

Briefing note: Covid19 Grant Funding

1. The Community & Housing Directorate Management Team have agreed proposals for allocating funding from two Covid19 grant funding streams and a brief summary of how the funding is being allocated is set out below for your information.
2. The two funding streams to which this note relates are the final tranche of the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) support grant; and the Practical Support for Self-Isolation grant.

CEV Support Grant

3. The final tranche of the CEV support grant was announced and distributed early in the current financial year and is to be used during 2021/22. The value of the grant is **£357,919**. The agreed uses of this grant funding are summarised below.
4. This paper proposes that these grants are spent on the following services:

Organisation	Details of planned use	Timescale	Amount
Age Uk Merton (in partnership with Wimbledon Guild)	Befriending and Volunteering Services have significantly increased the number of volunteers to support residents with befriending and practical support who are clinically extremely vulnerable and residents who are self-isolating. This grant will provide additional capacity to the service.	2021-2022 (6 months funding)	£21,932
Age UK Merton, Wimbledon Guild and Merton Connected	The Merton Community Hub is the key contact for tiered level of support including information, advice and practical support for CEV residents who are self-isolating in Merton.	Jan 2021- March 2021	£49,548
Wimbledon Foodbank	To provide the necessary infrastructure support to continue to deliver emergency food parcels and supplies across the borough.	2021-2022 (6 months funding)	£11,000
Libraries 'Connecting Merton' Scheme	IT equipment loan scheme. This project aims to get vulnerable and isolated people in Merton develop their digital skills and will prioritise residents who are identified as clinically extremely vulnerable.	April 2021	20,000
Carers Support Merton	Additional fixed term capacity of 2 carer assessor posts and additional resources for workshops and activities for carers and their loved ones who have experienced significant impact on their wellbeing as a result of the pandemic. This is in recognition	2021-2022	£89,475

	of the significant increase in support needed by carers during the pandemic.		
Carers Support Merton	Funding to cover the doubling of the value of the Carers Discretionary Grants as announced during Carers Week 2021.	2021-2022	£30,000
Domiciliary Care Providers	Working with our commissioned social care providers to provide additional support to service users who have been particularly isolated during the pandemic period to support them to rebuild confidence and to re-engage with their local community and support networks. Carers could, for example, support individuals to access community facilities or clubs or similar that they used to access before the pandemic.	2021-2022	£50,000
(LBM Community and Housing)	Funding to cover the ongoing costs during 2021/22 of providing information and advice to residents previously classified as CEV, including letters and other marketing activity.	2021-2022	£15,000
TOTAL:			£286,955

5. The balance of £70,964 is being retained whilst a review identifies what type of ongoing support our most vulnerable CEV residents require over the coming months. In addition LBM will retain some funds to maintain the Helping Hands database of people identified as CEV.

Practical Support for Self-Isolation grant

6. This grant is intended to fund practical, social or emotional support (broadly understood as additional support needs arising from following self-isolation requirements that go beyond any pre-existing met or unmet social care needs) and help people access tailored support where needed, whilst ensuring that short term support does not create a need for ongoing dependency. This support could include:
- Wellbeing: social contact, providing reassurance, check-ins, welfare calls.
 - Social and digital inclusion: supporting people to access services online, for example supermarket deliveries
 - Mental health support
 - Food access support
 - Practical support

- Helping with caring responsibilities

7. To date, LBM has been allocated £216,261.45 Practical Support Grant to cover the period April to August 2021 and we expect to receive £50,169.01 in September 2021. This will be a total grant of **£266,430.46** for practical support.

8. The agreed uses of this grant funding are summarised below:

Organisation	Details of funding	Timescale	Amount
Age Uk Merton (in partnership with Wimbledon Guild)	Befriending and Volunteering Service have significantly increased the number of volunteers to support residents with befriending and practical support who are clinically extremely vulnerable and residents who are self-isolating. This grant will provide additional capacity to the service.	2021-2022 6 months funding	£21,932
Wimbledon Foodbank	To provide the necessary infrastructure support to continue to deliver emergency food parcels and supplies across the borough.	2021-2022 6 months funding	£11,000
Age UK Merton, Wimbledon Guild and Merton Connected	The Merton Community Hub is the key contact for tiered level of support including information, advice and practical support for CEV residents who are self-isolating in Merton.	April 2021-September 2021	£99,096
Merton Connected	Additional funding for the existing Merton Giving programme, supporting local voluntary and community organisations that are providing practical Cobid19 related support to harder to reach, seldom heard, vulnerable and marginalised communities in the borough.	Sept 2021-2022	£50,000
Merton Connected	To enable Merton Connected to continue to employ an accountant to support local organisations to build up their capacity to bid for funding and ensure that Merton Connected have sufficient capacity to monitor expenditure and outcomes funded by grants from the Merton Giving programme. Merton Connected were successful in receiving funding to cover this community accounting function for three months and the agreed allocation allows them to extend for a further nine months.	Sept 2021-2022	£40,275
Citizens Advice Merton and	To provide additional resources to increase the capacity of Merton's Adviceline to meet rising demand from those impacted as a result of	Aug 2021-July 2022	£30,000

Lambeth	Covid, including those self-isolating. Merton's Adviceline service is a dedicated free-phone and online query support service for Merton residents, providing information, support, and advice on a range of issues including welfare benefits, debt, housing and relationships. The Adviceline can support residents with the completion of the Test and Trace support payment scheme for people that are on a low income.		
Food Support	Currently the key providers supporting with food security and food poverty across the Borough have sufficient funds, or can access funds via Merton Giving for the next financial year to support with emergency assistance relating to food. However, we are proposing an additional amount be held in reserve as a contingency in the event that demand increases as a result of the furlough and Universal Credit top up schemes ending.	2021-2022	£14,127.46
TOTAL:			£266,430.46