

## Petty Cash Policy

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<b>Name of originator/author:</b>	David Skelton, Financial Controller
<b>Name of responsible committee/individual:</b>	Audit Committees in common
<b>Date approved by Committee/individual</b>	February 2019
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<b>Date of first issue</b>	2013
<b>Target audience:</b>	All CCG staff including Governing Body Members and Clinical Leaders

## CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Name and Title of Individual	Groups consulted	Date Consulted
David Skelton, Financial Controller	Audit Committees of Staffordshire CCGs meeting in Common	19/02/19
David Skelton, Financial Controller	PriceWaterhouseCooper – Internal Audit	26/03/19

## APPROVALS & RATIFICATION SCHEDULE

Name of Committee approving Policy	Date
Audit Committees of Staffordshire CCGs meeting in Common	19/02/19
Governing Bodies meeting in Common	30/05/19

## VERSION CONTROL

Version	Version/Description of amendments	Date	Author/amended by
1	New Policy	April 2013	
2	Policy updated to reference correct parts of the Standing Orders and Prime Financial Policies and links to the CCGs Counter Fraud policies.	Feb 2019	David Skelton
3	Policy updated to include East Staffs CCG, North Staffs CCG and Stoke on Trent CCG sign off	Feb 2019	David Skelton
4	Monitoring and Compliance updated to replace "Finance, QIPP and Contract Committee" with "Divisional Committees"	Feb 2019	David Skelton
5	7.6.4: "Annually" to be replaced by "Periodically"	Feb 2019	David Skelton
6	Policy updated to confirm maximum value of petty cash float to not exceed £200.	May 2019	David Skelton
6	Policy updated for examples of what is acceptable to purchase with Petty cash.	May 2019	David Skelton

## Impact Assessments – available on request

	Stage	Complete	Comments
Equality Impact Assessment	N/A		
Quality Impact Assessment	N/A		
Privacy Impact Assessment	N/A		

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## Contents

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS .....	1
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Scope of the Policy.....	1
3. Review of Policies.....	1
4. Monitoring and Compliance .....	1
5. PURPOSE .....	2
DETAILED USER PROCEDURE NOTES.....	2
6. Statement of Audit Requirement and Financial Control.....	2
7. General Workflow Instructions.....	3
7.1. General Instructions .....	3
7.2. Petty Cash Reimbursements .....	4
7.3 New or Amended Petty Cash Imprest.....	4
7.4 Return of Petty Cash Imprest.....	5
7.5 Handover of Petty Cash Holding.....	5
7.6 Year End Procedures .....	5
7.7 Retention of Records.....	5
Appendix 1 - Petty Cash Float Reconciliation and Reimbursement Form.....	6

This policy applies to Cannock Chase CCG, South East Staffordshire & Seisdon Peninsula CCG, Stafford and Surrounds CCG, East Staffordshire CCG, North Staffordshire CCG and Stoke on Trent CCG's. Where the term CCG is used, this applies to all six CCGs listed above

## **GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This policy document is a key element of the CCG's internal control environment and describes, in detail, how to ensure that the Cash management responsibilities placed upon the Accountable Officer and Chief Finance Officer are discharged and implemented.
- 1.2. The CCG's Governing Body has approved Standing Orders and Prime Financial Policies, which include instructions on Cash Management. The principles contained in this policy document are based on the Standing Orders and Prime Financial Policies. Complementary advice can be found in Section 17 of the Prime Financial Policies, which are contained in Appendix E of the CCG's Constitution.
- 1.3. These procedure notes supplement the Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) and any officers who deal with petty cash must ensure that they are familiar with them.
- 1.4. Petty cash is used to reimburse the day to day spending of small amounts throughout the CCGs. The maximum amounts that can be dispensed are nominated in paragraph 7.1.4 of this policy,
- 1.5. A cash box is used to keep monies and disbursement dockets secure. The cash box is held within a locked safe, or other secure location, when not in use.
- 1.6. All petty cash activity is recorded in a petty cash journal and the petty cash journal and remaining cash balance is struck to allow replenishment, as required
- 1.7. Petty cash floats are for use in exceptional or urgent circumstances, and should not be used to circumvent ordering procedures in place through supplies, which exist to protect the interests of all CCG employees, as well as to obtain value for money.

### **2. Scope of the Policy**

- 2.1. The policy applies to all staff, including temporary staff and contractors to the CCG, officers of the Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) and officers of the Staffordshire Business Unit.

