

ADASS Rapid Survey: How are Local Authorities Supporting Local Social Care Providers to Respond to Covid-19?

Summary

Background and context

On 19 March 2020 the government made available £1.6bn to local government to contribute to additional costs associated with the coronavirus pandemic. It was suggested that this should contribute to adult social care provider costs. In reality, there were many pressing calls on the additional funding, including those linked to rough sleepers and shielding vulnerable people.

Adult Social Care (ASC) providers expressed some concerns very publicly that the funding was not reaching them. As a result, ADASS undertook a rapid survey of its members to ascertain their responses to supporting providers with additional funding and cash flow issues.

The use of this funding must be seen in the context of cumulative savings of £5.5bn over the last 5 years and plans, prior to the pandemic, for DASSs to make savings of a further £700m in the financial year 2020/21

Response Rate

Responses were received from 89% of local authorities with responsibility for Adult Social Care in England. The survey was undertaken from 28th April- 1st May 2020. In the context of timescales and the relentless work by DASSs and their teams to respond to the pandemic, this response rate is very high.

Payments in Advance

95% of local authorities stated that they are using a variety of payments in advance, immediate payments (within 7 days), guaranteed payments including day service providers who are unable to run services and home care providers who are unable to deliver all care packages and block purchases of beds to support provider cashflow and sustainability. 5% didn't specify how they are supporting provider cashflow.

Provider temporary cost pressures

Of those local authorities (LAs) that stated that they have taken action to address the temporary cost pressures facing providers, 97% have provided financial support to providers. The actions they have taken breakdown as follows - 30% have stated that emergency funds have been established for providers to claim back excess costs, 25% are quoting a 10% temporary uplift, 13% are quoting a 5% temporary uplift, 3% are quoting uplifts of between 5-10%, 4% are providing uplifts of 2-5%, 7% have provided uplifts but have not stated the percentage and 1% of LAs are analysing. 16% have provided a lump-sum to providers.

3% of LAs are providing support for cost pressures but their approaches require further clarification.

Please note that due to the timescales that this data was collated from local authorities, there has not been time to follow-up on queries. Therefore, it is likely that the support to providers set out in this document will be understated.

The following provides a top-level summary of the survey responses grouped by region.

South-West

Total responses- 14/14 LAs responded. They are taking actions as follows:

- **Payments in advance:** 13 authorities are using a variety of payments in advance, immediate payments (within 7 days), guaranteed payments including day service providers who are unable to run services and home care providers who are unable to deliver all care packages and block purchases of beds.
- **Provider temporary cost pressures:** all 14 authorities have said they will help. 1 LA has stated that excess costs will be met in full, another has provided a lump-sum to providers. 6 LAs quoting a 10% temporary uplift, 2 LAs quoting 5%, 1 LA quoting 5-10% and another stated that they have provided an uplift but have not stated the amount. 2 LAs have provided uplifts of £1 per hour for commissioned home care and £100 per week per resident for residential and nursing care.

South- East

Total responses- 11/18 LAs responded. They are taking actions as follows:

- **Payments in advance:** All 11 authorities are using a variety of payments in advance, immediate payments (within 7 days), guaranteed payments including day service providers who are unable to run services and home care providers who are unable to deliver all care packages and block purchases of beds.
- **Provider temporary cost pressures:** all 11 authorities have said they will help. 2 LAs are quoting a 10% temporary uplift. 3 LAs are providing lump-sums to providers, of these 2 LAs are providing a 10% uplift, 1 LA is providing a 3% uplift. 5 LAs have stated that emergency funds have been established for providers to claim back excess costs. 1 LA has stated that it will increase homecare fees to £30 per client per hour.

North-East

Total responses- 10/12 LAs responded. They are taking actions as follows:

- **Payments in advance:** All 10 authorities are using a variety of payments in advance, immediate payments (within 7 days), guaranteed payments including day service providers who are unable to run services and home care providers who are unable to deliver all care packages and block purchases of beds.
- **Provider temporary cost pressures:** all 10 authorities have said they will help. 2 LAs are quoting a 10% temporary uplift and 7 LAs quoting a 5% uplift. 1 LA is providing uplifts of between 5-8%. 1 LA has also provided a 10% uplift for Self-funders based on their LA rate.

