

- b. PPE should be made available for co-resident unpaid carers (carers who live with the person they care for) who wish to utilise it, while acknowledging the impracticalities of co-residents wearing PPE at all times.
2. We wrote to you on 12 November 2020 to propose a pilot in 4 Local Authorities (LAs) and 1 Local Resilience Forum (LRF), offering free PPE to unpaid carers who provide care to people who live in a different household. This was agreed by SofS and MSC. We selected the LA/ LRF route as LAs already support unpaid carers through their duties under the Care Act, and have a role in distributing PPE to Adult Social Care (ASC) providers who are not eligible to access PPE for COVID-19 use through the PPE portal.
3. The pilot commenced w/c 7th December in Leeds City Council, Essex County Council, South Gloucestershire Council, North Yorkshire Country Council and Durham & Darlington LRF. We selected these because they had high prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and provided a mixed sample of predominantly rural/ urban locations with a geographical spread.
4. We provided pilot locations with guidance on the use of PPE by unpaid carers which was based on existing domiciliary care guidance, in addition to Public Health England (PHE) visual aids to instruct carers on how to use PPE safely. Pilot locations were given autonomy about how unpaid carers were identified and PPE distributed, enabling them to build upon their existing distribution structures and expertise, in addition to providing us with useful learning about how different locations approached the task. We held weekly sessions with the LAs and LRF to gather feedback about distribution, demand and how unpaid carers were identified and communicated with.
5. Outcomes of the pilot
 - a. **Demand has been low.** So far the demand has been low, with under 50 carers accessing PPE in each pilot location LAs have not required a substantial amount of additional PPE to enable them to provide this group and it was manageable from their current PPE stock – if this level of demand was replicated in other LAs, there is no indication that adding unpaid carers to distribution would cause problems for the current system logistically or in terms of depleting stocks. This is similar to what we have seen in the LAs and Devolved Administrations who were already providing PPE to unpaid carers before the pilot.² The highest figure we are aware of for distribution to extra-resident unpaid carers is 256 in Birmingham in the month of July. This did, however, rise sharply to 1328 carers in November when they extended the offer to co-resident unpaid carers – although in line with SAGE guidance, we intend for the rollout to focus on the extra resident group.
 - b. **Carers networks have played a pivotal role**, helping to identify and set up links with unpaid carers. The LAs/LRF with closer ties with their local carers' networks found this lessened the workload and made the process of local distribution run smoothly. The carers networks were also able to support with providing training on how to use the PPE correctly.

² Examples include Birmingham, Liverpool, Sefton. In a recent survey with 52 respondents from LAs/ LRFs, 19 said they were already providing to unpaid carers.