

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Dr Allison Duggal
Acting Director of Public Health

DECISION NO:

OD/21/0002

For publication Yes

Subject matter: Contain Outbreak Management Fund 2021/22 Financial Year

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

Clair Bell – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Key Decision 20/00095- <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2416>

Decision:

As Director of Public Health, I agree to:

- a) Accept the additional funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund allocated to Kent County Council by the Department of Health and Social Care for the Financial Year 2021/22 (in line with the delegated authority set out in the key decision 20/00095).

Reason(s) for decision:

Following the implementation of the Local COVID-19 Alert, the government announced the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to support proactive containment and intervention measures in relation to COVID-19 from November 2020 onwards. Kent County Council (KCC) has previously accepted COMF grants from the Department of Health and Social Care (DoHSC) over the Financial Year 2020/21 which have been used to support local efforts to prevent and/or contain outbreaks of COVID-19. KCC has worked in partnership with local district and borough Councils to distribute the COMF grant towards activities that support proactive containment and intervention measures while ensuring those activities are in line with grant conditions and the Funding Framework (as set out in key decision 20/00095).

On the 8th April 2021, DoHSC wrote to Councils to confirm the COMF allocations of the £400 million that will be distributed from the COMF fund for the Financial Year 2021/22. In a different approach to that that was taken for previous allocations, COMF funds for the Financial Year 2021/22 will be distributed to both upper and lower tier authorities. KCC does not plan to distribute its COMF funds for the Financial Year 2021/22 to district and borough authorities unless there is a specific need identified, such as county wide provision or a shortfall in the district funding, KCC will continue to work in partnership with district and borough councils to ensure proactive containment and intervention measures across Kent continue to complement each other and this may include the allocation of funding where required.

KCC's COMF allocation for the Financial Year 2021/22 is £8,350,186. The [Contain Framework](#), provided by the DoHSC, sets out a number of suggested areas of spend which has been used to inform spending plans. This includes additional resource for compliance with, and enforcement of, restrictions and guidance. Harnessing capacity within local sectors, targeted interventions for

specific sections of the local community and workplaces, additional contact tracing, enhanced communication and marketing. Funding can also be spent in line with local need and aligned to the four categories of spend set out in the published funding framework.

KCC will continue to utilise Financial Year 2021/22 COMF funds to support initiatives that help proactive containment and intervention measures in relation to COVID-19 and support groups that have been particularly impacted by COVID-19.

As the country begins to move out of lock down, the grant funding will be used flexibly based on COVID-19 associated data with a focus on supporting initiatives that incorporate the below points into their delivery, with a particular focus on supporting initiatives that interface with hard-to-reach groups.

- Promotion of COVID-19 safe messages i.e., hands, face, space.
- Encouraging safe behaviour e.g. use of face masks (appropriate to age and national guidance), social distancing, regular testing, encouraging vaccine uptake and dispelling myths.
- Diversionary activities which will help towards compliance with COVID-19 legislation and/or guidance.
- Reducing the need for vulnerable or high-risk groups to visit face to face services or activities.
- Support that would enable individuals to reintegrate back into society in a COVID safe way.
- Mental health and wellbeing support that can help individuals to comply with COVID-19 guidance and legislation and reduce isolation caused by COVID-19.

Monitoring Considerations

In line with the original key decision, a director level group called the COVID-19 Finance Monitoring Group (CFMG), formerly known as the Test and Trace Grant Monitoring Group (TTGMG), will continue to oversee the spending and ensure the funding framework is applied consistently. The group includes representation from public health advice, finance, public health commissioning and project/admin support. Furthermore, as the CFMG oversee other COVID-19 grants, the group will be responsible for ensuring funding for initiatives is from the most appropriate grant.

The governance processes set out in the funding framework in the key decision (20/00095) will be applied to the monthly funding allocated from the extended Contain Outbreak Management Fund. KCC will refer to the grant guidance provided by the DoHSC and apply learning from regional groups to inform and adapt the local allocation of the funding.

Legal implications:

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 [8], Directors of Public Health (DPH) in upper tier (UTLA) and unitary (ULA) local authorities have a specific duty to protect the population's health. All spending will be aligned to, and distributed, in accordance with the relevant COVID-19 legislation and guidance.

KCC will adhere to and follow relevant legislation for activities such as employment, procurement and data protection law and health and safety legislation. Assurance around these will be managed through the CFMG and escalated to the Director of Public Health as required.

Policy considerations:

This funding will be used to support KCC and the Director of Public Health's statutory obligation to

protect and improve the health of the local population as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to contribute towards the delivery of the [Kent and Medway Local Outbreak Plan](#) and adhere to the DoHSC COVID-19 [Contain Framework](#).

Financial Implications:

This decision concerns the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. The funding is separate to the Public Health Grant.

KCC will receive funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund consisting of a block payment received in April 2021 of £8,350,186 for the Financial Year 2020/21.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

I have been consulted and am happy to endorse this decision as it will support Kent to tackle the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Corporate Director of Finance

I have been consulted on and support this decision as taken by the Director of Public Health.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Reject the funding - The funding will support the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including support for vulnerable groups, KCC's statutory requirements and activity which is planned to or already taking place, therefore rejecting the grant would not be in the public's interest.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None



Signed:
Allison Duggal
Acting Director of Public Health

13th May 2021

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Date