

## POLICY BRIEF

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

14 October 2020



**The information contained within this brief is correct at the time of publication (Thursday 01 October 2020).**

### HEADLINES

- [New legal duty to self-isolate comes into force](#) (28 Sept)
- [Major expansion of post-18 education and training to level up and prepare workers for post-COVID economy](#) (29 Sept)
- [Chancellor outlines Winter Economy Plan](#) (24 Sept)
- [NHS COVID-19 app launches across England and Wales](#) (24 Sept)
- [£60m for marshals and new covid enforcement duties](#) (25 Sept)
- [Government announces further national measures to address rising cases of coronavirus in England](#) (22 Sept)
- [Rule of six comes into effect](#) (14 Sept)

### GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

**Department of Health and Social Care (18/09/2020)** [New plan to help protect care homes from coronavirus over winter](#) A new [adult social care winter plan](#) has been announced which aims to curb the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections in care settings throughout the winter months.

As part of the plan the following measures have been announced:

- people receiving adult social care and care workers will receive free PPE
- a new dashboard will monitor care home infections and help local government and providers respond quicker
- a Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care will be appointed to represent social care nurses and provide clinical leadership to the workforce
- Local providers must restrict all but essential movement of staff between settings to reduce transmission, supported by an extra £546 million for the Infection Control Fund

[Adult social care winter plan and letter from Minister for Care to local authorities](#) Letter from Helen Whately, Minister for Care, to outline the expectations of local authorities in relation to the adult social care winter plan.

**Department of Health and Social Care (17/09/2020)** [Care providers will be given an extra £546 million to bolster infection control and help protect residents and staff throughout winter](#). The Infection Control Fund, set up in May, has now been extended until March 2021, with an extra £546 million to help the care sector restrict the movement of staff between care homes to stop the spread of the virus. The fund will help care providers pay staff full wages when they are self-isolating, and enable staff to work in only one care home, reducing the risk of spreading the infection.

[Guidance](#) setting out the infection control measures that the infection control fund will support, including information on the distribution of funds and reporting requirements has been updated accordingly.

**Department of Health and Social Care (29/09/2020)** [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\) strategy: stabilise and build resilience](#). This strategy sets out how the UK government is moving beyond the emergency COVID-19 response to stabilise and build resilience. It details how government is preparing for a second wave of COVID-19 or concurrent pandemic alongside usual seasonal pressures.

**Department of Health and Social Care (17/09/2020)** [New measures to improve patient care ahead of winter](#). Health Secretary Matt Hancock has announced that A&Es in 25 hospitals will receive a share of £150 million in funding to upgrade, reduce overcrowding and improve infection control ahead of winter. This is to ensure that hospitals have the physical space to treat patients, manage patient flow and improve infection control.

This is further to an [announcement](#) on 11 August that 117 Trusts were to be allocated a share of £300m to upgrade A&E facilities ahead of winter. University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust was allocated £4 million.

**Department of Health and Social Care (15/09/2020)** [The future of public health: the National Institute for Health Protection and other public health functions](#). Further to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care's [announcement](#) of the new [National Institute for Health Protection](#) (NIHP) on 18 August 2020, the Government has published a high-level overview of its plans to better protect and improve the public's health, including where they will act immediately to strengthen the health protection systems and the focused response to COVID-19 ahead of the winter.


**Department of Health and Social Care (29/09/2020)** [New recruitment drive to help 10,000 people with serious mental illness](#) £27 million has been announced for mental health charity Think Ahead to expand their mental health social work graduate programme. More than 10,000 people living with serious mental illness will receive support from 480 new mental health social workers.

**Department of Health and Social Care (18/09/2020)** [Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce: report on first phase of COVID-19 pandemic](#). This report sets out the progress and learning from the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic in informing advice and recommendations to government and the social care sector.

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (14/09/2020)** [Local COVID-19 outbreaks: lessons learnt and good practice](#). Dame Mary Ney has undertaken a rapid stocktake of lessons learnt from the Leicester City/Leicestershire experience of responding to a local surge in COVID-19 cases. The report sets out the learning and best practice drawn from Dame Mary Ney's work.

**Department of Health and Social Care (Last updated 11 September 2020)** [Overview of adult social care guidance on coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). Information for adult social care providers on COVID-19 guidance and support.

## OPEN CONSULTATIONS

Date of publication	Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
30 July 2020	<b>Department of Health and Social Care:</b> <a href="#">Front-of-pack nutrition labelling in the UK: building on success</a>	Closes 21 October 2020