



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Infection Control Fund: Wokingham Borough Council

5th February 2020

Use of Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund

Local authority are required to publish up to date information on its spend against the Infection Control Fund on its website, to ensure there is sufficient clarity over how the significant public investment is supporting front-line social care services.

Wokingham Borough Council was allocated c£1.8m from round one of the Adult Social Care Infection Control Grant. A further grant of c.£1.65m was allocated to WBC under round two up to March 2021. Funding under both rounds has been provided as two equal instalments directly to the local authority and WBC has distributed the majority of the grant in accordance with the conditions.

Round One

75% of the initial funding received was passed straight to care homes within the local authority's geographical area for use on infection control measures, including to care homes with whom the local authority does not have existing contracts. The funding was distributed to Care Homes in June 2020 on a 'per bed' basis.

The remaining 25% of the Grant was passed on to other commissioned adult social care providers, including home care and supported living, and utilised to support locally procured and distributed PPE. This approach ensures that the majority of funding reached the front line as quickly as possible, while ensuring that Wokingham had the flexibility to top up where it was most needed.

The primary purpose of the Infection Control Grant is to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience. The Grant is subject to a number of conditions and the second payment will be subject to the satisfactory completion of the NHS Care Home Tracker and evidence that funding has been spent in accordance with the Grant conditions;

- Ensuring that staff who are isolating in line with government guidance receive their normal wages while doing so.
- Ensuring, so far as possible, that members of staff work in only one care home.
- Limiting or cohorting staff to individual groups of residents or floors/wings, including segregation of COVID-19 positive residents;
- To support active recruitment of additional staff if they are needed to enable staff to work in only one care home or to work only with an assigned group of residents or only in specified areas of a care home.
- Steps to limit the use of public transport by members of staff.
- Providing accommodation for staff who proactively choose to stay separately from their families in order to limit social interaction outside work.

In accordance with the grant conditions, Wokingham Borough Council has completed due diligence to ensure that conditions of the grant have been met.

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| Local authority | Wokingham |
| Allocation of Infection Control Fund received as of 06/08/20 | £1,876,986 |
| Allocation of Infection Control Fund dispensed as of 30/09/20 | £1,876,986 |

Under the grant condition, local authorities must allocate 75% of 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.

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| Please confirm whether your LA allocated 75% of the first month’s funding straight to care homes within the local authority’s geographical area | Yes |
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The grant conditions specify that the funding must be used for infection control measures. At least 75% of the grant funding must be used to support the measures listed within the grant conditions, while the remaining 25% may be used on other COVID-19 infection control measures including payments to domiciliary care providers.

| | Care Homes | Domiciliary Care | Others |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Please indicate the number of providers who have received funding | 50 | 25 | 23 |

Round Two

Round two will be paid in two tranches. The first will be paid in October 2020. The second tranche will be paid in December 2020. Wokingham Borough Council will pass 80% of each instalment to:

- Care Homes within the local authority’s geographical area on a ‘per beds’ basis
- CQC-regulated community care providers (domiciliary care, extra care and supported living) within the local authority’s geographical area on a ‘per user’ basis

This includes social care providers with whom the local authority does not have existing contracts.

The purpose of this funding is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care settings, in particular by helping to reduce the need for staff movements between sites. This funding must not be used to pay for activities that do not support the purpose of this fund.

The other 20% of the funding will be used to support care providers to take additional steps to tackle the risk of COVID-19 infections and will be allocated at the local authority's discretion.

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| Local authority | Wokingham |
| Allocation of Infection Control Fund received as of 05/02/21 | £1,657,592 |
| Allocation of Infection Control Fund dispensed as of 05/02/21 | £1,421,749 |

Under the grant condition, local authorities must allocate 80% of funding straight to care homes and community care providers within the local authority's geographical area on a 'per beds' or 'per user' basis, including to social care providers with whom the local authority does not have existing contracts.

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| Please confirm whether your LA allocated 80% of the first tranche of funding straight to care homes within the local authority's geographical area | Yes |
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| | Care Homes | Community care | Other |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Please indicate the number of providers who have received funding | 51 | 26 | 1 |