

## **Outbreak Management Advisory Board**

**19 August 2020**

### **Update from the Corporate Director of Health, Housing & Adult Social Care**

#### **Theme 1 in the Outbreak Control Plan: Care Homes Update**

##### **Current Position**

As of the 14<sup>th</sup> August, there are no current confirmed cases with residents in any care homes in the City, this has been the position since the 17<sup>th</sup> July. The position has been achieved through the close monitoring and liaison with providers, pro-active testing of all residents and staff in care homes and joint daily working between ASC Commissioning, Public Health leads and CCG colleagues.

A brief summary of the approach and current testing position and the Infection Control Fund is detailed below;

##### **ASC Commissioning Care Home Management**

Alongside the daily arrangements detailed below to provide a wide range of support across the care home sector and care sector in general, the Council has also provided support through a dedicated PPE helpline, dedicated 7 days a week e-mail and contact arrangements from Adults Commissioning Team and alongside colleagues in the CCG have provided additional support through Team Around The Home - a multi-agency and system wide approach to specific and immediate support for care homes. In addition the Council is represented by ASC and Public Health at the Gold Care Home meeting which is a cross authority, multi-agency meeting on care homes and care settings.

The Council has followed a place based principle and approach in supporting care homes with;

- Positive alignment to the COVID-19 Discharge Service Requirements, following Home First / Why Not Home, Why Not today approach when planning discharge
- Capacity Planning based on Public Health modelling and monitoring actuals, and detailed intelligence about existing capacity and sustainability of the sector
- Close collaboration between Primary Care, Community Health Services, Social Care and the voluntary and community sector

Daily arrangements in place to review the local data and information of the state of the market locally;

By 10.30am	by 1.30/2pm	2.30pm meeting	By close of play	8am Gold meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Capacity Tracker updated by homes and checked by CYC</li> <li>•Any homes requiring a call are contacted and calls logged - Homes are all usually contacted at present on a daily basis even when tracker has been updated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Daily Dashboard is prepared by CYC - This is detailed information on all covid cases, staffing, PPE, training, clinical support, support requested, infection control etc.</li> <li>•Contents checked and validated (QA) process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Multi – agency meeting to review dashboard and agree the support and testing priorities to be requested for the following day</li> <li>•Adult Social Care Commissioning, Public Health and CCG Nursing and Quality in attendance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Summary produced to accompany the dashboard, providing the narrative for the Gold meeting on the following day</li> <li>•CCG to send condensed version of dashboard to GP's</li> <li>•Daily bulletin providing information and support to care sector sent to approximately 125 services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Priorities for support are discussed and agreed for the system</li> <li>•CYC DPH rep submits testing request via the portal</li> <li>•Other support measures agreed and allocated to named leads</li> </ul>

Reflecting the current position, the plan is from the 17<sup>th</sup> August to produce the comprehensive “daily dashboard” on Monday’s, Wednesday’s and Friday’s. This will enable the team to provide further support in terms of focused business discussions and meetings. If levels of infection were to start increasing again, the plan would be to revert back to daily dashboards with immediate effect.

## **Testing**

A local decision-making process following national guidance is in place for care homes:

- ASC liaise with each site to ensure the latest information is available to assess known risks
- Risks are discussed at a daily “PH Silver Huddle” a partnership meeting governed by DPH/PH representative
- Any requests for testing are discussed and an agreement made within the context of the whole care system
- Decision is agreed and signed off by PH at the Silver Huddle, with the satellite site provided by Be Independent able to deliver the tests to the care home the following day.
- Wrap around support for sites is also considered within both the York and shared NY & Y meetings

Testing of symptomatic individuals for diagnostic purposes is ongoing and will continue where indicated.

All care homes were required to complete one round of whole home testing to identify asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic cases. This could be considered active case finding for all homes – those with outbreaks due to the existence of cases within the home, and those without known cases as the background prevalence of COVID-19 in care homes over the last few months has been high enough to substantially increase the risk across all care homes.

Our priority for whole setting testing will be active case finding in situations where there is a known epidemiological link – this response will need to be timely and follow the agreed processes.

There has been recent national guidance issued around repeat whole care home re-testing and whilst this has been delayed due to the recall of Randox test kits is due to be fully operational again by early September, capacity remains through the satellite testing centre established in York to ensure that the requirements of homes whom require retesting can be met locally.

### **Infection Control Fund**

On 14th May 2020 the government announced an additional £600 million to support providers through a new Infection Control Fund. The fund will support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience. It has been allocated to Local Authorities and is in addition to the funding already provided to support Adult Social Care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local Authorities received the funding in two instalments, the first during June and the second during July 2020. The total allocation for York, based on the number of 1,459 registered care beds, is £1,872,721. Councils are required to allocate 75% of each instalment to care homes on a proportional basis, according to the number of registered beds. This equates to £1.4m for York care homes. The remaining 25% or £468,180, is to be prioritised by the council for the greatest impact on infection control and it was agreed to use this funding to support Domiciliary Care and Supported Living Providers.

Some examples of how providers have used the fund to support infection control measures is detailed below;

- Enhanced pay for staff
- Additional costs for catering for disposable items and delivering meals to resident's rooms.
- Laptops /ICT to support continued engagement with relatives
- Food provided for staff on shift so they can remain on site
- Additional IT equipment so staff do not have to share
- Providing outdoor improvements and or new facilities
- Separate facilities for staff for donning and doffing PPE / changing etc.
- Additional uniforms for staff
- Additional cleaning hours
- Isolation areas and additional clinical waste facilities
- Replacement flooring
- En-suite facilities to ensure self-isolation
- Additional hand washing facilities
- Activity packs for residents
- Additional linen to allow more frequent laundry