Department of Health & Social Care

19 October 2020

Dear Local Authority Chief Executives,

Thank you for your incredible efforts to mitigate the impacts of the COVID pandemic, as we seek to break the chains of transmission, protect our NHS and save lives. I appreciate these efforts carry a financial burden, so I am writing to inform you about changes to the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. This is a Department of Health and Social Care fund set up to support Local Authorities to carry out your responsibilities during this crisis.

Following the move to Local COVID Alert Levels, and as of 12 October 2020, Local Authorities will be eligible for a series of payments from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund to support proactive containment and intervention measures:

1. A payment of up to **£1 per head of population** will be provided to Local Authorities in Local COVID Alert Level Medium. This will be disbursed as soon as public health activities have been agreed with the relevant Regional Convenor.
2. Where Local Authorities move to Local COVID Alert Level High or Very High this financial support will automatically be increased to **£3 per person** and **£8 per person** respectively.
3. This funding is incremental, not additional.
4. Funding is one-off. Repeated movement between Local Alert Levels will not enable reoccurring support from this fund.
5. Funding will be paid to Upper Tier Local Authorities, for onwards disbursement.

Financial support for Local Authorities at Local COVID Alert Level Medium and High is to fund the following activities:

a. Targeted testing for hard-to-reach groups out of scope of other testing programmes.
b. Additional contact tracing.
c. Enhanced communication and marketing e.g. towards hard-to-reach groups and other localised messaging.
d. Delivery of essentials for those in self-isolation.
e. Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces.
f. Harnessing capacity within local sectors (voluntary, academic, commercial).
g. Extension/introduction of specialist support (behavioural science, bespoke comms).
h. Additional resource for compliance with, and enforcement of, restrictions and guidance

Financial support for Local Authorities at Local COVID Alert Level Very High has a broader scope, to support local economies and public health. We expect this to include activities such as (this list is not exhaustive):

i. Measures to support the continued functioning of commercial areas and their compliance with public health guidance.
j. Funding Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (marginal costs only).
k. Targeted support for school/university outbreaks.
l. Community-based support for those disproportionately impacted such as the BAME population.

m. Support for engagement and analysis of regional areas to assess and learn from local initiatives.
n. Providing initial support, as needed, to vulnerable people classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable who are following tier 3 guidance.
o. Support for rough sleepers.

This list will likely evolve over time, with updated guidance provided on gov.uk.

Local Authorities should liaise with their Contain Regional Convenor, JBC Regional Lead and MHCLG on the details of expenditure and the monitoring of outcomes.

This support is in addition to previous financial support that has been provided or formally committed from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. Furthermore, the Prime Minister confirmed that there would be a further package of support for local government, of around £1 billion, on Monday. Further details of this funding will be confirmed by MHCLG next week.

Please email covid-19LAfundingrequests@dhsc.gov.uk if you have any questions. Further guidance will be provided on gov.uk in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Carolyn Wilkins

Dr Carolyn Wilkins OBE

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