



Dear colleague,

Infection Control Fund 2

You will have seen the announcement on 17th September 2020 that the Infection Control Fund, set up in May, is being extended until March 2021, with an extra £546 million for the care sector to take key steps to improve infection prevention and control. This funding underlines the Government's commitment to ensure that the adult social care system has all the resources it needs during the COVID-19 outbreak to protect its staff and service-users.

This builds on the success of the previous fund in supporting measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in and between social care settings. The success of this was thanks to your work in collaborating with local authorities and using the fund for infection prevention measures. I am aware that the fund included a number of conditions on providers and local authorities alike, and am grateful for your ongoing support in providing the valuable information we ask for so we can track the use of infection control measures in social care. I want to emphasise that having reliable and timely data about the impact of the virus on care providers is essential if we are to beat this virus, this is why we are requiring providers and councils to report on the use of this funding.

As before, the purpose of the fund is to support adult social care providers, including those with whom the local authority does not have a contract, to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care settings. With the prevalence of COVID-19 rising in the population and in social care, it is vital that care providers reduce and restrict the need for staff movement. The fund can also be used to pay the wages of staff who are isolating due to COVID-19. **These measures will reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in care settings, minimising infection, keeping staff and residents safe, and saving lives.**

As well as the care home sector, the government recognises the vital role community care providers play, so we have designed this fund so it can more easily be used to provide support for infection prevention and control measures in a broader range of care settings (for instance, home care, community and day support services, and carers support services). It should be noted that enabling day support services to safely operate is a legitimate use of this funding and I am keen to support.

Full details of the fund including allocations, measures and reporting requirements can be found in the Local Authority circular and accompanying guidance which is [available online](#).

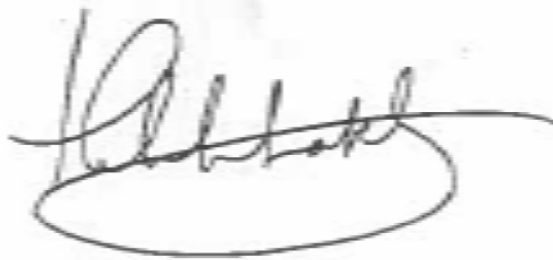
I wrote to local authorities in July in response to concerns that the conditions in the original Infection Control Fund – particularly in relation to the clawback conditions – had become a barrier to spending the money. I would like to reiterate here that, for the new fund, where providers have used funding on infection control measures as set out in the Grant Circular or as discussed with the Department, the Department's unequivocal position is that this will not be clawed back. We will only use these powers if a provider or local authority is clearly not following the rules.

The government will continue to monitor the pressures on adult social care during this period. Our Winter Plan set out that we will provide free personal protective equipment for COVID-19 needs in

line with current guidance to care homes and domiciliary care providers via the PPE portal until the end of March 2021. I am committed to providing significant support for the care sector to ensure that it can safely look after both its staff and service-users. We will use the information provided through the reporting requirements of this fund to support our understanding of the pressure points on the system when reviewing future funding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all adult social care providers, who have worked tirelessly during a highly pressured seven months. You have continued to show remarkable compassion when caring for those who need you in unprecedented circumstances. We will continue to work with you to support the sector's resilience and wellbeing during this pandemic and beyond.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Whately', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

HELEN WHATELY