

Date: 29th May 2020

Your Ref:

Our Ref:



Helen Whately MP
Minister of State for Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Chief Executive's Office

Town Hall

Bolton

BL1 1RU

Tel: 01204 331001

www.bolton.gov.uk

Dear Minister

Re. Bolton Care Homes Infection control fund

I am writing in response to the welcomed announcement of resources to support our care home sector in preventing the spread and control of Covid 19 within and between homes, for the ultimate protection of some of our most vulnerable residents.

The Bolton health and care system has a strong history of working together and supporting our care market, we have a strong collaborative relationship with our care market and our emergency response support planning commenced as early as the beginning of March 2020.

A comprehensive advice and support offer was established through engagement events with our care home, home care and specialist providers in March 2020. The Bolton 'support offer' to care homes has been supported by the following partners within our local system;

- Bolton Integrated Care Partnership (LCO)
- Bolton Council Commissioning and Quality Assurance Services
- Bolton Council Social Work Services
- Bolton NHS Foundation Trust Community Services
- Bolton NHS Foundation Trust Infection Prevention Control Team
- Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group Primary Care Directorate
- Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Officers
- Bolton Council Public Health Team
- Bolton Community Voluntary Sector

In addition, to our local partnership Bolton has benefitted from the devolved arrangements through Greater Manchester enabling Bolton providers to access emergency resources and supplies, advice and guidance and regional recruitment campaigns as examples.

Chief Executive **Tony Oakman**

Bolton committed to our sector from 26th March to ensure timely payments were processed ensuring there were no financial flow issues for providers, this also has included increased rates for block purchasing beds supporting hospital discharge and rates for homecare rapid discharge. We have also paid on scheduled work plan for home care, supported living and extra care rather than actuals during this period as further commitment to our sector.

Bolton has not taken steps to uplift fees across the board as we already have one of the higher fee rates in the North West reflecting our commitment over many years to our sector. We have however offered financial support to cover extraordinary and additional expenditure such as agency costs, PPE costs and will continue to do so until September 2020. We are committed to ensure the limited financial resources available to us reach the right areas, our support offered has been made available to all areas irrespective of whether the Council commissions the services.

The full details of the financial support offer to date and funds distributed are enclosed in Appendix A and will be published on the Council website on the following link <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/adult-social-care/care-homes>.

Below is a short summary of our wider holistic support offer that will continue to be reviewed in consultation with our care sector and adapted to ensure we respond to the ever changing impact of this pandemic;

Infection prevention control – local pathways for accessing support, advice and guidance on cohorting residents and staff, outbreak management and training.

Testing – local pathway in place with Bolton NHS Foundation trust and Bolton Integrated care partnership for testing symptomatic service users and staff and is and operating well.

PPE – Providers have been supported through the co-ordination of accessing emergency supplies of PPE through LRFs and additional procured stock by the Council.

Workforce resilience – the ability to reduce the movement of staff between homes is a real challenge, safe staffing levels will take precedent and we have collectively worked with homes to consider this where they can, this has also included running a regional recruitment campaign #carehero and recruiting a nurse returner.

Clinical support – through the local enhanced schemes for primary care and our Integrated care partnership clinical leadership both strategic and named GP practice per home were already in place and have been instrumental in supporting homes with advance care planning, mobilising access to equipment, anticipatory medication as some examples.

End of Life Support – developed guidance on end of life, training and outreach support from the local Hospice into Care Homes, this is in addition to the advance care planning and primary care support.

I can confirm that a daily review of the National NHS capacity tracker in conjunction with twice weekly contact with all care providers and delivering fortnightly advice and support Webinars are completed supporting our market oversight. This information is also fed into a Greater Manchester and NWADASS sitrep report enabling a place-based overview of risk areas for appropriate responses to be deployed.

I hope this letter provides positive assurance on Bolton's approach and support to our care sector, on a final note it's fair to say that some of the achievements and response from our care homes and wider social care providers has been magnificent, they have gone above and beyond in what has been the most challenging of circumstances.

Chief Executive **Tony Oakman**

We would urge consideration for longer term funding and a settlement for adult social care as the challenges faced in the sector are long standing and now even more so compounded by Covid-19.

We hope this information is helpful and look forward to receiving your feedback on the submissions.

Yours sincerely



Tony Oakman
Chief Executive

C.C David Greenhalgh Leader of the Council
C.C Andrew Morgan Executive Cabinet Member Adults
C.C Rachel Tanner DASS
C.C Helen Lowey DPH
C.C Susan Long Accountable Officer CCG

Chief Executive **Tony Oakman**

Appendix A

	Domiciliary Care	Residential Care	Other Provision
Financial Support			
Support Being Offered	Payment on scheduled Hours.	Claims process for expenditure above normal levels including PPE, Staffing etc.	Payment on scheduled Hours.
	Set up payments for discharges from hospital.	Block booking of discharge to assess beds at an enhanced rate	Claims process for expenditure above normal levels including PPE, Staffing etc
	All payments at enhanced rate without KPI requirements (where applicable).		
	Extension of payments while clients in hospital.		
	Claims process for expenditure above normal levels including PPE, Staffing etc		
Total Spent on Supporting Providers	302,184.06	All providers who have submitted invoices have been paid. Awaiting further claims from providers. This figure will be updated periodically.	

Chief Executive **Tony Oakman**

Bolton Blackrod Farnworth Horwich Little Lever South Turton Westhoughton... all the family

