

Financial Principles for Funding Providers in relation to COVID-19

Payments for Adult Social Care Providers

In line with the recommendations from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and the new guidance on Supplier Relief, the Council put in place the following principles:

1. We will pay on the basis of commissioned or planned activity for our current contracts (this includes existing Direct Payment packages) until at least the 30th June and to be reviewed thereafter. This payment will be subject to the agreement between the provider and the County Council of an agreed delivery plan. It is recognised that in many cases the nature of the service will need to change to reflect staffing levels and restrictions around face to face contact.
2. We will in general pay for “as commissioned” rather than “as delivered” if:
 - The provider pays occupational sick pay to their staff
 - The provider is not making staff redundant or laying them off
 - The provider is willing to consider redeployment of staff to assist other services in appropriate circumstances.
3. Services will be expected to keep basic records to monitor activity, but there will be no future reconciliation against commissioned hours.
4. We will not continue to pay for a service if we have to commission another service to permanently replace it. However, there are some exceptions to this:
 - a. If a Personal Assistant (PA) is temporarily unable to deliver a service due to self-isolating or illness
 - b. Where an alternative service is provided e.g. an outreach service at someone’s home instead of a day centre place.
5. We will not continue to pay for a service that has ended due to the service no longer being required or death of the service user.
6. We will not commission a new service if it cannot be delivered.
7. New arrangements for payments will be implemented from 23rd March 2020 in line with other changes to provision.
8. Normal procedures i.e. returns/invoices will still be expected for service delivery up to 22nd March 2020. Any outstanding returns will aim to be paid on the next payment run after receipt.

Additional Support

9. The Council has kept in regular contact with providers and following a webinar event held with almost 100 providers it was also agreed that most care home, home care and supported living providers would receive a cash advance equivalent to 5% of

their fees for a 2 week period by way of a one-off payment to assist with cash flow and to be netted off future claims.

10. The Council has created a Care Services Sustainability Fund to respond to the current pressures that services face and the online claim form for providers to claim additional costs as a result of COVID-19 went live on the 1st May 2020. The form is available for completion and submission [here](#) and can be submitted monthly.

Infection Control Fund

11. On 13th May 2020 the Government announced that it was releasing an Adult Social Care Infection Control fund of £600m to support providers across the country.
12. The government has set conditions for the grant and the Council will have to submit a return to government evidencing how providers have spent the funding.
13. Providers are also required to complete the national Capacity Tracker, and this will have additional fields that need to be completed so that the information can be used to monitor effectiveness.
14. There is an online form for care home providers to submit to show they agree to the terms set down by government so that it can then release the funds. In line with the national guidance, the Council is intending to passport 75% of the funds directly to care homes as soon as the funds are received following receipt of these forms. The remaining 25% will be used to support infection control across our other social care providers in line with a strategy to be developed by the multi-agency Care Home/Home Care cell which is part of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

These principles are to be reviewed at the end of June 2020.

Revised Clare Gilbert, Group Manager, Strategic Commissioning
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28th May 2020