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| Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee |
| Review of Multi-Agency Support to Care Homes during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Task & Finish) |
| Outline Scope |

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| Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address? | |
| <p>The review will contribute to the following Council Plan 2021-2024 key objectives (and associated 2021-2022 priorities):</p> <p><i>A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... to support [adults' residential homes in the Borough] as they continue to adapt to dealing with the challenges arising from COVID-19. | |
| What are the main issues and overall aim of this review? | |
| <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted, and continues to impact, all aspects of life, and the care sector has been particularly affected. The health and wellbeing of residents and staff in care homes has gained a high degree of national attention since the emergence of COVID-19, and the recent easing of the latest national lockdown restrictions provides an opportunity to reflect on partnership-working between local care providers and wider support agencies.</p> <p>It is widely recognised that the last year has been a very difficult and sensitive time for all those employed within health and social care, and even more so for those individuals (and their families) who have contracted, and suffered from, Coronavirus. The Council (and its wider health partners) has long-established strong partnership-working principles, much of which has been tested to the maximum since the pandemic emerged. The need to adapt to the ever-changing COVID-19 scene has meant being flexible and innovative in terms of the support provided (sometimes within the confines of funding restrictions / uncertainties), and it is now appropriate to consider how any new approaches / practices have been received by local care providers.</p> <p>This review will allow the Council and its partners to showcase the support provided to local care homes / nursing homes, as well as raise any previous or current issues / concerns. Such information will assist in further strengthening partnerships with local care providers as all agencies continue to manage the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Additionally, it may also help provide assurance to residents and their families of the measures that have been / are being put in place to safeguard all those within a setting.</p> <p>Engagement with a range of stakeholders is envisaged, including SBC (Public Health, Adult</p> | |

Social Care, Procurement), local NHS Trusts, the CCG, the CQC, and care home providers. Identifying and reflecting upon the support given to care providers in relation to a variety of key areas (ranging from Government guidance and funding, to PPE provision and infection prevention / control) will be a central theme, as will the desire to understand how such support was received by the care settings themselves and whether this was timely and effective.

Whilst it is proposed to examine this from a holistic perspective rather than at an individual care home / nursing home level, the ability to assess key data in relation to local care home providers (pertaining to both residents and staff) would give a useful overview of the past and present situation across the Borough. However, it is acknowledged that figures alone do not give a full picture, and that care homes and wider partners deal with differing circumstances regarding the health status / needs of residents and the varying types of care settings.

This review aims to:

- Consider and understand the interplay between the local health and care sector since the emergence of COVID-19.
- Analyse relevant data and intelligence in relation to local care providers as part of assessing the impact of support provided by key stakeholders.
- Determine if any improvements can be made to current policies and practice.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

What data and intelligence exists around the impact of COVID-19 on the Borough's care homes (in relation to residents and staff)?

How did the Council and its local partners use the data available to inform the levels of support required to care home providers? Did this change over time, and if so, how?

What support was provided in relation to the following (specific areas for investigation to be determined by the Task and Finish Group at the first Group meeting):

- National guidance (inc. changes over time)
- Communication mechanisms
- Data and intelligence
- Funding
- Managing outbreaks
- Accessibility (professionals, visitors)
- PPE provision
- Testing
- Managing discharges from hospital
- Impact on residents and staff
- Best practice and future support

How was support received by local care home providers (management and staff)? Was this timely, well communicated, helpful? What would / could have worked better?

Views of families / carers of those residing in care homes.

Note: The Committee has undertaken two recent reviews on Care Homes for Older People (pre-COVID-19) and Hospital Discharge (Phase 1) (discharge to care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic). Care will therefore be needed that this review does not duplicate previously completed reports and does not make duplicate requests of relevant stakeholders for evidence they may have already given (which will be used for this piece of work where appropriate).

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| <p>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</p> <p>Cabinet, Council, NHS Trusts, CCG, CQC, care homes, residents / families / carers.</p> | |
| <p>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</p> <p>TBC</p> | |
| <p>What information do we need?</p> <p><i>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Guidance • Information gathered from recent Committee reviews involving care homes | |
| <p><i>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</i></p> <p>Local Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health • Adult Social Care • Procurement <p>NHS Trusts</p> <p>Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group (TVCCG)</p> <p>VCSE (TBC)</p> <p>Care Quality Commission (CQC)</p> <p>Care Home Providers</p> | <p><i>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data / intelligence on impact of COVID-19 on local care providers ➤ How this data was used to inform support ➤ What support was / is being provided (TBC at first T&F Group meeting) ➤ What support was / is being provided (TBC at first T&F Group meeting) ➤ Impact on inspection programme ➤ Future plans for regulation of care providers ➤ Communication with statutory partners ➤ Key issues / concerns arising during COVID ➤ Timeliness / effectiveness of support given ➤ Keeping families / carers of residents informed |
| <p>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</p> <p>Task & Finish Group meetings, reports, research, benchmarking, care home survey (TBC)</p> | |
| <p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Task & Finish Group meetings, information submissions, care home survey (TBC)</p> | |
| <p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p> <p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to</p> | |

advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. This review will be mindful of these factors.

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Summary 2018/19): common themes include reviewing models of care / pathways, and improving partnership working between departments / organisations.

Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023: All people in Stockton-on-Tees live well and live longer – live healthier and more independent lives; access a range of services and the care that meets their needs.

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

Understanding the multi-agency support that has been / is being given to care homes / nursing homes and the impact upon them.

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| Project Plan |
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| Key Task | Details/Activities | Date | Responsibility |
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| Scoping of Review | Information gathering | March 2021 | Scrutiny Officer Link Officer |
| Tri-Partite Meeting | Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review | 01.04.21 | Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer |
| Agree Project Plan | Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee | 20.04.21 | Select Committee |
| Publicity of Review | Determine whether Communications Plan needed | TBC | Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer |
| Obtaining Evidence | Local Authority TBC TBC | May 2021 (TBC) TBC TBC | Task & Finish Group |
| Members decide recommendations and findings | Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations | TBC | Task & Finish Group |
| Circulate Draft Interim Report to Stakeholders | Circulation of Report | TBC | Scrutiny Officer |
| Tri-Partite Meeting | Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations | TBC | Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer |
| Final Agreement of Report | Approval of final report by Committee | TBC | Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director |
| Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee | Consideration of report | TBC | Executive Scrutiny Committee |
| Report to Cabinet/Approving Body | Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet | TBC | Cabinet / Approving Body |