



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**From:**

**Name Redacted**

Test, Trace and Protect Programme

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

**Cleared by:**

Claire Bennett

**Date:**

June 2020

## MINISTERIAL ADVICE

**For decision by:**

- 1. Minister for Housing and Local Government**
- 2. Minister for Health and Social Services**

**Copied to: Minister for Finance and Trefnydd, Counsel General and Minister for Finance and Trefnydd**

<b>Subject</b>	Draft Letter to Chief Executives of Local Authorities in Wales to agree the core support required to enable people to self-isolate successfully.
<b>100 word summary</b>	The purpose of this advice to seek your agreement to the draft letter to Chief Executives of Local Authorities in Wales setting out the support which LAs, in partnership with the third sector will be expected to provide to enable individuals to successfully self-isolate as a result of the contact tracing process.
<b>Timing</b>	Urgent – the letter should issue by close of play on Friday, 26 June 2020.
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Minister for Housing and Local Government is asked to agree the costs to Welsh Government will be met from the LA Hardship Fund (paragraphs x-y refer).  The Minister for Health and Social Services is asked to agree the draft letter at Doc 1.
<b>Decision report</b>	This decision does not require a Decision Report.

## ADVICE

### Background

1. The Welsh Government published Test, Trace Protect Our strategy for testing the general public and tracing the spread of coronavirus in Wales on 13 May. It sets out Wales' strategy to enhance health surveillance in the community, undertake effective and extensive contact tracing, and support people to self-isolate where required to do so. Test, Trace, Protect is a critical programme in the response to COVID-19 and is a prerequisite for any significant easing of lockdown and will be required until a vaccine is available.
2. Ensuring high levels of adherence to the need to self-isolate in response to symptoms, a positive test for COVID-19 or having been contact traced is fundamental to the success of the overall Test, Trace, Protect Programme (TTP Programme).
3. As has been the case throughout lockdown, the majority of people will be able to rely on family, friends and community networks to provide them with assistance. However, this will not be possible for all.
4. As part of the TTP Programme a Protect workstream has been established, its purpose is to identify the support which may be required by some people to enable them to successfully self-isolate; and how this support will be provided.
5. As a starting point the Protect Task Group has considered the range of support that has been provided to individuals who have faced challenges in managing during lockdown. Local authorities, in partnership with the third sector and volunteers, have helped people with shopping, collecting medicine, loneliness and isolation, emergency food and support, and a very wide range of other help. However, in addition, and based on feedback from the Contact Tracing pilot undertaken in Rhondda Cynon Taf, and further evidence emerging from the first few weeks of operating the contact tracing system across Wales, the Protect Task Group have identified additional areas and more complex areas where support will be required - such as in relation to housing matters and assistance with financial hardship support where the nature of their work or employment made taking time off financial challenging (for example those on zero hours contracts).

### Provision of support

6. The draft letter at Doc 1 sets out the core support and the more complex areas of support that we would expect each local authority to be able to provide. The letter makes clear that we believe local authorities are best placed to coordinate this support locally, working with the third sector and volunteers to make support available and referring to other specific services – for example, ensuring access to medicines via a direct referral to community pharmacies or referring to specialist advice services, where appropriate.

## 7. A summary of the support anticipated is set out below:

Coordination of support for referrals	Existing LA contact centres but will create additional demand	New requirement which will increase demand but disaggregation of TTP demand tricky
Help understanding advice	Likely to be a mix of contact tracing service, possible LA support via contact centres and potential role for advice services	Possible additional cost as a result of increased demand but disaggregation of TTP demand tricky
Picking up shopping	Likely to be LA staff or volunteers based on model during lockdown, not a 'paid for' service while volunteer capacity is sufficient	Not an additional cost unless volunteer capacity fails. Co-ordination effort covered above
Provision of food	Either via LA or via referral to food bank. Issue will be additional demand	Separate additional support for food banks. Possible additional cost but unclear on scale
Picking up prescriptions	National approach in place for this	No additional cost
Keeping in touch call / befriending	Existing LA contact centres or third sector partners (esp relevant for specific groups). Would create additional demand	Possible additional cost as a result of increased demand but disaggregation of TTP demand tricky
Temporary accommodation either because a person lives with someone on the shielded list or because they are homeless and cannot safely self-isolate with friends or family	This is a novel service although would linked to provision made for people who were homeless during lockdown. there is transitional funding for that programme but not clear it could cover this demand, depending on scale	Additional cost but scale of demand unclear
Substance misuse support including changes to period of dispensing for replacement	Variation to existing service, unlikely to generate separate costs	No additional cost
Additional support with mental health and well-being as a result of the anxiety associated with being a confirmed case of COVID-19 or identified as a contact of an index case and its potential impact on health, ability to undertake caring responsibilities and impact on employment	Likely to be mix of existing provision and third sector support. Creates additional demand but scale unclear	Unclear there is an additional cost given demand uncertainty

