

CCG Primary Care communication bulletin

COVID-19 costs update (for information)

Please see clarification below from Iain Stewart, in relation to the reimbursement of meeting the cost of infection control requirements within primary care practices;

- National information on funding for primary care is still awaited from the Govt. Treasury department (under consideration since April);
- In the absence of the information, the CCG has included some costs they have supported (at risk) and have submitted these costs on the monthly COVID cost reimbursement returns to NHSE/I - the decision about whether the costs are reimbursed rests with the national team, and I would envisage they will be looked at in terms of what is reasonable;
- Representatives of primary care (PCNs/SDUs; Federations; Local Medical Committee) have continued to request further investment for the following areas;
 - Additional PPE
 - Locum reimbursement to cover GPs sickness/self-isolating for the first 2 weeks (before the normal national process starts at week 3);
 - Perspex screening in practices
 - Signage/floor markings for social distancing
 - Additional cleaning expenditure

The CCG has supported additional PPE through additional investment of £32,000 per GP Federation and a paper for temporarily amending the locum reimbursement scheme is being considered by the CCG Primary Care Commissioning Committee on 7th July 2020. Current investment into primary care also includes;

- Establishment of Care Hubs - £1.17m
- Procurement of 458 laptops - c£470,000
- Procurement of remote licensing software - £24,000
- Plan to pay PCQS 60% aspiration payment for Q1&2 20/21 £605,000
(with no targets requirements)

For the CCG to consider further investment into primary care for infection prevention control measures, details of expenditure incurred by practices to-date (with accompanying invoices), should be collated through practices' Federations (this has been suggested and agreed to by the respective Federation's leadership).

The CCG has a rigorous business case process to assess all proposals and must take into account the risk that there will be no reimbursement from NHSE/I.