

Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and Rutland County Council

26 June 2020

Infection Control Fund

Cost Eligibility - Additional Guidance

Notes:

All costs claimed must be Covid-19 related and within the conditions specified by the DHSC:

- Ensuring that staff who are isolating in line with government guidance receive their normal wages while doing so. At the time of issuing this grant determination this included staff with suspected symptoms of Covid 19 awaiting a test, or any staff member for a period following a positive test.
- Ensuring, so far as possible, that members of staff work in only one care home. This includes staff who work for one provider across several homes or staff that work on a part time basis for multiple employers and includes agency staff (the principle being that the fewer locations that members of staff work the better.
- 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, including by using and paying for staff who have chosen to temporarily return to practice, including those returning through the NHS returners programme. These staff can provide vital additional support to homes and underpin effective infection control while permanent staff are isolating or recovering from Covid-19.
- Steps to limit the use of public transport by members of staff. Where they do not have their own private vehicles, this could include encouraging walking and cycling to and from work and supporting this with the provision of changing facilities and rooms and secure bike storage or use of local taxi firms.
- Providing accommodation for staff who proactively choose to stay separately from their families in order to limit social interaction outside work. This may be provision on site or in partnership with local hotels.

Measures to isolate residents within their own care homes

This might include:

Costs of management teams (e.g. rearranging rotas, renegotiating contracts for additional hours, payroll changes, additional management and supervision time to embed staff changes etc); recruitment and retention costs, induction, and training time for those new/returning recruits; completing capacity tracker

	<p>and other COVID-19 requested reporting; managing visitor policy; test and trace management; and appointing infection control champions.</p> <p>Costs of agency staff and bank staff where this is required to limit working across different sites, this could also include the cost of paying overtime cost of staff at historic levels who are providing similar cover arrangements.</p> <p>Additional staffing cost associated with managing wellbeing of residents being isolated ensuring they have meaningful activities and maintain social interaction.</p>
<p>Actions to restrict staff movement within care homes</p>	<p>This might include:</p> <p><i>Staff costs:</i></p> <p>Additional staff hours where this is required to cohort staff and residents, staff time to move residents and belongings into cohorted areas; additional time to settle in residents, communication with staff and residents and families about what cohorting means, designing the communication, disseminating the same and arranging the provision of communication mechanisms between cohorted groups.</p> <p><i>Premises Costs:</i></p> <p>Additional costs for barriers or doors; addition of small kitchenette facilities, hand washing facilities, changing or storage facilities in cohorted areas to minimise staff movement between areas; re-arrangement costs of internal or external areas and / or signage to allow social distancing.</p> <p><i>Equipment costs:</i></p> <p>Additional or new uniforms if used, or potentially support to staff to comply with the requirements to clean uniforms and clothes at home in half-full washing machines. It might also include the 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 or operate C-19 systems; and additional WIFI equipment/ capacity).</p>

Footnote:

- 1. CAPITAL COSTS**
- 2. PPE**

1. CAPITAL COSTS

Capital and equipment costs to manage COVID-19 infection control within the above measures are eligible provided they conform to the examples given and unless specifically agreed with the Council should total less than 20% of the total grant expenditure.

Use of grant funding to undertake refurbishment of existing main care home facilities and provision of new equipment which does not support the measures set out above is not allowed as permissible items of expenditure. Such costs would form normal business as usual care home expenditure.

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For Leicester City Care Homes only - PPE related expenditure is allowable provided it does not Exceed 25% of the Tranche 1 grant allocation. This is because Leicester City has also allocated the 25% discretionary element of the government funding for tranche 1 to City care homes and which can be use for PPE related costs. The remaining 75% of the allocated grant funding in tranche 1 must only be spent on the measures set out above.

For Leicestershire County Council Care Homes only – PPE and other exceptional costs are not eligible expenditure from the 75% allocation. But if a provider has exceptional Covid infection control costs that can't be met either from the grant or from the additional fees paid by the Council for funded residents they can ask the Council to consider these.

For Rutland County Council care homes only- PPE is not eligible expenditure.

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