

Adults' Health and Care

Update for care providers



9 July 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update from Adults' Health and Care Director

Dear Provider

I want to again thank you and all your staff for the way in which you have been supporting people across a range of settings during the response to the pandemic. I know and want to recognise the exemplary manner of your response and to also recognise the impact that Covid-19 has had upon the people we support, the staff that provide that support and across our services and communities. Whilst we are positively seeing reductions in the prevalence of infections in the community and outbreaks in settings, clearly we will need to continue to remain vigilant and ensure we continue with all measures to limit transmission and outbreaks. The Local Outbreak Management Plan for Hampshire has been published and can be found [here](#), additionally the Department of Health and Social Care announced on Friday 3rd July that weekly staff testing and testing every 28 days for residents in care homes would be commencing from 6th July.

In response to the requirement from the Minister for Social Care to establish infection control measures in May 2020, accompanied by an allocation of up to £18.4m in two tranches for the county of Hampshire I am grateful for the returns submitted by care homes following the first payments in late May. The returns we have received identifies that 23% of funding has been to support safely isolating residents, 27% for reducing staff movements across settings, 23% on paying those staff subject to self-isolation their full wages and 27% spent on other measures. All reported spend is positively within the permitted areas as set out in the grant conditions.

We are now preparing to issue the second tranche of payments, which once again require a minimum of 75% to be allocated to every care home setting – based upon the number of CQC registered beds. In the first payment we paid a total of 90% of the fund to care homes, this time 75% will be paid resulting in £500 per bed for each care home. Payments have been processed and should be with providers by this Friday (10th July) for those who have completed and returned the requested financial submission for the first grant payment. For the small number of providers who have yet to make a return, please do so as quickly as possible. A second payment run will be organised for July 28th for these providers.

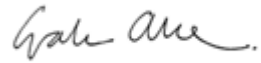
Can I please take this opportunity to remind all Care Home providers to continue to regularly update your information through the national capacity tracker returns. The information gleaned from these updates is invaluable and helps to ensure that our support is directed to the Homes that are most in need.

Work is currently being undertaken to identify the options to support the wider sector and decisions will be made imminently on this, without the need for a complicated application process. Details will be shared as soon as decisions are taken. However, we are conscious of the grant conditions which has limits on permissible spend – this excludes the costs of PPE and a reduction in income, whether that be through voids, closure because of social distancing or reduced demand. Additionally, allocated spend will need to be spent by mid-September to comply with the reporting deadlines and so avoid clawback by Government. Where grant payments are made we will require returns to be received by Hampshire County Council by 18th September to enable our final submission to be sent to Government for audit and sign-off. A link to the required return can be found [here](#) and to the guidance on the permissible spend [here](#), please ensure that you have the requisite evidence to support your return, if required. I also want to underline that emergency PPE can be accessed at no cost via the on-line form.

Furthermore, through the care home support arrangements developed through HCC, Hampshire CCGs, Hampshire Care Association and supported by HealthWatch Hampshire and local CQC colleagues we will continue to monitor and take action in support of the sector, not only with regard to the short-term elements as a result of the Infection Control Fund, outlined above, but to ensure the continued high quality support and outcomes our residents receive. Access to the action plan can be found [here](#) Regular updates on actions Commissioners will seek to progress, through close working with providers across Hampshire, informed by the views of people receiving support and their representatives will be provided both through existing

networks and communication channels and, in due course, by additional engagement.

If you have any questions please contact ProviderC19Q@hants.gov.uk



Graham Allen
Director, Adults' Health & Care
Hampshire County Council

