

Department of Health and Social Care - Infection Control Fund Question and Answer

What are the measures a local authority can fund a provider to carry out in relation to the Infection Control Fund?

Local Authorities must ensure that 75% of the grant is allocated to support the following measures in respect of care homes:

- Ensuring that staff who are isolating in line with government guidance receive their normal wages while doing so.
- Ensuring, so far as possible, that members of staff work in only one care home.
- 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 (and volunteers) 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
- Steps to limit the use of public transport by members of staff.
- Providing accommodation for staff who proactively choose to stay separately from their families in order to limit social interaction outside work.

Can this funding be used to address general financial pressures providers might be experiencing?

No. The purpose of this funding is to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience.

Can this funding be used to cover costs of activity completed before the fund was announced?

No. The Infection Control Fund was announced on the 13th May and cannot be used retrospectively to cover cost incurred before then. It can be used to cover the ongoing costs of activities consistent with those outlined

Can this funding be used for Personal Protective Equipment?

This funding is to support specific measures for reducing the rate of transmission in and between care homes, such as minimising the movement of staff to reduce the risk of asymptomatic transmission of the virus and ensuring staff do not lose out on wages in doing so.

Full details of Department of Health and Social Care - Infection Control Fund Question and Answer can be found here:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/DHSC%20Infection%20Control%20Fund%20Question%20and%20Answer.pdf#page=4>