

Over the last 12 months Waltham Forest has received and distributed over **£3,750,000 to support local care providers** through Government Grants designed to reduce and control infections within care settings, embed covid testing for care providers and improve capacity within the social care workforce.

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced two more rounds of Infection Control Funding, supporting providers up to the end of June 2021 and building on the initial £600m set out by Government.

This funding has meant the London Borough of Waltham Forest has been able to support our local care providers with an additional £1.9m, in addition to the original £1.343m initially received from Central Government.

The London Borough of Waltham Forest has also supported our local providers with over £525,000 under the Workforce Capacity Fund, designed to increase the workforce and staffing capacity to meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents.

Additional funding

A support plan has been required to account for this funding with evidence of how this has positively impacted providers and protected residents.

The primary aim of the funding is to support care homes with infection prevention and control, and with challenges around staffing.

- We have 48 care homes including 12 residential and 3 nursing homes for older people that range from 84 beds in our largest nursing home to 15 beds in the smallest residential home, and 33 specialist care homes for either mental health or learning disabilities that range in size from 3 to 19 beds.
- 80% of ICF round 2 and 70% of ICF round 3 funding was required to be passed directly to the Care Providers which equalled just over £1000 per bed.

- The Council retained the remaining funding to support the wider care market, including supporting day centres and create dedicated resource to support providers with information and advice over the last 9 months.

How the funding was allocated

Within the Infection Control Funding Providers have:

- Met infection control costs such as PPE
- Used funding for staff training in use of PPE and infection control
- Met the cost of paying staff who are absent from work
- Met the costs of agency staff
- Ensured that staff are not having to work in multiple care homes – increasing the risk of infection
- Covered staff travel costs to avoid public transport, or covering the cost of hotel accommodation so that they can be close to work rather than self-isolating at home.

The Council and its partners :

- Enhanced the capacity of the CCG infection control team, ensuring dedicated support for Waltham Forest care homes
- Secured a stockpile of PPE so that Personal Assistants and Care Providers could access emergency PPE as required.
- Strengthened other clinical support services such as rapid response and the frailty team – again to increase the level of support to all Waltham Forest Care Homes
- Provide parity of support by diverting some of the funding to other “at risk” groups of providers

More information

Further details on our response to supporting care homes

- [Waltham Forest's response to care homes support through COVID-19](#)
- [Care homes support plans appendices](#)