



## Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

**1. Subject and details of the matter** (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

Adult social care non ringfenced Omicron Support fund, £194,927 – expenditure to be incurred January 2022.

### 2. Decision being taken

To distribute funding to voluntary and community organisations and informal carers in recognition of the support provided to recipients of adult social care during the pandemic, strengthening the capacity of the care sector, and alleviating pressure on the care system during the outbreak of the omicron variant. Funding will be distributed on application to the council via an achieve form

[https://nelincolnshire-dash.achieveservice.com/AchieveForms/?form\\_uri=sandbox://AF-Form-400f10e1-018c-4437-874b-90b5427179d4&category=&isPublished=false](https://nelincolnshire-dash.achieveservice.com/AchieveForms/?form_uri=sandbox://AF-Form-400f10e1-018c-4437-874b-90b5427179d4&category=&isPublished=false)

Applicants will be required to complete a grant agreement

Adult Social Care – Omicron Support Fund

Guidance

Local authorities have discretion to use the funding as needed locally, to support the adult social care sector in its COVID-19 response, and in particular increased

challenges posed by the Omicron variant. The following are deemed to be eligible activities:

- ensuring that staff who are isolating in line with government guidance receive their normal wages and do not lose income while doing so
- paying for temporary cover for staff who are unable to work because they are unwell due to COVID-19 and/or are isolating in line with government guidance, in order to maintain safe workforce capacity in care services
- paying for temporary staffing (overtime or agency) to maintain safe staffing levels
- limiting staff movement between settings in line with the latest guidance, to help reduce the spread of infection – this includes staff who work for one provider across several settings, staff that work on a part-time basis for multiple employers and agency staff
- limiting or cohorting staff to individual groups of people receiving care, including segregation of COVID-19 positive residents in care homes
- steps to limit the use of public transport by members of staff
- providing accommodation for staff who proactively choose to stay separate from their families in order to limit social interaction outside work
- support to providers in purchasing CO2 monitors or air cleaners for use in care homes to monitor and improve ventilation
- providing additional support to care homes or other providers that are currently experiencing an outbreak to ensure that they are able to put in place sufficient IPC measures
- providing support to community groups and paying volunteer expenses

#### Funding Agreement for Organisations Awarded a Grant

All organisations receiving a direct grant will receive a copy of this framework. We are using a streamlined grant agreement process given the need to get funding

quickly to organisations in line with Government guidance. All organisations will be asked to sign and return a copy of the agreement outlined below.

### **3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

To enable voluntary organisations to sustain their volunteer capacity and operational activity during the omicron wave of the pandemic. To provide additional support to informal carers.

### **4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision**

Consideration of distribution to care providers; however workforce recruitment and retention funding, and Humber Coast and Vale money has been provided for these purposes.

### **5. Background documents considered** (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

Government guidance on the use of the grant:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-omicron-support-fund>

The grant may be used for providing support to community groups and paying volunteer expenses.

### **6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

N/A

### **7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

N/A

### **8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

The decision allows the local authority to utilise Government grant funding, as needed locally, to support the adult social care sector in its COVID-19 response, and

in particular increased challenges posed by the Omicron variant. Legal colleagues are supporting the drafting of the grant agreements.

#### **9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021 the Government announced an additional £60m national package for January 2022 in recognition of the increased pressure on existing funding sources caused by the Omicron variant, This funding is in the form of a non-ringfenced grant and the allocation to NELC is £194,927. The grant can be used for a wide range of activities, but predominantly Local authorities have discretion to use the funding as needed locally, to support the adult social care sector in the COVID response.

#### **10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications

#### **11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

The urgency and time limited nature of the grant funding means that a rapid process for distribution of the grant and completion of grant agreements has been developed. The grant agreements provide some assurance that expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the guidance provided for the funding. The grant agreements have been developed to simplify distribution and will provide a degree of assurance in relation to the appropriate use of the funding.

#### **12. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?**

N/A

#### **13. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Bev Compton

Title: Director of Adult Services

Signed: REDACTED

Dated:27/01/2022

**14. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Cllr Margaret Cracknell

Title: Portfolio Holder for Health,  
Wellbeing and Adult Social Care

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022