

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

12 NOVEMBER 2020

**REPORT OF ADULT
SOCIAL CARE AND
HEALTH SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Members: Deputy Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture – Cllr Jim Beall; Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care – Cllr Ann McCoy

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HOSPITAL DISCHARGE (PHASE 1)

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee's review of Hospital Discharge (Phase 1) (discharge to care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019-2020, though originally began with a focus on hospital discharge to an individual's own home. Following the emergence of COVID-19, the Committee agreed to split the review into two phases – phase 1 would be a short focused piece of work on discharge to care homes during the pandemic, followed by a resumption of the originally agreed scope (phase 2) (discharge to an individual's own home). The first phase of the review is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that:

- 1) There is continued regular engagement between local NHS Trusts, SBC and care providers regarding escalation-planning and how this will be managed, with arrangements to be agreed by all stakeholders.
- 2) North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust provide a prompt response to the communication issues raised by care homes through the survey undertaken as part of this review.
- 3) The recently issued 'designated settings' guidance (for discharge of positive COVID-19 cases from hospital to CQC-approved care home accommodation) be fully implemented.

- 4) Planning for the use of the Council's Rosedale Centre (a recently CQC-approved 'designated setting') for a second surge takes into account the possibility of higher demand than what was required from March 2020.
- 5) Local leaders support the desired expansion and funding of local Trust testing capabilities, and that any increase in capacity be prioritised for both Trust and care home staff and patients / residents.
- 6) Regular testing of care home staff and residents is supported, with a continued push for a quicker turnaround in the notification of test results.
- 7) The latest guidance from the UK Government, in conjunction with recognised best practice, is fully understood and acted upon by key partners, and is considered during the regular dialogue that takes place between health and social care services.

DETAIL

1. The first phase of this review aimed to briefly examine the impact of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic on hospital discharge to care homes, an issue which has gained national attention following the UK Government's response to a surge of hospital admissions in March 2020. This element of the review would focus on the national guidance, the process around hospital discharge to care homes, and any potential learning ahead of an anticipated second COVID-19 surge.
2. The Committee focused on the following key lines of enquiry:
 - National guidance for discharge to care homes during the escalating COVID-19 outbreak in the UK; how and when this was disseminated to local hospital Trusts.
 - What was the process around hospital discharge, and how was this communicated between key partners (i.e. local Trusts, care homes, Local Authority)?
 - What factors were put in place to keep people safe; how did key partners work together to address concerns?
 - What can be learned ahead of an anticipated second COVID-19 surge?
3. The Committee took evidence from both the local NHS Trusts (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group. To understand the experiences of local care homes during this period, a survey was issued to all providers across the Borough.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

4. COVID-19 continues to have a wide-ranging and highly significant impact across all sections of the local community. As the nation experiences a second escalation of COVID-19 cases, the first phase of this review has sought to understand the challenges that local NHS Trusts and care homes found themselves with during the initial stages of the pandemic, and identify areas of learning that could help in dealing with a subsequent surge in infections. The recommendations contained within the final report are designed to further minimise risk to hospital patients, care home residents and the staff within these health and social care settings. Reducing the potential transmission of the virus is not only essential for those individuals who require hospital admission and then subsequent discharge into care homes, but for their loved ones and those professionals who are looking after them.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no direct implications in the report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Potential for higher demand for the Council's Rosedale Centre may impact on the levels of resourcing and the work required to keep residents and staff safe. Implementing future national guidance may also bring additional financial pressures.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no legal implications identified at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. The review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

9. The first phase of this review concerns local NHS Trusts and care homes that cover the whole Borough, therefore was not Ward-specific.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. None.

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