### **3. Review of Policies**

- 3.1. All policies will be reviewed no less than every 2 years from the date of approval. The lead person for the policy will be responsible for ensuring that the review is undertaken and where changes are required that the process of consultation on the revised arrangements is completed. The lead person will also be responsible for securing adoption of policy revisions by the CCG Executive Team. .
- 3.2. All policies will be marked with the date for review on the front cover before being distributed.
- 3.3. Legal or statutory directives may require that policies are reviewed more regularly than every 2 years. It is the lead person's responsibility to ensure that they keep up-to-date with relevant directives to ensure the CCG meets its responsibilities.

### **4. Monitoring and Compliance**

- 4.1. The effective implementation of individual policy documents shall be monitored as appropriate to that individual policy.

- 4.2. The effective implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Divisional Committees on review and approval of the policy documents developed in line with this policy.

## 5. PURPOSE

5.1 Any instances where it is believed that a petty cash claim submitted is false and does not reflect the actual expenses incurred, will be subject to investigation by the CCGs Local Counter Fraud Specialist as outlined in the CCGs Anti-Fraud Bribery and Corruption Response Policy.

<http://www.staffordsurroundsccg.nhs.uk/anti-fraud-and-corruption/> ,

<http://www.cannockchaseccg.nhs.uk/anti-fraud-corruption/> , [Anti Fraud and Anti Bribery Policy - South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG](#),

<https://eaststaffscg.nhs.uk/publications/policies/corporate/business-conduct/497-anti-fraud-bribery-and-corruption-policy-jan17/file>,

<https://www.stokeccg.nhs.uk/stoke-governance/policies/general-policies/901-2-1-anti-fraud-bribery-and-corruption-policy-response-plan-june-2017-version-3/file>, Any instances where theft of the petty cash has incurred will be subject to investigation by the CCGs Local Security Management Specialist. Any investigations could result in criminal or civil actions being brought.

5.2 In addition, Employees should note that they may also face disciplinary action in line with the CCG's Disciplinary Procedure if they are deemed to have submitted false expense claims or have stolen from the petty cash funds. This action could lead to dismissal as well as referral to an individual's professional body for disciplinary considerations.

## DETAILED USER PROCEDURE NOTES

### 6. Statement of Audit Requirement and Financial Control.

6.1. The CCG and the Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) management recognise that the key control objectives within a system can only be achieved through adherence to internal controls and accounting procedures. The system control objectives for the disbursement and imprest of the petty cash function for the CCG are as follows:

- Segregation of duties is adequate;
- Adequate physical security exists;
- A formal record must be kept of the activity through the petty cash.
- Documentation relating to the system must be maintained to an appropriate standard and periodically subjected to independent management review.

6.2. Management recognises that the key controls listed above can only be achieved through adherence to a system of internal controls and petty cash procedures. The CCGs Financial Management have devised a detailed procedure which takes into account the following.

- That the Chief Finance Officer has defined the officers responsible for maintaining petty cash;
- That the Chief Finance Officer has made available cashbox(s) and a safe(s) for security of petty cash;
- That reimbursements are supported by a numbered and authorised petty cash

docket

- That replenishment of the petty cash float must be supported by a full reconciliation of disbursements and cash held, and
- That an independent (management) check of petty cash balances is carried out at periodic intervals and reconciled with the ledger.

## **7. General Workflow Instructions**

### **7.1. General Instructions**

- 7.1.1. The petty cash float should be the responsibility of an individual nominated by the Chief Finance Officer.
- 7.1.2. The Standard amount of cash in the petty cash float is not to exceed £200
- 7.1.3. The petty cash float should never be subsidised from personal funds, and personal cheques or IOUs are not to be cashed. It is also not appropriate for debit or credit cards to be used.
- 7.1.4. Items purchased from petty cash must not exceed £50 for any one purchase, other than in exceptional circumstances when prior approval must be obtained from the Chief Financial Officer before any transaction is made
- 7.1.5. Approval for petty cash expenditure must be obtained from the relevant budget holder prior to the purchase.
- 7.1.6. The value of single or individual items purchased from petty cash must not be split into smaller values to circumvent the £50 limit or official ordering procedures.
- 7.1.7. Whilst it is recognised that any value would be small, staff should be aware that petty cash purchases should not be used to attract personal rewards.
- 7.1.8. Petty cash claims must be prospectively backed by signed vouchers and retrospectively backed by receipts.
- 7.1.9. The petty cash holder will check that the expenditure is incurred on relevant CCG business and that there is adequate original documentation to explain the transaction. If in doubt, the petty cash holder should consult the person who normally authorises their petty cash claim form, or the Senior Financial Accountant, or the Chief Finance Officer.
- 7.1.10. At any time, the cash in hand plus total of receipts must always equal the petty cash total imprest. Any discrepancies should be notified to the Manager and a written report made subsequently. In cases apparently involving theft, fraud, neglect of duty or gross misconduct the Chief Finance Officer and the Local Counter Fraud Specialist (LCFS) and/or the Local Security Management Specialist (LSMS) must be notified at once.
- 7.1.11. Petty cash should always be kept in a lockable cash box which should be held in a safe or secure place.
- 7.1.12. An arrangement should be made with the local branch of the CCG's bankers to enable encashment of reimbursements of the petty cash float made by cheque.
- 7.1.13. Petty cash purchases should be restricted to those items that are necessary for the performance of official duties for which it is either: Unreasonable or impractical to purchase via the requisition route; or poor value for money if invoiced (e.g. where there is a minimum order value for credit terms); or a case of genuine emergency.

