

# HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Winter Plan Update



## CONTEXT

The coronavirus pandemic has created unprecedented challenges over the past months with the Health and Wellbeing system. With this in mind the Council, CCG, UHP, Livewell South West and Primary Care continue to work in partnership to prepare for winter.

Local authorities are required to develop their own winter plans. These winter plans should build on the Care Home Support Plans, and other existing resilience planning in the context of planning for the end of the Transition Period. Planning should be as transparent and inclusive as possible, involving collaboration across health and care agencies, the voluntary sector, people who need care and carers. Providers should also review and update their business continuity plans leading into winter.

By 31 October 2020, local authorities must, as a condition of receiving further funds from the Infection Control Fund, have written to DHSC confirming they have put in place a winter plan and that they are working with care providers in their area on their business continuity plans.

## ADULT SOCIAL CARE: OUR COVID-19 WINTER PLAN 2020 TO 2021

This winter is likely to place unique pressures on the health and care system. As we approach winter, the Government's overarching priorities for adult social care are:

- Ensuring everyone who needs care or support can get high-quality, timely and safe care throughout the autumn and winter period
- Protecting people who need care, support or safeguards, the social care workforce, and carers from infections including COVID-19
- Making sure that people who need care, support or safeguards remain connected to essential services and their loved ones whilst protecting individuals from infections including COVID-19

Government's Winter Plan 2020 to 2021 details, by area of COVID response, what their national support offer will look like and what is expected of other parts of the system including local authorities, NHS organisation and care providers.

### National support

The government will continue to provide national leadership and coordination as we move into the next phase of the COVID-19 response. They will continue to provide resources, evidence and high-quality data to empower local leadership. Government is committed to understanding and responding to inequalities in health and the impact of the virus, learning lessons from research, and to listening to those with lived experience.

## ACTIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND NHS ORGANISATIONS

Throughout winter, it will be essential that local authorities and NHS organisations continue to collaborate, working alongside one another as well as with adult social care providers (including in the voluntary and community sector), people with care and support needs, their families and carers.

### Preventing and controlling the spread of infection in Care Settings

- We will continue to implement relevant guidance and share this through our weekly Provider Bulletin and Provider Webinars monthly.

- Our Director of Public Health will continue to work with relevant partners including Public Health England and local health protection boards to control local outbreaks.
- Using our existing outbreak management approach we will continue to support care homes, working with local partners to carry out learning reviews after each outbreak to identify and share any lessons learned.
- UHP, LWSW and the CCG will continue to offer clinical support and training particularly in relation to infection control best practice.

### **Managing staff movement**

- We will distribute the latest money from the Infection Control Fund, and submit returns on how the funding has been used in line with the grant conditions
- Through our existing market management arrangements we will continue to review contingency arrangements to help manage staffing shortages, within social care provision, through the winter, with the aim of reducing the need for staff movement
- Through our provider bulletins we will continue to provide clear communication to social care providers regarding the importance of implementing workforce measures to limit COVID-19 infection, signpost relevant guidance, and encourage providers to make use of additional funding where appropriate
- We will continue to actively monitor Capacity Tracker data to identify and act on emerging concerns regarding staff movement between care settings working with Providers who are challenged

### **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**

- The Government has committed to free PPE for Social Care provision. For regulated services this will be accessed via a national portal.
- For non- regulated services such as day provision PPE will be provided locally as we have re-established our PPE cell for the City to manage distribution.

### **COVID-19 testing**

- Through our existing situation report arrangements we will continue to make sure care providers, as far as possible, carry out testing as per the testing strategy and, together with NHS organisations, provide local support for testing in adult social care, if needed
- Our Public Health team will continue to actively monitor local testing data to identify and act on emerging concerns, these are followed up by our Care Home Support offer.

### **Seasonal flu vaccines**

- Using our existing partnership communication channels we will support flu campaigns and signpost eligible staff and people who receive care to receive a free flu vaccine at identified venues across the City
- We are working with local NHS partners to facilitate and encourage the delivery of flu vaccines to social care staff and residents in care homes

### **Safe discharge from NHS settings and preventing avoidable admissions**

- Our current jointly commissioned care packages for those discharged will be maintained to support individuals leaving hospital to access timely reablement and rehabilitation.
- With our partners we will establish an Executive Lead for the delivery of the discharge to assess model whilst ensuring efficient processes are in place to manage CHC assessments during the winter period.
- We are building on our Caring for Plymouth approach and will continue to work with partners to coordinate activity, with local and national voluntary sector organisations, to provide services and support to people requiring support.

- We are working with Providers to ensure that we have appropriate accommodation for people who have been discharged from hospital, if their care home cannot provide appropriate isolation or cohorting facilities.

### **Visiting guidance**

- In line with our existing arrangements we will continue to complete regular assessments of whether visiting care homes is likely to be appropriate, within their local authority, or within local wards, taking into account the wider risk environment
- If necessary, we will impose visiting restrictions if local incidence rates are rising, and immediately if an area is listed as 'an area of intervention'.

In all cases exemptions will be made for visits to residents at the end of their lives.

### **Support for unpaid carers**

- Through our existing communication mechanisms and by working with partner agencies we will continue to raise awareness of the support available to carers in the City.
- We continue to work with services that cannot reopen in the same way such as day services to ensure that alternative arrangements and support is in place.

### **Supporting the workforce**

- Through our existing Bulletin and webinar arrangements we will ensure providers are aware of the free induction training offer whilst continuing to promote and summarise the relevant guidance to care providers
- We are working with partners to maintain, where possible, the additional staff support services which they put in place during the first wave of the pandemic and promote wellbeing offers to their staff.
- We are continuing to review contingency arrangements to help manage staffing shortages within social care provision through the winter and supporting providers to apply the guidance on deploying staff and managing their movement.

### **Shielding and people who are clinically extremely vulnerable**

- Local authorities will be required to coordinate local support if shielding is reintroduced in a local area.

### **Market and provider sustainability**

- Our commissioners will continue to work with local providers and complete a self-assessment of the health of local market management and contingency planning leading into winter during October. We will continue to provide support through our provider engagement arrangements to the market over the coming months.