

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

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Convener

Health and Sport Committee

By email

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Dear Lewis

The COSLA Health and Social Care Spokesperson and I are writing today to Local Authority Chief Executives and Integration Authority Chief Officers to provide an update on financial support to help the social care sector meet additional costs related to COVID-19. As part of this we are confirming that the Scottish Government will provide a further tranche of funding of up to £50 million to support ongoing challenges for Local Authorities, IJBs and social care providers. This follows the initial tranche of £50 million that was made available for social care in May, and recognises associated spend of £42.3 million by Local Authorities over the first three months of the financial year.

In order to provide further assurance and stability in the system, we are also confirming that the principles for social care sustainability payments to providers will be extended for two months until the end of September. Work will now be taken forward with Local Authorities and social care providers to develop a plan that involves a transition from current arrangements over the course of August and September, which may incorporate some tapering of payments and changes to the principles.

My officials are currently working with Health Boards and Integration Authorities to complete a detailed review of actual expenditure during the first quarter of 2020 and, following that, the Scottish Government will then make a further funding allocation to recognise costs incurred across the sector. I will keep you informed about this and our ongoing support for our frontline health and care services.

JEANE FREEMAN

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