## **7.2. Petty Cash Reimbursements**

- 7.2.1 The petty cash holder will write up the manual petty cash sheet as expenditure is incurred noting the date, voucher number, payee and the cost incurred. The relevant ledger code is also entered along with a short description of the item purchased.
- 7.2.2 The petty cash float holder shall count the cash weekly and reconcile the cash balance and paid vouchers to the float.
- 7.2.3 Claims for reimbursement should be made at reasonable intervals, having regard to the level of expenditure amount of imprest and any known future expenditure, etc.
- 7.2.4 At that time, the payments should be totalled and the value entered on the relevant line. The statement of account box is to be completed by entering the total payments, cash in hand and the total reimbursements to arrive at a net available float. Any difference between actual and expected cash should be noted at this time and an investigation implemented.
- 7.2.5 The claim is to be certified by the petty cash holder as a true record and agreed by the Financial Controller and forwarded to Commissioning Support Unit.
- 7.2.6 At this time, the Commissioning Support Unit will enter the detail of all petty cash expenditure to the Finance system.
- 7.2.7 Petty Cash Vouchers should be attached securely to a copy of the petty cash record and forwarded to the Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) for reimbursement.
- 7.2.8 Officers of the CSU will check the claim for arithmetical accuracy, proper authorisation, completeness of supporting documentation and correct entry to the Finance system. Incorrectly completed claims will be returned to the Chief Finance Officer for review and remedy.
- 7.2.9 Once a fully and correctly completed petty cash record is received, the Officers of the CSU will issue a cheque in return. This should be taken to the bank and cashed as soon as possible,
- 7.2.10 Arrangements will be made for the prompt encashment of the cheque received, the cash being placed immediately in the petty cash float and the value of reimbursement being noted on the manual petty cash sheet.

## **7.3 New or Amended Petty Cash Imprest**

- 7.3.1 Requests to set up a new petty cash holding or increase/decrease the imprest must be made in writing to the Chief Finance Officer. The request should explain the reason why the new or adjustment to imprest is required.
- 7.3.2 Requests to set up any sub floats of the main petty cash holding must be made in writing to the Chief Finance Officer. The request should explain the reason why the sub float is required.
- 7.3.3 The relevant manager must notify the Senior Financial Accountant in writing, of any changes to the petty cash holder.
- 7.3.4 An amount of additional float will be issued by cheque which should be cashed as soon as possible, the cash being placed immediately in the petty cash float.
- 7.3.5 Each Petty Cash Holder will be required to maintain records of expenditure from and reimbursements to the petty cash float held, using the documentation provided, as if they were the main petty cash float holder.

## **7.4 Return of Petty Cash Imprest**

- 7.4.1 If a Petty cash holding is no longer required or needs to be reduced, petty cash holders will ensure that cash is returned to the Senior Financial Accountant, who will arrange for the cash to be banked promptly.
- 7.4.2 An appropriate entry will be made on the petty cash record so that the float reconciliation is maintained.

## **7.5 Handover of Petty Cash Holding**

- 7.5.1 A deputy petty cash float holder will be nominated by the Chief Finance Officer.
- 7.5.2 When the petty cash holder is to be absent, the petty cash float should be reconciled, and a handover certificate should be completed and signed by both the imprest holder and the receiving officer.
- 7.5.3 The petty cash float record form should be retained on file at the site as a permanent record of the acknowledgement of receipt of the cash float.

## **7.6 Year End Procedures**

- 7.6.1 Each petty cash holder must submit a certificate of petty cash held as at 31st March each year.
- 7.6.2 Prior to the year-end, the Financial Controller will issue a timetable that includes this procedure and the relevant form.
- 7.6.3 It would be prudent for a reconciliation and reimbursement of the petty cash float to be timed to coincide with the financial year end.
- 7.6.4 The Chief Finance Officer will review all petty cash holdings periodically in order to assess the level of the imprest and the need for their continued operation.

## **7.7 Retention of Records**

The minimum retention period for petty cash records is 2 years from completion of audit.

## **7.8 Cross-References**

Cross-reference should be made to the following policies and procedures

- System user notes issued by the CSU

