

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	SLT Tactical – 18 Feb 2021 SLT Gold – 19 Feb 2021
	DATE:	9 February 2021
	LEAD OFFICER:	Scott Matthewman, Interim AD Strategic Commissioning, Adult Care, Housing and Public Health Tel: 07720 201138
	TITLE:	ASC Rapid Testing Fund and ASC Workforce Capacity Fund Briefing.
1. Background		
1.1	<p>As part of the Government’s commitment to support Local Authorities, and in particular adult social care with the Covid-19 pandemic response, two new funding regimes have been released:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASC Rapid Testing Fund - £149million nationally with an allocation of £741,000 for Rotherham; and • ASC Workforce Capacity Fund - £120million nationally with an allocation of £672,000 for Rotherham. 	
1.2	<p>Both of which are time limited and need to be spent before the end of the financial year with clear grant eligibility criteria. Links to the guidance are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care Rapid Testing Fund - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) • Workforce Capacity Fund for adult social care - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) 	
2. Key Issues		
2.1	Rapid Testing Fund:	
2.1.1	<p>On 23 December 2020, the Government announced an extra £149million grant to support the roll out of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing in care homes. The main purpose of this funding is to support the setup, training and implementation of additional rapid testing of staff in care homes, and to support testing visiting professionals. The expenditure must be incurred between 2 December 2020 and 31 March 2021.</p>	
2.1.2	<p>The fund can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff costs associated with training and carrying out LFD testing; • Costs associated with recruiting staff to facilitate increased testing; • Costs associated with the creation of a separate testing area where staff and visitors can be tested and wait for their result. This includes the cost of reduced occupancy where this is required to convert a bedroom into a 	

	<p>testing area, but only if this is the only option available to the care home; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs associated with disposal of LFD tests and testing equipment.
2.1.3	The fund is only intended to support additional rapid testing using LFDs. The Council has been allocated £741,000.
2.1.4	The Council has facilitated the distribution of the specified 80% of the Rapid Testing Fund as per the guidance. This is recorded via the Record of Officer Executive Decision from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People Services.
2.1.5	Councils must use 20% (£148,000) of the fund to support the care sector to operationally deliver rapid testing, but this can be allocated at the Council's discretion.
2.1.6	<p>It is proposed to utilise the 20% discretionary element as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting care homes or other providers that are currently experiencing an outbreak to ensure that they have the resources needed to administer the LFD tests and equipment that they need to increase LFD testing. • Support smaller care homes to implement LFD testing, as they may face relatively higher costs compared to large homes, and to enable other settings such as home care, supported living and extra care that are eligible to roll out LFD testing.
2.1.7	The discretionary element will be allocated based on an assessment of the emerging risks and in line with the wider testing strategy.
2.2	Workforce Capacity Fund:
2.2.1	On 16 January 2021, the Government announced a further fund of £120million to increase staffing capacity in adult social care. This is a new grant, separate to the second Infection Control Fund (ICF2) and Rapid Testing Fund, which will further help the care sector respond to the challenges posed by Covid-19 and will be paid to local authorities in England. Rotherham's allocation is £672,000.
2.2.2	The conditions of the funding are that the monies have to be spent by the 31 March 2021 and covers expenditure between 16 January and 31 March 2021. Local authorities who have not fully spent their allocation at the end of the fund will be expected to repay any unspent monies to Government.
2.2.3	<p>The funding will be paid as a Section 31 grant ringfenced exclusively for actions which enable local authorities to deliver measures to supplement and strengthen adult social care staff capacity - to ensure that safe and continuous care is achieved to deliver the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain care provision and continuity of care for recipients where pressing workforce shortages may put this at risk;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support providers to restrict staff movement in all but exceptional circumstances, which is critical for managing the risk of outbreaks and infection in care homes; • Support safe and timely hospital discharges to a range of care environments, including domiciliary care, to prevent or address delays as a result of workforce shortages; and, • Enable care providers to care for new service users where the need arises. <p>2.2.4 The conditions of the fund are extremely time restrictive as the window for expenditure to be incurred opened on the 16 January and closes on 31 March 2021. As such, the market has been consulted to assess how the funding could be allocated and used to fulfil the requirements of the fund.</p> <p>2.2.5 It is therefore proposed that the funding is allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proportion of the fund is used to support core adult social care activity such as: IDT social care agency contracts, brokerage provision and the additional staffing requirements at in-house provision. • A proportion of the fund is used to support the operation and development of the Skills Academy to attract and recruit a highly skilled care workforce for Rotherham. • A proportion of the fund is used to invite expressions of interest (Eoi) from the provider market on how they can utilise funding to deliver the conditions of the grant. This will have clear criteria to facilitate as broad as possible interest from across the market. <p>2.2.6 It is also proposed that if the above allocations are not fully utilised, then the overall quantum of funding can be used across the expenditure lines to ensure the full benefit of the fund is realised. This is recorded via the Record of Officer Executive Decision from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People Services.</p>
<p>3. Key Actions and Timelines</p>	
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>The terms and conditions of the funding and in particular the qualifying expenditure periods means that key actions are already being progressed as set out in the report.</p> <p>The Council has and will continue to engage with the market to ensure that terms and conditions of the grants are signed up to and adhered to by the provider base. Monitoring reports are required at certain intervals by Government and colleagues in Adult Care, Housing and Public Health – strategic commissioning and finance will oversee these requirements to ensure compliance.</p> <p>As previously stated, any funds which are not spent will be returned to Government as part of the final stage of the reporting period.</p>

4. Cabinet Member and Leader Comments													
4.1	Leader of the Council: No further comments.												
4.2	Cllr Roche: I agree with the recommendations and welcome the funding for staff.												
5. Recommendations													
5.1	The following recommendations are presented for approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the proposed use of the Rapid Testing Fund allocation as set out in section 2.1 of the report is approved. • That the proposed use of the Workforce Capacity Fund allocation as set out in section 2.2 of the report is approved. • That SLT and members are kept apprised of the progress and delivery of the funds to ensure the maximum value is realised for Rotherham. 												
6. Briefing consultation / sign off													
6.1	Has the above information been considered by: <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1012 1417 2004"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Legal: Liz Anderton</td> <td>Officer: Service Manager</td> <td>Date: 11/02/21</td> <td>Comments: There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. Any funds should be utilised in accordance with the set criteria to minimise/ eliminate any risk of challenge.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HR: Trish Law</td> <td>Officer: Senior HR Officer</td> <td>Date: 10/02/21</td> <td>Comments: No HR related implications associated with the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance: Owen Campbell</td> <td>Officer: Head of Finance (Adults, Public Health and Housing)</td> <td>Date: 09/02/21</td> <td>Comments: The financial implications are contained in the body of the report.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Legal: Liz Anderton	Officer: Service Manager	Date: 11/02/21	Comments: There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. Any funds should be utilised in accordance with the set criteria to minimise/ eliminate any risk of challenge.	HR: Trish Law	Officer: Senior HR Officer	Date: 10/02/21	Comments: No HR related implications associated with the report.	Finance: Owen Campbell	Officer: Head of Finance (Adults, Public Health and Housing)	Date: 09/02/21	Comments: The financial implications are contained in the body of the report.
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