

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
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To: Local Authority Chief Executives
IJB Chief Officers
IJB Chief Finance Officers
Social Care Providers

Cc: NHS Chief Executives

28 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 Local Authorities and Integration Authorities at the start of August, to advise that we would start to develop a plan to transition from current arrangements over the course of August and September. Work has been taken forwards by Scottish Government, COSLA, representatives from Health and Social Care Partnerships, CCPS and Scottish Care. The transition plan has been developed as part of remobilisation to ensure the appropriate support for the sector remains in place.

The transitional arrangements agreed by Scottish Government and COSLA Leaders are;

- Care Home Occupancy Payments will begin to taper with 75% of voids caused by the continued impact of COVID paid in September, 50% in October and 25% in November. These will continue to be paid at 80% of the National Care Home Rate;
- The planned care approach for care and support and community-based services will remain in place until the end of October to allow a transition period;

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- Additional costs for personal protective equipment, infection prevention control and staffing related costs, in line with Scottish Government guidance, will continue to be met in line with current arrangements and are subject to ongoing review and engagement with the sector; and
- Social Care Support Fund payments will continue subject to extension of the regulations.

When we wrote at the start of August, we confirmed that a further allocation of up to £50m was agreed. £25m of this was allocated immediately based on NRAC/GAE formula to each area. An additional allocation of a targeted £8m based on Integration Authorities financial returns will be allocated to 12 areas who have demonstrated that they have already spent more than they had been allocated at the end of July.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport has confirmed that funding will continue to be provided through the Local Mobilisation Plan route to meet the extension of these commitments.

We recognise the challenges for both providers and commissioners alike in submitting and processing the necessary information to ensure these payments can be made. It is vital that providers and commissioners work together to ensure that the information is submitted and processed in a timely way to ensure sustainability and ensure adequate resources are made available.

As part of these transitional arrangements, providers and commissioners should work in partnership to look at local commissioning arrangements and current delivery models as part of recovery and remobilisation to consider what needs to be done differently following the pandemic.

Following the transition of these payments, there may be a requirement to step up support if there is a local outbreak in a particular area that is impacting social care providers or in the event of a second wave. This will be kept under regular review.

The significant efforts of the entire social care sector are recognised, and we 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

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