

Report to Cabinet



Date of Meeting	27 th April 2021
Portfolio	Public Health and Wellbeing
Responsible Director	Andrea Fallon – Director of Public Health
Report Author	Adam Sutcliffe
Public/Private Document	Private

Public Health COVID-19 Grant Funding

Executive Summary

- 1.0 Public Health has received additional funding from central government to assist with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding was initially allocated from June 2020 to support the local requirements of Test & Trace.
- 1.1 Since October 2020 we have received monthly payments linked to the tiered restrictions and lockdown respectively.
- 1.2 The Government announced in the 'COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021' roadmap an extra £400 million funding for the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, to cover further public health activities from 1 April 2021. The Rochdale allocation is £1,995,873 for 21/22.
- 1.3 This paper summarises the funding received and seeks approval for the proposed uses for the funding for 20/21 and 21/22.
- 1.4 Some of the allocations within the report have been approved via Chief Executive urgency powers given the need to pass funds through to support the most vulnerable during the lockdown periods, this report seeks to document those decisions in order we are transparent about use of resources.
- 1.5 The report covers the following five grants:

Grant	Value	Period
Test and Trace Service Support Grant	£1,591,757	Jun 20 to Mar 21
Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)	£2,492,346 – initial allocation	Oct 20 to Mar 21
	£2,668,944 (£889,648 per 28 days)	Dec 20 to Feb 21
	£1,143,833 – allocation covering 36 days	Mar 21
	£1,995,873	Apr 21 to Mar 22
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Grant (CEV)	£120,450 – November £138,563 – December £160,694 – February £252,082 – March	Nov 20 to Mar 21
Lateral Flow Testing	Income based on number of tests carried out @£14 per test.	Jan 21 to Jun 21
Self-isolation practical support framework funding	£63,077 – March £63,077 – April £63,077 – May £63,077 – June	Mar 21 to Jun 21

- 1.6 Monthly grant returns are required in respect of the COMF, CEV and Self-isolation practical support funding payments. This is overseen by colleagues in Public Health and finance with sign off from the Director of Public Health.

Recommendation

- 2.0 That Cabinet approves the proposals for the use of the funding contained within this report and the subsequent publication of the decision.
- 2.1 That Cabinet delegates the authority for allocating the ongoing COMF, CEV and self-isolation practical support funding to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet member for Healthy Lives
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegates the signing of any contract variations required as a result of administering the allocated funding to commissioned services to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet member for Healthy Lives.

Reason for Recommendation

- 3.0 The allocation of the funding received has been made in consultation with key partners in Rochdale to ensure it meets the needs of the population during this period (see page 8 of the COVID outbreak plan embedded in section 8 of this report for the reporting structure). The allocations are also in line with the conditions of each grant.

Key Points for Consideration

4.0 Test and Trace Service Support Grant

- 4.1 This grant of £1,591,757 was issued to the local authority in June 2020. Allocation of the grant has been in the following categories to support the response to the pandemic:

Test and Trace Service Support Grant	Value committed
Strengthening internal infrastructure for response	£404,327
Testing	£438,696
Contract Tracing	£271,758
Protecting the vulnerable	£127,374
Prevention and Enforcement	£342,193
Contingency	£7,409
Total	£1,591,757

4.2 Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)

- 4.3 An initial allocation of £2,492,346 was received by the local authority in October 2020 to reflect the time the borough has been in enhanced measures and Tier 3.
- 4.4 Due to the continued restrictions, the Council has received further COMF allocations. These payments commenced from December 2020 and have continued to the end of March 2021. The allocation during this time has totalled £3,812,777.
- 4.5 The COMF funding has been allocated in the following way:

COMF funding category	Value committed from 20/21 COMF allocation
Testing	£200,000
Compliance measures	£110,000
Communication and marketing	£200,000
Support for the clinically extremely vulnerable	£475,000
Support for wider vulnerable groups, including rough sleepers	£765,475
Support for those self-isolating	£185,934
Targeted intervention for specific cohorts within the community	£883,726
Utilisation of local sectors (Academic, volunteers etc.)	£25,033
Other (Supporting public health infrastructure)	£805,800
Total committed	£3,650,968
20/21 total COMF funding	£6,305,123
Funding remaining to support implementation of 21/22 outbreak management plan	£2,654,155

- 4.6 Some examples of the support offered can be found in the powerpoint presentation embedded in section 8 of this report.
- 4.7 **COMF funding 2021/2022**
- 4.8 On 24th February 2021 Government announced in the ‘COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021’ roadmap an extra £400 million funding for the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, to cover further public health activities from 1 April 2021. The Rochdale allocation is £1,995,873 for 21/22. It should be noted that this figured is significantly less than the funding received during 2020/21.
- 4.9 We are also able to carry over remaining COMF funds from 2020/21 to support the delivery of the Outbreak Management plan during 2021/22. This means the remaining COMF to deliver the outbreak management functions for 2021/22 is £4,650,028.
- 4.10 **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Grant (CEV)**
- 4.11 In November 2020, to reflect the borough moving into another lockdown, the Council received a grant of £120,450 in November 2020 to be used to support Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents in the borough.
- 4.12 Since then the council has received an additional £551,339 to support the CEV residents in the borough.