Yorkshire & Humber

Total responses- 14/15 LAs responded. They are taking actions as follows:

- **Payments in advance:** All 14 authorities are using a variety of payments in advance, immediate payments (within 7 days), guaranteed payments including day service providers who are unable to run services and home care providers who are unable to deliver all care packages and block purchases of beds.
- **Provider temporary cost pressures:** 14 authorities have said they will help. 2 LAs are quoting a 10% temporary uplift and 1 LA is quoting a 5% uplift. 8 LAs are providing lump-sums to providers

which are equivalent to 5-10% uplifts for a period of 2-3 months. 2 LAs have quoted uplifts in fees but have not stated the amount in percentage terms.

West Midlands

Total responses- 14/14 LAs responded. They are taking actions as follows:

- **Payments in advance:** All 14 authorities are using a variety of payments in advance, immediate payments (within 7 days), guaranteed payments including day service providers who are unable to run services and home care providers who are unable to deliver all care packages and block purchases of beds.
- **Provider temporary cost pressures:** All 14 authorities have said they will help. 4 LAs are quoting a 10% temporary uplift and 1 LA is quoting a 5% uplift. 1 LA is providing a lump-sum to providers. 7 LAs have stated that emergency funds have been established for providers to claim back excess costs.

East Midlands

Total responses- 9/10 LAs responded. They are taking actions as follows:

- **Payments in advance:** All 9 authorities are using a variety of payments in advance, immediate payments (within 7 days), guaranteed payments including day service providers who are unable to run services and home care providers who are unable to deliver all care packages and block purchases of beds.
- **Provider temporary cost pressures:** All 9 authorities have said they will help. 3 LAs are quoting a 10% temporary uplift and 1 LA is quoting a 5% uplift. 3 LAs are providing lump-sum to providers, 2 are providing the equivalent of a 10% uplift, 1 LA 5%. 2 LA has stated that emergency funds have been established for providers to claim back excess costs. 1 LA is also paying an uplift for self-funder placements, which is necessary where council place occupancy is low.

London

Total responses- 26/31 responded. They are taking actions as follows:

- **Payments in advance:** All 26 authorities are using a variety of payments in advance, immediate payments (within 7 days), guaranteed payments including day service providers who are unable to run services and home care providers who are unable to deliver all care packages and block purchases of beds.
- **Provider temporary cost pressures:** All 26 authorities have said they will help. 6 LAs are quoting a 10% temporary uplift, 3 LAs are quoting a 5% uplift and 2 LAs are providing uplifts of between 2-7%. 5 LAs are providing lump-sum to providers. 7 LAs have stated that emergency funds have been established for providers to claim back excess costs. 2 LAs have stated that they are providing uplifts but have not stated the amount. 1 LA was in the process of analysing requests for uplifts from providers.

North-West

Total responses- 23/23 LAs responded. They are taking actions as follows:

- **Payments in advance:** 17 authorities are using a variety of payments in advance and block purchases of beds. Four others are considering this.
- **Provider temporary cost pressures:** 21 authorities have already said that they will help; the other 2 are considering it. 15 will do this in response to what providers say. 6 authorities have announced a temporary uplift in various ways. 4 have increased by payments by a percentage: 2

quoting 5%; 1 7%; 1 10%. Another is giving £50 per placement. One is guaranteeing payments up to 90% occupancy.

East

Total responses- 11/11 LAs responded. They are taking actions as follows:

- **Payments in advance:** 11 authorities are using a variety of payments in advance, immediate payments (within 7 days), guaranteed payments including day service providers who are unable to run services and home care providers who are unable to deliver all care packages and block purchases of beds.
- **Provider temporary cost pressures:** all 11 authorities have said that they will help. 3 will do this in response to what providers say. 8 authorities have announced a temporary uplift – 7 quoting 10% and the other, 6%.