

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 26th May 2020
Title of report: Support to the Adult Social Care Providers

Purpose of report: To ask Cabinet to approve further financial support measures for the local adult social care sector

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes Residential Care homes are present in every ward. How the care home sector is financed and managed it is a key strategic decision. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has agreed to the addition of this item to the Agenda for Cabinet having not been previously included on the Forward Plan
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision No Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee has waived the right to call in due to the need for a decision to agree the support to Adult Social Care Providers and to make it available as soon as possible
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Richard Parry – 22nd May 2020 Give name and date for Cabinet reports Give name and date for Cabinet reports
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Musarrat Khan – Health & Social Care

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Leading Members

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. **Summary**

The Council and local CCGs have been working closely with the local care home sector in recent years in relation to quality, workforce and resilience.

In recent weeks, this has been increased with greater emphasis on PPE (with over 45000 items of PPE distributed to local care providers), IPC and staff recruitment. The Council is tasked with submitting a planning return on the support to be provided to care homes by 29th May. This will complement the increased support that the NHS is now being expected to provide to local care homes.

Whilst the Council has received additional funding from central government, this has been to support the totality of financial pressures that the Council faces and has not been social care specific.

The government has recently announced the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund (worth £600 million nationally) which is the first funding to councils specifically for adult social care. The overall objective of this fund is to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of Covid19 transmission in care homes and between one care home and another; and to support other workforce actions necessary to deliver infection control. This funding will be paid as a Section 31 grant ring fenced exclusively for actions which support care homes and domiciliary care providers to tackle the risk of Covid19 infections.

This paper sets out the proposed approach to distributing the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund and the broader pressures that the Care Home sector is facing.

2. **Information required to take a decision**

Background and Introduction

Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund:

Kirklees Council has been allocated a share of the £600m of the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund, which is £4,553,342. This allocation is based on the number of CQC registered care home beds, which is 3,546 as at May 2020. The funding will be paid in two instalments in June and July. It cannot be used to pay for any Covid19 expenditure already committed such as the fee uplifts that the Council has already made.

This funding must be used for infection control measures, and can be used to:

- support additional steps to reduce the spread of infection in care homes;
- maintain the normal wages of staff in care homes and the domiciliary care sector who, in order to reduce the spread of infection, need to reduce the number of establishments in which they work, reduce the number of hours they work, or self-isolate.
- allow providers to offer their staff full pay during self-isolation, rather than statutory sick pay.

Local authorities should pass the 75% of the first month's funding straight 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. The remaining 25% must be used for infection control measures and the local authority has the discretion

to target the allocation of the funding based on need, which may involve support for domiciliary care as well as care homes.

Similarly, the second month's funding should be used in the same manner, subject to the said funding being used for infection control. Expectations are that there needs to be plans for how the money is spent and reports will need to be supported to evidence this. Note that the second payment will not be released until the evidence of the first payment is submitted.

As the local authority has the discretion to target the allocation of the remaining 25% of both month's funding based on need, and given the very tight timescales, we would request that powers of delegation be given to the Strategic Director Health and Care in consultation with the Councils Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health on how this part of the funding (25%) would be allocated on a consistent basis.

Additional Support Options for Care Homes

As the current pandemic has unfolded the pressure on Care Home providers has increased including costs such as PPE, equipment, staffing, general running costs and significant levels of falling income. All of these are placing significant pressures on the Care Home market.

The Council has previously agreed a package of support:

- Premium paid on the 20/21 care homes fees equivalent to 5% for an initial 3 months
- Payment for 3 days after death, rather than 1 day
- Contingency fund for One-off emergency financial support
- Advice and guidance on other forms of support

As this package was time limited, it will require review shortly and a decision taken to extend, vary or cease.

Feedback from care home providers locally mirrors the national position in that they are facing pressures around significant excess deaths and a lack of referrals from the community resulting in increasing numbers of voids (empty beds). They are also facing increasing costs of infection control, staffing pressures and general increases in running costs.

In Kirklees, the level of empty beds in homes has risen from 259 in February 2020 to c382 in the third week of May. In addition to this, c100 beds are block booked until June 2020 to ensure access to capacity as required. Not all of these beds are currently in use, meaning that the totality of empty beds is closer to 480.

Care home businesses have high fixed costs which require a high level of occupancy for these costs, staff, premises etc to be covered. Care home providers have indicated that, unless the situation changes quickly the option would be to reduce costs (staffing being the most significant cost in a care home), which will lead to a reduction in capacity. However, an increase in vacancies does not result in an equal reduction in staffing levels due to the nature of the service, the layout of the building and ongoing support needs of current residents. The care home industry currently factors a void rate of 10% into their business planning.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The proposals will enable Adult Social Care providers to continue to provide high quality care to vulnerable citizens in the current challenging circumstances.

3.2 Working with Partners

The proposals build on the relationships that already exist with providers as partners and the programme of support that is already in place

3.3 Place Based Working

Place based working recognises that there cannot always be a single one size fits all approach in Kirklees given the diversity of our places and communities. The approach to supporting care providers will similarly need to recognise that not all providers face exactly the same circumstances.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The proposals have no direct impact on climate change and air quality.

3.5 Improving Outcomes for Children

There is no direct impact on outcomes for children

3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Funding has been provided through the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund and therefore the financial impact in terms of distributing this funding are funded through this. The implications of broader funding need to be considered in the context of the additional funding provided to Councils to offset the additional costs that they face and the financial pressures that the Council face which exceed the funding provided to date.

4. Next Steps and Timelines

Subject to agreement of Cabinet, the ambition is to ensure that funding is distributed to providers as soon as possible

5. Officer Recommendations and Reasons

In relation to the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund, the proposed allocation of 75% be agreed along with the proposed delegation to the Strategic Director Health & Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health in relation to the remaining 25% of the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund.

That the likely need for additional financial support to care homes beyond that being provided through the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund be noted.

Given the rapidly changing picture for the care home sector, delegation on the detail any additional financial support in relation to Covi19 be given to the Strategic Director for Health and Care, in consultation with the S151 officer and the Cabinet Members for Adults and Health and for Corporate Resources.

That Cabinet receive a subsequent report that sets out the issues facing the adult social care provider sector and the support provided to date including decisions taken under delegated powers.

6. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's Recommendations

That the proposals in this paper be supported in order to ensure that the Council can continue to support local providers

7. Contact Officer

Simon Baker Head of Service Commissioning

8. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Previous provider support package taken under delegated emergency powers in March 2020.

9. Service Director Responsible

Richard Parry – Strategic Director – Adults & Health