4.13 The allocation of the CEV grant has been developed by Public Health and partners. It has been used to support the community response hubs, communicate with shielding residents, support residents accessing food and supplies provision, as well as access to digital resources.

4.14 Shielding advice for vulnerable residents has been officially paused nationally with effect from 1st April 2021. This means the Council will not receive any further CEV grant funding. As with the COMF grant, we have been able to carry forward the remaining CEV funding to support the delivery of the outbreak management plan in 2021/22.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Grant Allocation	Value committed
Staff costs for community hubs	£30,012
Contacting CEV's, triaging individual's needs and signposting to available support,	£16,850
Engagement with isolated individuals	£120,000
CEV's directly supported to access food	£85,000
Provision of wellbeing support and digital inclusion	£50,000
Development of digital platform to sustain response into 2021/22	£109,927
Focused recovery programme at those who have been shielding in terms of addressing deconditioning and mental wellbeing	£260,000
Total committed	£671,789
Total CEV funding received	£671,789

4.15 **Self-isolation practical support framework funding**

4.16 At the end of March 2021, the Council received notification from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) that we would be receiving additional financial support to help those who are required to self-isolate. We have been notified that we are to receive £63,077 a month for March, April, May and June. The public health team is currently working with partners to allocate this funding. As with the other grants will be utilised to deliver the outbreak management plan during 2021/22.

4.17 As with the CEV grant, a monthly monitoring return is required to be submitted to the DHSC and this will be overseen by colleagues in Public Health and finance with sign off from the Director of Public Health.

4.18 **Lateral Flow Testing**

4.19 Grant support is available to support the costs of Lateral Flow Testing for the period from the 18th of January to the end of June 2021. The value of this support is matched to the delivery cost up to a maximum of £14 per test delivered, however we have received assurance that we will receive funding to cover the overall costs if the cost per test is above £14 due to unforeseen circumstances, such as the 3rd lockdown and closure of schools.

- 4.20 Initial LFT funding was allocated for funding up until the 31st of March 2021, and a further allocation will be made for costs incurred between April and the 30th of June 2021. Returns have been submitted to the DHSC for each of these periods providing details on costs and activity.

Below are the forecast costs and expected tests to be delivered at each stage.

LFT Forecasts	Estimated Cost	Estimated Tests	Cost per Test
January to March	£457,109	37,272	£12.26
April to June	£338,710	38,970	£8.69
Total	£795,819	76,242	£10.44

- 4.21 The forecast costs are expected to remain within the £14 per test limit, so this should be cost neutral to the LA.

Costs and Budget Summary

5.0 Grant	Total funding due to be received	Funding Spent/ committed	Amount remaining
Test and Trace Service Support Grant	£1,591,757	£1,591,757	£0
Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)	£8,300,996	£3,650,968	£4,650,028
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Grant (CEV)	£671,789	£671,789	£0
Self-isolation practical support funding	£252,308	£0	£252,308
Lateral Flow testing	£795,819	£795,819	£0
Total funding so far	£11,612,669	£6,710,333	£4,902,336

Risk and Policy Implications

- 6.0 The recommendations within this report will ensure that Council remains legally compliant in relation to the allocation of these grants and ensure the decisions made are published in line with local authority requirements which reduces the risk of legal challenge.
- 6.1 Any provision of funding from these grants to external providers has been issued utilising the following Procurement Policy Note:
- 6.2 *Procurement Policy Note - Responding to COVID-19 Information Note PPN 01/20 March 2020 makes provision for the following;*

This PPN and associated guidance covers options that may be considered in relation to procurements under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (for the current financial thresholds, see PPN 06/19):

- *direct award due to extreme urgency (regulation 32(2)(c));*
- *direct award due to absence of competition or protection of exclusive rights;*
- *call off from an existing framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system;*
- *call for competition using a standard procedure with accelerated timescales;*
- *extending or modifying a contract during its term.*

Consultation

- 7.0 The allocation of funding of all of the grants contained within this paper as approved are in line with the objectives set out in the Council's COVID-19 Outbreak Plan (embedded background papers).
- 7.1 Consultation with community leaders and the VCSF is an ongoing process managed as part of the governance arrangements for the delivery of the Outbreak management plan.
- 7.2 Where applicable, all providers who have received funding have been consulted with to ensure they are able to deliver the functions required.
- 7.3 The transfer of funding to providers has been carried out in consultation with finance and procurement colleagues to ensure compliance with the relevant regulations.

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
8.	
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