

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HOSPITAL DISCHARGE (PHASE 1)

Summary

The second evidence-gathering session for phase 1 of this review will involve contributions from representatives of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC).

Detail

1. To supplement the evidence presented at this Committee meeting, Members are reminded of the following background papers previously provided (links included):
 - NHS: Next Steps on NHS Response to Covid-19 (17th Mar 20)
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/urgent-next-steps-on-nhs-response-to-covid-19-letter-simon-stevens.pdf>
 - COVID-19 hospital discharge service requirements (19th Mar 20)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911541/COVID-19_hospital_discharge_service_requirements_2.pdf
 - NHS Providers: Spotlight on recent discharges into care home (19th May 20)
<https://nhsproviders.org/media/689548/spotlight-on-recent-discharges-into-care-homes-nhs-providers.pdf>
 - Full Fact: Discharge to Care Homes (16th Jun 20)
<https://fullfact.org/health/coronavirus-care-homes-discharge/>
 - GOV.UK: Hospital discharge service guidance (21st Aug 20)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hospital-discharge-service-guidance>

In addition, further related links are provided below:

- Care Home Professional: Covid-19 admissions and care guidance (3rd Apr 20)
<https://www.carehomeprofessional.com/breaking-news-government-issues-new-covid-19-admissions-and-care-guidance/>
- Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI): Covid-19 impact on Care Homes (24th Aug 20)
<https://www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/major-new-survey-of-care-home-leaders-confirms-severe-impact-of-covid-19/>

2. STHFT has been asked to provide responses to the following key lines of enquiry:
 - What guidance did the Trust receive regarding discharge to care homes during the escalating Covid-19 outbreak in the UK (including how and when this was disseminated)? Did this change over time?
 - What was the process around hospital discharge, and how was this communicated between key partners (i.e. care homes, Local Authority)?
 - What factors were put in place to keep people safe, and how did key partners work together to address concerns?
 - What can be learned ahead of an anticipated second Covid-19 surge?
3. Information from SBC will focus on communication with local NHS Foundation Trusts, work undertaken with Care Homes to facilitate discharge and keep people safe, and any issues / concerns arising from discharge during the course of the ongoing pandemic.
4. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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