

## BCP Health and Well-Being Board



Report subject	<b>Coronavirus (Covid19) Care Home Support Plan</b>
Meeting date	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Status	Public
Executive summary	<p>As part of its Coronavirus (COVID19) Support Package to Care Homes Guidance, Government has required all Local Authorities with social care responsibilities to work with system partners to put in place arrangements to support care homes and make a return to Government by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 which sets out an overview of the current activity and forward planning to deliver the national Care Home Support package.</p> <p>Health and Well-Being Boards are identified as a key stakeholder in both the development and the implementation of the local plans.</p> <p>Relevant documents will be distributed to all Board members and appended to the Board papers for the meeting subsequent to the return submission to Government on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) Board members review the implementation of the national Care Home Support Package in the BCP area</b></li> <li><b>2) Identify any additional significant actions which will assist in the implementation of the local Care Home Support Plan</b></li> <li><b>3) Consider whether the Board wishes to request a further report on the implementation of support to local care homes.</b></li> </ol>
Reason for recommendations	The support of Care Homes during the COVID19 pandemic through the co-ordinated input of all partners is a key priority in terms of ensuring the health and well-being of care home residents and staff.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Lesley Dedman - Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Health
Lead Chief Officers	Graham Farrant Chief Executive- BCP Council Tim Goodson Accountable Officer - Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Report Authors	Jan Thurgood - Corporate Director Adult Social Care, BCP Council Sam Crowe - Director of Public Health Sally Sandcraft - Director of Commissioning, Dorset CCG Vanessa Read - Director of Nursing, Dorset CCG Phil Hornsby - Service Director Adult Social Care Commissioning, BCP Council
Wards	All
Classification	Review of submitted plans and identification of any further actions required.

## 1. Background

1.1 On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Government published Guidance in relation to supporting care homes through the Covid19 pandemic. The guidance acknowledged that many care providers are facing challenges and that care homes have been particularly susceptible to outbreaks of COVID19. The plan's focus was therefore on how to prevent and control COVID19 in all registered care homes. The guidance set out steps which must be taken to keep people safe in care homes and the support that will be brought together across national and local government to help care providers put this into practice.

1.2 The key component parts of the national support package were set out as:

- Training in infection control with all care homes to be offered training in infection control and the effective use of PPE through programme co-ordinated by Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Ensuring that all Care Homes have access to PPE as is recommended in national guidance
- Reducing workforce movement between care homes and minimising risk for care workers
- Ensuring that people moving to care homes are tested prior to admission and people who have tested positive for COVID19 are cared for in appropriate environments which enable required periods of isolation. Where a person is being transferred from an NHS Hospital or provision to a Care Home, it is the responsibility of the NHS to conduct the test for COVID19 and local

arrangements for care home admissions have been developed to implement the principle that test results are known prior to a person's admission to a care home.

- Stepping up clinical support for care homes from primary and community health services
- Comprehensive testing of care home staff and residents
- Building the social care workforce.

1.3 All local authorities with responsibility for adult social care were required by the guidance to put in place care home support planning with a requirement to submit a planning return by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 which should be made public. The planning return was to be developed with the Clinical Commissioning Group Accountable Officer and to take into account the views of health and care providers, Healthwatch and groups representing or advocating for people who use social care services. This return is to include a letter from the Local Authority Chief Executive which sets out a short overview of current activity and forward plan; information on current level of access to the support offer and confirmation that local authorities are carrying out a daily review of the local care market and taking actions immediately where necessary to support them.

1.4 Given the timescales for production of the return, it was not possible to achieve detailed consultation with the full range of partners on the Health and Well-Being Board prior to submission of the planning return. The Health and Well-Being Board is recommended at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to consider the local return in detail and to identify any significant actions which will further strengthen support to local care homes. The planning return will be submitted on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and relevant papers will be distributed to Health and Well-Being Board members and appended to the papers for the Board meeting subsequent to the submission. It should be noted that the planning returns will be subject to a process of regional assurance undertaken by the Better Care Fund assessment team.

## **2 Summary of financial implications**

2.1 The Government has announced that £600 million will be made available to the care sector through Councils for the implementation of infection control measures with a focus on care homes. The allocation to each Council is based on the number of Care Home beds registered by the Care Quality Commission in the Council area. The money will be provided to Councils in two tranches in June and then July 2020. Seventy-five percent of the grant is to be distributed to care homes in line with registered bed numbers. The distribution of the remaining twenty-five percent of the grant is for local determination and can be distributed to domiciliary care providers as well as Care Homes. There will be a discussion with local leaders across the care sector as part of the process for determining the local priorities for the discretionary component of the funding.

2.2 BCP Council decided in April 2020 to provide a 10% uplift to all providers commissioned by the Council from 19<sup>th</sup> March to end of July 2020 and is asking that care providers experiencing severe financial impacts during the COVID19 period approach the Council for discussions on an open-book basis. Dorset CCG has offered up to 10% uplift for commissioned providers on an open book basis from 1<sup>st</sup> April to end of June 2020.

### **3. Summary of legal implications**

3.1 Local Authorities have been required by Government Guidance (Coronavirus (COVID19) Care Home Support Package published 14<sup>th</sup> May and updated on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020) to co-ordinate the development of local support plans for Care Homes and submit planning return documents on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

### **4 .Summary of human resources implications**

4.1 Key elements of the national support package for Care Homes cover assistance in the recruitment and the support of staff working in the Care Home sector.

### **5. Summary of environmental impact**

5.1 The detailed advice on infection control covers both guidance on transport for staff care homes and is relevant to the built environment of care homes and the ability of care homes to provide quarantining and isolation for residents if this is required.

### **6. Summary of public health implications**

6.1 The key concern of care home support planning is to ensure the health and well-being of care home residents during the pandemic through effective infection prevention and control measures. It is also important to ensure that through this period the mental health and well being of both residents and staff in Care Homes are considered and supported.

### **7. Summary of equality implications**

7.1 Care Homes provide care to a wide range of people including older people; people diagnosed with many different long-term conditions and disabilities and people who have learning disabilities; autism and mental health issues. It is crucially important that all elements of the national care home support package are implemented in a way which respects the views, rights and needs of all residents. It is particularly important to ensure that the rights of people who lack mental capacity are protected and to understand also the views of carers and relatives.

### **8. Summary of risk assessment**

8.1 The national care home support plan is intended to address the risks of spread of COVID19 infection into and within Care Homes and to protect residents and staff.

## **Background papers**

Government Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID19) Care Home Support Planning –  
published 14<sup>th</sup> May/ updated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020