

Appendix 2d: Other Audits and Grant Claims

Supporting Families Programme - April to September 2022

Objective

To assess compliance with the terms and conditions of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Programme Guidance for making Payment by Result (PBR) claims for the year April 2022 to March 2023 in respect of the 2021-22 Supporting Families Programme (2021-22 Programme Guidance remains valid until October 2022 when replaced by the new Outcomes Framework and Programme Guidance).

Background

The new phase of the programme aims to build resilience by providing whole family support at the earliest possible point and help prevent escalation into statutory services. The Council has agreed to achieve measurable outcomes with a minimum of 199 families assisted by March 2023 under this Programme.

Internal Audit are required to review a minimum of 10% of claims to ensure there is suitable evidence to support the payment by results claim.

Summary and Conclusion of work

Between April and September 2022, 70 PBR claims were presented to audit, prior to submission to the DLUHC.

Internal Audit reviewed a sample of eight cases which covered a representative sample of the claims outlined above. For all claims suitable evidence was available to support a PBR claim for:

- entry into the programme; and
- a claim for significant and sustained progress against all problems identified at the point of engagement and during intervention.

Protect and Vaccinate Grant

Purpose of Funding

The Protect and Vaccinate grant was announced by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities in December 2021 in response to the Omicron Covid-19 variant. The purpose of the funding was to enable local authorities to provide safe accommodation for as many people rough sleeping, or at risk of rough sleeping, as possible and supporting them to get their vaccinations.

Funding was provided in two streams, covering:

- Accommodating people sleeping, or at risk of, sleeping rough
- Increasing vaccination update amongst people sleeping rough.

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Themes

Work undertaken confirmed that grant spend complied with the terms and conditions of the grant.

Opinion: Unqualified

Contain Outbreak Management Fund

Purpose of Funding

The Contain Outbreak Management Fund was provided by government to support Council's with costs associated with ongoing public health and outbreak management costs of tackling Covid-19.

Themes

Work undertaken confirmed that grant spend complied with the terms and conditions of the grant.

Opinion: Unqualified

Universal Drug Treatment Grant

Purpose of Funding

The Universal Drug Treatment Fund was provided by government to support Council's to increase existing services, complement existing services and / or offer new service with a view to enable local areas to start delivering reductions in:

- The rate of drug related deaths
- Drug-relating offending
- Prevalence of drug use.

Themes

Work undertaken confirmed that grant spend complied with the terms and conditions of the grant and aligned with the proposals agreed with the Department for Health and Social Care.

Opinion: Unqualified

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Local Transport Capital Block Funding - Pothole Fund

Purpose of Funding

Funding was provided to assist with plans to repair potholes across the city.

Conclusion

It was confirmed that spend was compliant in that:

- it fell within the definition of "capital" for accounting purposes
- work undertaken related to pothole repairs in the city.

Opinion: Unqualified

Local Transport Capital Block Funding

Purpose of Funding

To assist in delivering transport improvement schemes, which can include:

- road markings and re-surfacing
- upgrades to traffic signals
- bridge strengthening
- installation / replacement of sign lights and street lights
- upgrades to electronic bus information screens.

Conclusion

It was confirmed that spend was compliant in that it:

- fell within the definition of "capital" for accounting purposes
- Work undertaken related to the areas outlined above.

Opinion: Unqualified