Any revised provision of care packages	Variation to existing service, unlikely to generate separate costs	No additional costs
Employment and financial advice	Should be covered by citizens' advice	No additional costs unless demand is very substantial and cannot be met within existing service

- 8. The letter acknowledges that further work is required to consider how to respond to those facing significant financial hardship.
- 9. The letter also highlights local authorities' ongoing role in supporting non-shielded vulnerable people.

Recommendation

- 10. You are asked to agree the draft letter at Doc 1 which should issue jointly from the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Leader of the Welsh Local Government Association.

Financial Implications

- 11. The bulk of the costs associated with the provision of support outlined in para 7 and the letter at Doc 1 will fall to local authorities in the first instance however, local authorities will be able make a claim to the LA Hardship fund to cover the costs incurred.
- 12. The potential costs are not clear at this stage because this is a demand led activity, subject to unpredictable demand. It is intended we should only pay for demonstrably additional activity in line with the general approach to the Hardship Fund.
- 13. The current allocation to the Hardship Fund for local authorities has been exhausted and separate advice will be submitted seeking additional funding. Further advice will also follow on individual support to assist with financial barriers to self-isolation.

**Legal issues, powers & statutory duties**

- 14. The MA does not give rise to any further legal issues to the matters discussed in MA/VG/1688/20 and therefore legal advice has not been sought.

*Powers*

- 15. Section 1 of the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act') places a general duty on the Welsh Ministers to provide or secure the provision of services for the purpose of the promotion in Wales of a comprehensive health service, which includes securing improvement in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness. Additionally, the Welsh Ministers may, under section 2 of the Act, do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of

such a duty. The Welsh Ministers also have general powers under section 60 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 (GOWA) to do anything which they consider appropriate to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of Wales. This power may be exercised in relation to the whole or any part of Wales, or to all or any persons resident or present in Wales. This includes a power to enter into arrangements or agreements with any person, and to facilitate and co-ordinate the activities of any person.

**Annex 1: ASSURANCE AND COPY RECIPIENTS**

**CLEARANCE TRACKING**

Aspect	Tracking	Yes	No	N/A	Clearance no.
<b>Finance</b>	Financial implications over £50,000?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by Group Finance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by Strategic Budgeting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by Local Government Finance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LGF/053/20.
<b>Legal</b>	Legal issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by relevant lawyers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Governance</b>	Novel and contentious issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by Corporate Governance Centre of Excellence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE**

In clearing this MA, I confirm that I, Claire Bennett have quality assured this advice, ensuring it is provided on the basis of evidence, accurately presents the options and facts and I am accountable for the recommendations made

I am satisfied that the recommended decision or action, if agreed, would be lawful, affordable and comply with all relevant statutory obligations. Welsh Government policy priorities and cross portfolio implications have been fully considered in line with delivery of the government objectives.

I have fully considered the statement of assurance contained in the MA guidance to ensure all relevant considerations have been taken into account and that the actions and decisions take account of regularity, propriety and value for money.

**COPY LIST**

All mandatory copy recipients (as indicated in the guidance). Additional copy recipients specifically interested in this advice:

- Mandatory MA
- PS FM
- Andrew Goodall
- Frank Atherton
- Rob Orford
- Jo-Anne Daniels
- Reg Kilpatrick
- Judith Cole
- Richard Sewell
- Claire Rowlands
- Ifan Evans
- Nick Batey
- Sarah Wakeling
- Jane Runeckles
- Clare Jenkins

Name Redacted

Name Redacted

- LGFP Clearance
- HSS Finance

- EPS  
Submissio  
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**Name Redacted**