

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY AN OFFICER**

<b>DECISION TITLE:</b>	<b>Extending the Covid-19 Contingency Payment Scheme for Care Homes through short term reduced occupancy payments</b>
Cabinet Decision No and/or Forward Plan No (Cabinet decisions only)	Forward Plan No. 069/19 – 6 April 2020 (CAB 174)
Directorate Ref No (Non Cabinet decisions only) If applicable	n/a
Decision detail	<p>The purpose of the key decision was to seek delegated authority to officers to modify and award contracts as necessary to ensure the operation of council services in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Cabinet Office Policy Procurement Notes 01/20 and 02/20.</p> <p>Delegated approval was given.</p> <p>The Council has taken a number of proactive steps to support the Care Home sector throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic. This includes regular conference calls, dedicated email and phone lines, provision of information advice and guidance, distribution of emergency PPE, advance payments to support cash flow and the establishment of contingency payment schemes.</p> <p>There are specific expectations placed on local authorities as part of the national response to supporting care homes. The aim of this proposed occupancy subsidy scheme is to take steps to avoid provider failure over the next 12 weeks and support the ongoing financial viability of the care home sector in Warrington to meet current and future needs. Our priority is to protect our most vulnerable residents and support them to remain in their care homes for the short-medium term whilst longer term recovery planning can take place.</p> <p>It is recommended that the following action is taken immediately to address the significant risks of financial viability and provider failure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduce an occupancy subsidy scheme as outlined in this report for an initial 12 week period covering June, July and August that assures payments to providers to cover 80% of an agreed rate for beds unoccupied up to 85% occupancy levels. It is not possible to calculate the exact cost of the scheme due to fluctuating occupancy levels, however based on current levels the costs are estimated to be <b>£362,164 for a 12 week period</b>. The costs are only likely to significantly exceed this, if there is a further increase in the number of deaths and/or the transmission rates increase.</li> <li>2. The scheme will operate alongside other WBC contingency payment schemes supporting the sector which will be kept under review. Homes operating at occupancy levels above 85% will not access this scheme, but will continue to claim under the Phase1-3 contingency scheme for additional costs relating to staffing, supplies, etc. All homes will also receive their allocation of the £600m national scheme (£2.555m locally) which is anticipated to be around £1k per CQC registered bed albeit the focus of this is to support infection control and does not therefore impact on the proposals to support occupancy levels.</li> <li>3. Commissioners will continue to work with providers and the CCG to agree short and or medium term block contract arrangements that secure provision to discharge from hospital and manage infection control in line with the Care Home Resilience Plan which is currently being developed. Further discussions with the CCG will take place to explore how they can further support this proposed occupancy scheme.</li> </ol>

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	<p>The longer term market requirements will be considered as part of Adult Social Care recovery planning to ensure the ongoing sufficiency of quality provision to meet different types of needs.</p> <p>Further details can be found in Appendix 1.</p>
Reason for Decision	In line with the delegated authority, the reason for the decision is to ensure social care providers can continue to deliver the required care in the light of increased costs and loss of income incurred directly as a result of Covid 19.
Decision Maker/Responsible Officer	Lynton Green, Director of Corporate Services.
Directorate	Corporate Services
Lead Cabinet Member consulted (if applicable)	Cllr Cathy Mitchell – Executive Member Corporate Finance
Decision Date	22 May 2020
Date Decision was published / notified (normally within 2 clear working days of decision being made)	11 September 2020
Summary of options considered	Set out in Appendix 1
Interests declared	None
Background Papers (if applicable) <i>(period expires after 4 years from date of decision)</i>	Appendix 1 - exempt by virtue of category 3, Local Government Act 1972, schedule 12A
Confidential / exempt information	Yes
Category (if applicable)	Category 3

**This form expires in 6 years.**