

Appendix Two – Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme

i The £500 Test and Trace Support Payment supported people on a low income required to self-isolate because the following conditions applied:

- Tested positive for Covid 19; or
- Been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid 19.
- From 16 August 2021 people who are fully vaccinated and identified as contacts are no longer required to self-isolate. This means that fully vaccinated contacts are ineligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment from 16 August 2021.
- Also, from 16 August 2021 anyone under the age of 18 who is a contact is exempt from self-isolation. This means that most parents and guardians will not be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment if their child is identified as a contact, as their child will no longer be required to self-isolate.

Residents were eligible if they are employed or self-employed, cannot work from home, and will lose income as a result. The parent or guardian of a child or young person who is self-isolating may also be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment.

A resident must have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, and as such they are legally required to do so. If a resident has been notified by the NHS COVID-19 app to self-isolate and applies for the Test and Trace Support Payment, they are also legally required to self-isolate.

In addition to the main scheme the Council was provided with funds to provide a discretionary scheme to support residents who have been instructed to self-isolate but do not meet the main-scheme financial requirements. The discretionary criteria were initially agreed across Greater Manchester authorities. As with other schemes, the developing nature of the scheme and late confirmation of funding arrangements resulted in complexity and challenges managing the budget. Although demand has been fluctuating and the budget position was not clear at times the Council maintained a timely response and a rationale and proportionate approach cognisant of the budget and public health priorities.

ii Test and Trace Main Scheme

The main scheme applied to residents in receipt of one of the following benefits - Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

iii Test and Trace Discretionary Scheme

The discretionary scheme was open to residents who:

- Are not in receipt of a welfare benefit covered by the main scheme, and

- Will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while they are self-isolating.
- The discretionary scheme is also open to residents who have no recourse to public funds, but they meet the rest of the criteria.