bs confirming the value of funding required and the actual amount spent to support people self-isolating in their local areas within the terms of grant conditions.

SCC will initially reimburse each D&B for the value of actual eligible expenditure they report to SCC as spent in the period 1st March 2021 – 30th June 2021. SCC will ask D&Bs to then submit a budget plan for the period 1st July 2021 – 31st March 2022 and will reimburse each D&B for actual eligible expenditure reported to SCC as spent against the submitted budget plan on a quarterly basis within this period. SCC will not make any reimbursements to D&Bs unless they provide a budget return.

If applications for funding received from D&Bs exceed the total value of grant funding remaining after initial reimbursements for the period 1st March 2021 – 30th June 2021, then the budget plans submitted for the period 1st July 2021 – 31st March 2022 will be adjusted based on each D&B's population weighted by the Index of Multiple Deprivation for each local authority area to ensure each D&B receives an equitable allocation of grant funding.

SCC will consider if any funding not spent by D&Bs could be used for alternative purposes within the terms of the grant and then return any unspent funding at 2021/22 year end to DHSC.

Reasons for Decision:

District & Borough Councils already administer the Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme and other forms of direct financial support to those who self-isolate, so they are best placed to distribute the Practical Support grant to the relevant individuals.

SCC's Public Health service has worked very closely with Surrey's District & Borough Councils throughout the pandemic and continues to liaise with them about the completion of the monitoring returns to DHSC for the use of the Practical Support grant to ensure it is being used to maximum effect.

Decision taken by:	Luke Bennett – Cabinet Member for Health Leigh Whitehouse – Executive Director for Resources and Section 151 Officer Ruth Hutchinson – Director of Public Health
Decision taken on:	26 July 2021
To be implemented on:	Grant funding will be paid to District & Borough Councils throughout the remainder of 2021/22 based on provision of actual expenditure and budget plans to SCC as set out above.

Alternative options considered

SCC must spend the Practical Support grant in line with the grant conditions.

SCC could have chosen to retain the funding and distribute monies to individuals self-isolating directly, but it is considered this would not have been the most effective means of discharging these responsibilities given that District & Borough Councils are already administering other forms of support to individuals who are self-isolating

Summary of any financial implications

This grant will help individuals manage the financial implications of having to self-isolate during the pandemic.



Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

Decision taken in consultation with District & Borough Councils and other partners working with SCC in managing Surrey's response to the pandemic.

Background Documents

Cabinet report 31 st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.	 SCC Response to COVID-19
Practical Support grant determination	 5473 Grant Determination Lette

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