

# ASC SERVICE SUSTAINABILITY FUND:

## TEMPORARY FUNDING FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDERS

### Introduction and background

Social Care providers in Wokingham are supporting clients in receipt of adult social care services that are funded by Wokingham Borough Council, or related to self-funders within the Wokingham geographical area.

Our providers are facing increased cost pressures due to higher sickness absence rates among their workforce and increased cost of PPE.

National guidance has been released by the LGA and ADASS on the temporary funding for Adult Social Care providers during the COVID-19 crisis. The recommendations focus on stabilising the adult social care market during the crisis.

### ASC Service Sustainability Fund

It is recommended that ASC implements a Service Sustainability Fund to support providers to maintain service continuity during this period. This will be administered through an application process for additional retrospective funding.

The aim of the Fund will be to support providers to manage the additional costs associated with managing the response to COVID-19.

It will also respond to national guidance for local application of temporary funding for Adult Social Care providers during the COVID-19 Crisis. To date, WBC has committed additional funding to support the sector. This has included a financial uplift for 2020/21 and an offer of a pre-payment to assist with cashflow during the crisis.

### Criteria for funding

Claims should be submitted monthly as soon as practical to do so (ideally by the end of the next calendar month). To qualify for reimbursement items of expenditure must be all of the following:

- related to clients in receipt of adult social care services that are funded by Wokingham Borough Council, or related to self-funders within the Wokingham geographical area;
- over and above usual business costs;
- directly related to the COVID-19 emergency; and
- in respect of payments made.

The Council will perform basic checks on the reasonableness of the claim and the calculations behind it and approval will be subject to a decision by Adults Social Care Leadership Team.

Supporting evidence will be required to supplement applications to the Fund, however, where this is not available submissions will still be processed. Providers will be subject to the government's procurement policy notice. Providers in receipt of public funds during this period must agree to operate on an 'open book' basis.

Providers should not expect to make profits on elements of a contract that are undelivered during this period and all suppliers are expected to operate with integrity.

### Financial Implications

To control expenditure, the ASC Service Sustainability Fund will have a total budget of **£450,000** for a period of three months.

The budget is based upon an additional 5% on current costs across all services continuing to operate during the crisis. This is below the 10% recommendations included within "Temporary Funding for Adult Social Care providers during the COVID-19 Crisis" (LGA/ADASS). However, WBC has developed a comprehensive package of support for providers, including the provision of PPE and agency staff where required.

### Conclusion

It is recommended that the ASC Service Sustainability Fund is made available from the first May, following agreements by the Corporate Leadership Team.

The attached appendix shows the proposed proforma for the ASC Service Sustainability Fund. This requires confirmation from providers that the information provided represents a true and fair view of the additional costs that we have incurred or expect to incur arising from and attributable to COVID-19.