

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Decision to agree and allocate the remaining 25% of the Infection Control Grant fund.
Date of decision:	14 July 2020
Decision maker:	Director Adults and Communities
Authority for delegated decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An executive decision authorising the officer in the below report: <p>Purpose:</p> <p>To accept and approve the distribution of the council's allocation from the Infection Control Fund to Care Homes across Herefordshire in accordance with the grant determination letter issued by the Secretary of State on 26th May 2020.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <p>That:</p> <p>(a) The council accepts the allocation of £2,718,590 in accordance with the grant terms and conditions.</p> <p>(b) Care home providers are paid 75% of the total grant allocation which equates to £963 per bed of their total bed capacity; paid across two payments in June and July subject to accepting and adhering to the grant conditions; and that</p> <p>Delegated authority be given to the Director of Adults and Communities to spend the remaining 25% of the grant against the terms and conditions specified within the grant</p> <p>See link to report: https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=6928</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	This is a decision taken by the Director and therefore does not need consultation
Decision made:	The remaining 25% of the infection control grant totally is used for the purchase of PPE for all social care providers across the county.
Reasons for decision:	<p>All councils received a proportion of the £600m Infection Control Grant announced by government.</p> <p>Herefordshire council will receive £2,718,590 in two equal tranches. with 75% of each tranche to be allocated directly to care homes as per grant terms and conditions.</p> <p>The remaining 25% of the grant (£647,648), plus any funds returned unspent by care homes, can be allocated for infection control measures at the discretion of the council.</p> <p>Herefordshire council has spent £1,590,857 to date on procuring PPE, at least 70% of which has been delivered to all social care providers across the county at no charge.</p> <p>A decision was taken by system leaders that the county services would</p>

	<p>adhere to what was described as table 4 at that time, meaning that PPE would be worn on the assumption that people were infected, meaning that PPE usage is high, but infection control is enhanced. As a consequence the cost to procure the amount of PPE required to support the high usage has been and will continue to be high.</p> <p>Herefordshire council believes that this is the right decision and as such has continually supported the market to ensure adequate and reliable access to protect front line staff and residents.</p> <p>The terms and conditions of the infection control grant specify that the council and care homes providers must report on the allocation of the grant to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) by the 30 September.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The council has the authority to utilise the final 25% of the Infection Control grant to support wider infection control measures for the social care market. The council has already spent £1,590,857 with continued ongoing costs.</p> <p>The risk of challenge on this is minimal when the council has already put in place additional financial support packages and has spent a vast amount on providing PPE to the sector where they have struggled to source their own supplies during this pandemic.</p> <p>This additional funding will not cover the cost of PPE and in addition the allocated Covid-19 funds allocated to the council is unlikely to cover all of the additional costs relating to this pandemic.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Alternative options included additional funds allocated to the other areas of the care sector. This was rejected as the council is continuing to pay above rates for hospital discharge, and continuing to pay upon planned and also the council has a very generous offer with PPE and spend a vast amount protecting the social care providers and clients across the sector, it was felt that this provision continues to be priority.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	<p>None</p>

Signed..... Date:

Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.