

Infection Control Fund Update - July 2020

The Government has set up the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund, nationally worth £600 million. The purpose of this fund is to support all adult care home providers, including those with whom the council does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care homes. Croydon's allocation of this ring-fenced funding is £4.1 million. Two payments are made to care homes who sign the grant agreement dated 4 June:

- Payment 1: £533.61 per bed registered with CQC (payment made in June)
- Payment 2: £533.61 per bed registered with CQC (July – when second tranche of funding is received from the government)

The parameters for determining the ring-fenced funding are set out at Annex B of the [linked guidance](#). The Council has circulated a short online form in June to understand how care homes in Croydon are using the Infection Control Fund (ICF) payments. Data captured by the form showed that in line with Government guidance:

- 59% of respondents are using the ICF to **pay staff full wages whilst isolating**
- 59% of respondents are using the ICF to **restrict staff movement within care homes**
- 63% of respondents are using the ICF to **isolate residents with care homes**
- 47% of respondents are using the ICF to **recruit additional staff**

Care homes are reminded that the ICF payments for two allocations of £533.61 per bed **must not** be used to fund the following:

- Personal Protective Equipment (care homes have received other funding which can be spent on PPE)
- Deep cleaning by external contractors
- Costs before 13 May 2020 and after 30 September 2020

The Care Provider Alliance (CPA) has published a [briefing note](#) for care homes providing guidance on Infection Control Fund expenditure. The following spending areas have been approved by Croydon Council to utilise the £533.61 per bed funding.

Ensuring that staff who are isolating in line with government guidance receive their normal wages while doing so - The Government guidance states that the ICF should be used to pay staff that are absent due to COVID-19 full wages. This will help to reduce transmissions by ensuring staff do not return to work out of financial necessity.

Ensuring, in so far as possible, that members of staff work in only one care home - The ICF should also be used to top up the wages of those who usually work across several care homes yet are unable to due to COVID-19. As [this letter](#) from David Pearson, Chair of the Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce highlights, transmission of infection by asymptomatic staff and staff working across care homes, have been identified as key risks in transmitting infection. We encourage you to use this fund to reduce staff moving between settings.

Additional staffing costs to manage COVID-19 infection control requirements

- Costs of agency staff (limited to single care home) and bank staff
- Overtime cost of staff above historic levels
- Additional staff to cohort staff and residents
- Covering isolating staff in order to maintain the service
- Additional recruitment and retention costs
- Induction and training time for those new/returning recruits
- Cost of infection control training
- Cost of additional staff time to undertake and record the more frequent observations required for all residents during the pandemic

Additional management costs to comply with COVID-19 infection control requirements

- Completing capacity tracker and other COVID-19 requested reporting
- Managing and applying your visitor policy
- Test and trace management
- Appointing infection control champions
- Administration time for research, training and updates

Enabling cohorting of residents and staff

- Additional barriers, doors and washing facilities
- Addition of small kitchenette facilities
- Changing or storage facilities to minimise staff movement between areas
- Re-arrangement costs of internal or external areas
- Signage to allow social distancing or cohorting
- Additional time to settle in residents
- Communication with staff and residents and families
- Provision of communication mechanisms between cohorted groups
- Furniture to allow social distancing between both residents and staff e.g. garden furniture
- Accommodation for staff unable to return to their homes and subsequent expenses incurred e.g. food, heating, and water
- Socially-distanced meeting areas for families e.g. visitor screens and outdoor furniture

Additional staff costs to facilitate COVID-19 additional cleaning

- Staff time element of additional cleaning of the environment (e.g. door handles and handrails where all hard surfaces need more regular cleaning than in normal times and cleaning of communal equipment or tools)
- Equipment/room disinfection or sanitation costs

Travel costs of staff to minimise social contact

- Bike, taxi, mini bus or car mileage to collect cohorted staff teams
- Provision of extra facilities e.g. bicycle stands

Staffing costs of managing COVID-19 testing

- Staffing costs of those doing the tests, recording the test results, and the cost of reporting on the results to the GP

Additional equipment costs to manage COVID-19 infection control

- Installation of more hand sanitiser stations
- Additional or new uniforms to ensure all uniforms worn are clean
- Support to staff to comply with the requirements to clean uniforms and clothes at home in half-full washing machines
- Screens, provision of acrylic or other material to construct physical barriers
- Two-way radios or other communication devices (e.g. laptops or tablets to reduce physical movement between cohorted areas)
- In cases of specialist need, additional equipment may be required (e.g. facemask with clear Perspex panel to enable lip reading)
- Replacement of carpets with vinyl flooring which can be disinfected
- Foot-operated bins
- Proximity access installed within unit to avoid contamination through keypad access
- Medical equipment such as thermometers and oximeters

Further questions – Please email enquiriesBC@croydon.gov.uk if you have any queries about the Infection Control Fund.

Quick links - [Government guidance on Infection Control Fund](#)