

Text of email from Welsh Government headed “Additional Funding for Adult Social Care to Meet the Costs Arising from Covid-19” send on 31 July 2020 to representatives of adult social care providers and local government

Colleagues,

This email is being sent to representatives of adult social care providers, Treasurers, Directors of Social Services and Heads of Adult Services of local authorities, and to representatives of the WLGA and National Commissioning Board.

Further to discussion at officer/ official and Political level, you will be aware that Ministers are providing an additional £22.7 million to help adult social care providers with the continuing costs arising from Covid-19. This is to help maintain their care provision and to help maintain their ability to operate. Please see attached guidance on how to access this resource.

At the start of the pandemic Ministers made available an initial £40 million to help adult social care providers meet the additional costs associated with Covid-19. This was provided to local authorities to help the adult social care sector with the associated rising costs in areas such as staffing, infection control, food prices and greater use of ICT (to keep families in touch with their loved ones while they were not able to visit each other). However, many providers are continuing to face financial pressures, particularly care homes who are also facing the additional challenge in relation to loss of income caused by increasing vacancies in homes (voids) linked to the need to control the spread of the virus. As a result Ministers are providing a further injection of £22.7 million to local authorities to enable them to continue to assist adult social care providers with these on-going additional costs. This funding is available for eligible areas of expenditure in July through to the end of September, when we will review the situation again.

Guidance on the purpose of this funding, providers’ eligible costs for this and the mechanism by which it will be provided, are all contained in the attached scheme guidance. In reading this recipients will particularly need to note the change of approach to a temporary national flat rate fee increase as the means of assisting providers with their day-to-day additional costs resulting for Covid-19; and the extension of this financial support to contribute towards the costs care homes are incurring from increasing numbers of voids; and also to unexpected / unpredictable market stability costs. Recipients will also note that at present, the funding and guidance only covers the additional costs in relation to social care. Those additional costs in relation to healthcare, and jointly commissioned care, are being considering by Ministers in terms of how best to address these and a decision on that is expected imminently.

Provision of this funding to local authorities to reimburse them for the financial support given to providers will again be through the Local Government Hardship Fund, with the arrangements for claiming and monitoring this as per the arrangements for that Fund. Further information on this is contained in the guidance.

Regards,

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Welsh Government – Health and Social Service Group | Llywodraeth Cymru – Grwp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Cymru Iachach:
ein Cynllun Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol

A Healthier Wales:
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