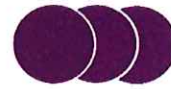




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COSLA Health & Social Care Spokesperson
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To: Local Authority Chief Executives
IJB Chief Officers
IJB Chief Finance Officers

Cc: NHS Chief Executives

3 August 2020

Dear colleague,

We are writing to provide an update regarding financial support from Scottish Government to help the social care sector meet additional costs related to COVID-19, and regarding the Principles for Social Care Sustainability Payments previously agreed by Scottish Government and COSLA.

We wrote to you in late March to confirm that, in recognition of the significant pressures on the social care sector as a result of the pandemic, reasonable funding requirements would be supported. This was subject to any additional expenditure being fully aligned to local mobilisation plans. An initial £50 million was committed to support this.

In recognition of ongoing challenges for Local Authorities, IJBs and social care providers, and commensurate with data submitted through the local mobilisation plan financial returns, we have agreed to provide an additional tranche of funding of up to £50 million to meet reported and ongoing costs. In line with the approach taken to date, this funding will be provided on the basis of appropriate evidence and assurance in respect of actual expenditure and will continue to be reviewed within the context of our overall package of financial support.

In line with this, and to provide assurance and stability in the system, the principles for social care sustainability payments to providers will be extended for two months until the end of September. During that time, we will work together with you and social care providers to

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develop a plan that involves a transition from current arrangements over the course of August and September, which may incorporate some tapering of payments and changes to the principles. The plan will take into account the change in prevalence of the virus; new and changed considerations for Local Authorities, IJBs and providers; and reasonable adaptations that providers will need to make to their business/support models in light of COVID-19 to ensure they remain sustainable into the future. Existing arrangements for the principles for sustainability payments will continue until changes are agreed by the Scottish Government and COSLA, and adequate notice of agreed changes will be provided.

The commitment to the Social Care Staff Support Fund is unchanged by this extension. It remains in place until the end of September. Employers should continue to make applications for reimbursement, upon paying eligible staff, via the local mobilisation plan process or monthly local authority return.

This has been, and continues to be, an unprecedented time for everyone in Scotland – particularly for those people providing social care support, people who use support and carers, and those in leadership positions in the sector. Thank you again for all of the work that you and your teams have been doing, and the professionalism shown throughout.

Yours sincerely



Jeane Freeman



Cllr Stuart Currie