

ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
26th APRIL 2022

SUMMARY OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to consider external funding sources received by the council for adult social care services in 2021/22.

Summary

2. Attached at **Appendix 1** is a summary of external funding sources. This summary excludes core central government funding through the Revenue Support Grant and additional funding secured through the 3% Council Tax precept for adult social care services.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members consider external funding sources that were received for the financial year 2021/22.
 - (b) Members' views are requested.

Joss Harbron
Assistant Director of Adults Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in preparation of this report.

Christine Shields (Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Transformation) : Extension 5851

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report.
Health and Wellbeing	Adult care services have a key role in improving the health and wellbeing of residents in Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no specific carbon impact issues in this report.
Diversity	The report does not contain any proposals that impact on diversity issues.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.

Groups Affected	Adult services are available for all eligible residents within Darlington.
Budget and Policy Framework	The report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This report does not require a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This report does not require an urgent decision.
Council Plan	This report contributes to the Council Plan by involving members in the scrutiny of external funding sources.
Efficiency	The external funding sources listed in this report are subject to central government grant conditions that require all funds to be spent efficiently.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. The summary attached as Appendix 1 provides details of external funding sources for adult social care services from central government. The Grants provided by central government are usually allocated by the Minister of State for Care through exercise of powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
5. Grants conferred in this way are ringfenced, non-recurring and timebound. Councils are also required to comply with a specific set of requirements or conditions and must only spend grants for the purpose set out in the grant letter from central government. Councils are required to certify through a statement of assurance that they have indeed spent the funds in accordance with specific grant conditions. Central government retains a residual power to clawback funds either not spent in accordance with grant conditions or any unspent amounts.
6. Prior to the Covid 19 Pandemic the Council received regular grant funding on a rolling year on year basis for the Better Care Fund and Disabled Facilities Grant. This year-on-year approach also confirmed that there were no changes to the national conditions, against which all systems must comply with, these being:
 - a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board
 - NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution
 - invest in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services
 - a plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital
7. In summary, for the financial year 2021/22 Darlington Borough Council was awarded a total of £22,123,947. £8,058,932 or 36% of the total grant allocation was specifically to support the care sector during the Covid 19 Emergency pandemic. The range of activities that this covid funding was allocated included:
 - Infection Prevention and Control measures (IPC) to reduce the rate of infection
 - Covid 19 rapid testing
 - Facilitation and promotion of safe visiting
 - Staff vaccination
 - Recruitment and Retention measures to ensure safe staffing measures
 - Mitigate the impact of increases in the National Living Wage
8. Although no planning guidance for future Better Care Fund Programmes have been received, the publication of the integration white paper does provide a clear steer that the programme will continue for 2023 onwards. The paper confirms the government commitment to continued collaboration across the health and social care sectors.
9. Until the Planning Guidance is published, it is unclear if there will be any changes to the conditions of funding.

Outcome of Consultation

10. Where possible given the need to respond quickly to the challenges of Covid 19 emergency pandemic, the Council has consulted with the Care sector, the NHS and neighbouring councils when allocating and distributing the grants.