

**From:** Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Finance

**To:** Roger Gough, Leader

**Subject:** **Support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable**  
**Decision number: 20/00111**

**Key Decision:** *Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions*

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** None

**Future Pathway of Paper:** **Leader Decision**

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** Sets out the expectations Government has for its funding for people who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable during the latest lockdown measures and proposes that this money should be passported through to the District and Borough Councils who are providing the practical support to this group.

**Recommendations:** The Leader of the Council agrees to:

- 1) Accept the £891,000 Funding for Support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)
- 2) Approve distribution of this funding to the District and Borough Councils in Kent according to the number of CEV people in their area to provide the support in line with Government guidance.
- 3) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance to distribute the funding and take associated relevant actions including, but not limited to, entering into contract or other legal agreements as necessary to implement this decision.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 On 2 November MHCLG wrote to KCC to inform us that there are 60,975 Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) individuals who would have to take special care during the 4-week period in which the whole country is having to adopt stringent public health measures and beyond. Government provided advice and guidance to CEVs, and is expecting local government to:

- contact all CEV individuals
- assess food and basic support needs
- facilitate the delivery of that support, but with a clear expectation that in the majority of cases the individuals will look to family and friends first, use priority slots supermarket deliveries, etc, so that only a minority will need direct support.

1.2 Across Kent, the County Council and Districts and Boroughs are working with the voluntary sector and other partners to step back up some of the community support arrangements which were put in place at the time of the first 'lock down'. This time round there are some key differences: there is no formal 'shielding' of CEV but rather guidance on how they can keep themselves safe; there is no national food parcel service; arrangements to access food and prescriptions are much stronger now than in the first lock down and individuals more familiar with how to access such arrangements; more local authority staff are continuing to work in their 'business as usual' jobs and there is less scope for re-deploying people onto community support.

1.3 KCC and the Districts & Boroughs are regularly given lists of the CEV in their area. Since 5<sup>th</sup> November, when the new arrangements came into place, all of the CEV who are known to Adult Services have been contacted by their care managers, and all the others have been contacted by their District Council to ask whether they need support. The Government also wrote to every CEV individual, saying that they could contact their local council if they need help.

1.4 As expected, only a minority of CEV need direct support, and in those cases it is the Districts and Boroughs who are co-ordinating that support, using whatever local means are most effective. Even where CEV are known to adult social care, if they need help accessing food they would still be referred to their District Council for help with that, with KCC addressing their social care needs.

1.5 CEV people may contact Kent Together, but if their needs are around help to access food and basic support they would still be referred through to the Districts. KSAS is there to provide help to people on low incomes, not people who are clinically vulnerable.

1.6 It therefore makes sense to passport the full amount of this funding through to the District and Borough Councils.

## **2. Options considered but rejected**

2.1 There is a clear need for some vulnerable CEV individuals to be supported, so the option of not accepting the funding was quickly rejected. We did explore whether any of the resource should be used centrally to e.g. commission a company to provide emergency food on a call-off basis, but the demand for such action does not seem to be materialising.

## **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 The decision is to accept the £891,000 CEV Funding in full, and there should be no direct impact on the council's budget. The funding will be passported to the District.

## **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 Funding must be used in accordance with the guidance set by government, and the terms and conditions of the grant. KCC will apply appropriate legal mechanisms

as part of issuing or deploying any grant monies to ensure Districts and Boroughs remain compliant.

## **5. Equality Implications**

5.1 We have emphasised to Districts & Boroughs the importance of ensuring that those CEVs who may have particular needs relating to language, religion and culture are supported in a way that is sensitive to those needs, and that any potential barriers are mitigated.

## **6. Other Corporate Implications**

### **Data protection**

6.1 Information about Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people, and those who had to 'shield' earlier in the pandemic, has been being shared for some months now and data-sharing issues have been resolved.

### **Monitoring**

6.2 The Ministry for Housing and Local Government has specified the monitoring of this fund, and KCC has oversight and collates the information from each of the District Councils, submitting returns to MHCLG on a weekly basis.

## **7. Governance**

7.1 By approving the acceptance of the grant and the recommended deployment of the funds, the Leader of the Council confirms that the responsibility and accountability for management and monitoring of District deployment of the funds will sit with Kent County Council.

## **8. Recommendations**

7.1 The Leader of the Council agrees to:

- 1) Accept the £891,000 Funding for Support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)
- 2) Approve distribution of this funding to the District and Borough Councils in Kent according to the number of CEV people in their area to provide the support in line with Government guidance.
- 3) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance to distribute the funding and take associated relevant actions including, but not limited to, entering into contract or other legal agreements as necessary to implement this decision.

## **8. Background Documents**

Government Guidance on Funding for Support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

### **9. Report Author**

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