



E: scssfenquiries@gov.scot

Sent by email:

Local Authority Chief Executives
IJB Chief Officers
CCPS
Scottish Care
SSSC
Care Inspectorate
GMB
Unison
Unite
cc'd:
COSLA
CFOs

30 September 2022

Dear Colleague

You will be aware that the Social Care Staff Support Fund is due to come to an end on 30 September 2022. After careful review of the current and future requirement of the Fund I am pleased to advise that the Scottish Government and COSLA have agreed to extend the Social Care Staff Support Fund to 31 March 2023.

The Fund is available for social care staff who are absent from work due to having covid-19, or self-isolating in line with public health guidance, and will remain in place to support and encourage infection prevention and control in social care settings where there is confirmation that a staff member has Covid-19. This will help to protect both service users and the workforce, thus promoting public health and mitigating harm from the virus.

There have been no changes to the way the Fund operates, including the eligibility criteria and the claim process. The Fund will continue to be accessed in the same way by employers. The Fund ensures that eligible social care workers receive their normal income.

The guidance on the Fund can be found [here](#) and includes eligibility criteria and how to access the claim form from the integration authority / local authority which commissions the service.

Due to the current severe budget pressures, claims for absences up to and including 30 September 2022 must be submitted to the local authority / integration authority by 14 October 2022. The timely submission of claims will ensure IAs retain adequate



funding to cover these costs. If it is not possible to meet this deadline, notice of the intent to submit a claim, which includes an estimated claim value, should be submitted to the IA/LA by 14 October 2022. This can then be followed up by a claim by 30 November 2022.

Please refer to the [recently updated guidance](#) incorporating changes to eligible costs that can be claimed that took effect from 1 July 2022. In addition to the social care staff support fund, financial support arrangements relating to testing and vaccinations remain eligible until 31 March 2023. I would ask that you refer to the guidance for details of eligibility criteria and the scope of the fund to ensure that any claims are valid. Local authority / integration authority finance teams also have the necessary compliance checks in place as part of the processing of claims.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Turner

Deputy Director, Social Care Workforce and Fair Work Division
Scottish Government

