

Sharon Houlden  
Corporate Director Health, Housing and Adult Social Care  
West Offices  
Station Rise  
York  
YO1 6GA



22 September 2020

Dear Ms Houlden,

### Infection Control Fund for Care Homes

Thank you for your letter of 19 June 2020 setting out the council's approach to the Infection Control Fund for Care Homes. In the light of the recent Government announcement to extend the fund we would be grateful for an update on the position you outlined in the letter from June.

On Friday 18 September Westminster announced an additional £500 million to support providers through an extension to adult social care infection control fund. The fund will support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience. This will be, if not already, allocated to local authorities and is in addition to the funding already provided to support the adult social care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

GMB is still of the view that government needs to go further, and we will continue to do what we can to seek improvements in funding and support for the care sector.

At the same time GMB feels that care sector employers need to step up their response to Covid-19, that lessons must be learned on how the virus has been managed and that we must work together to ensure that our incredible care sector staff feel valued as opposed to the reports we regularly receive of them feeling let down by all.

The Extension to the Infection Control Fund has been introduced to tackle the spread of COVID-19 in care homes in addition to £3.2 billion of financial support made available to local authorities to support key public services since the start of the crisis.

The fund, ring-fenced for social care, will be/has been given to local authorities to ensure care homes can continue to halt the spread of coronavirus by helping them cover the costs of implementing measures to reduce transmission.

Care homes will be/have been asked to restrict permanent and agency staff to working in only one care home wherever possible. The funding could be used to meet the additional costs of restricting staff to work in one care home and pay the wages of those self-isolating.

1. Can you please advise if the funding has been made available to your local authority? If not, when will you expect to receive this?

#### **GMB**

*Regional Secretary: Neil Derrick      General Secretary: Tim Roache*

**CLIFTON HOUSE, CLIFTON ROAD, BRIGHOUSE, HD6 1SL**

**TEL. 0345 337 7777 FAX. 01484 721222**

*REGIONAL WEBSITE. [www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk](http://www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk)*



2. Are you satisfied that the care home providers within your local authority are able to meet the requirements within the Government's care support package? If not have you done any modelling on how much is needed?
3. How will your local authority intend to support the access of the funding for the care providers?
4. What checks will be put in place to ensure that the funding reaches frontline staff to allow for the implementation of full pay while sick or isolating? How will this be monitored?
5. What measures will you take to meet your responsibilities to conduct a daily review of care homes in your area to ensure that providers have the support they need with staffing, help with accessing PPE and other areas of operation?
6. Are you able to provide safeguards against any financial collapse of the care providers within you authorities, including bringing the care provision back under local government control if needed? Have you done any risk assessments on potential providers collapsing?

I await your response.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Brook  
Organiser

email: [lynn.brook@gmb.org.uk](mailto:lynn.brook@gmb.org.uk)

website: [www.gmb.yorkshire.org.uk](http://www.gmb.yorkshire.org.uk)

CC. Cllr Keith Aspden, Leader York City Council  
Rachael Maskell MP, York Central  
Cllr Anna Perrett, Labour Spokesperson for Health and Adult Social Care

## GMB

Regional Secretary: Neil Derrick

General Secretary: Tim Roache

CLIFTON HOUSE, CLIFTON ROAD, BRIGHOUSE, HD6 1SL

TEL. 0345 337 7777 FAX. 01484 721222

REGIONAL WEBSITE: [www.gmb.yorkshire.org.uk](http://www.gmb.yorkshire.org.uk)

**UNIONLINE**  
YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM  
**0300 333 0303**  
[www.unionline.co.uk](http://www.unionline.co.uk)