

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**23 DECEMBER 2020**

### **REPORT OF ADULTS AND HEALTH**

## **COVID-19 WINTER PLAN 2020 TO 2021**

### **SUMMARY**

This report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board Members with an overview of the Adult Social Care and Health Departments response to the key requirements outlined in the Government's Adult Social Care: Our Winter Plan 2020-21.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Health and Wellbeing Board Members are asked to:

- i. Note the content of the report and the plans in place across Adult Social Care and Health in Stockton-on-Tees to ensure services are delivered during a Covid-19 winter.
- ii. Note that formal confirmation was provided to the Department of Health and Social care prior to 31 October 2020 that a local plan had been established.

### **DETAIL**

#### **1. Information and Analysis**

##### **1.1. Context**

The Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020-21 (the Winter Plan) was published by the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) on 18 September 2020. It was accompanied by a letter from Helen Whately MP, Minister of State for Care, sent to Local Authority Chief Executives, Directors of Adult Social Care, Directors of Public Health, Care Home Providers and CCG Accountable Officers.

The Winter Plan is informed by and builds upon work undertaken during the summer by the Social Care Sector Covid-19 Taskforce. The Taskforce was established to support the delivery of two support packages to the care sector: The Social Care Action Plan and the Care Home Support Plan.

The Winter Plan set out several key requirements and support to be delivered and provided at both a national and local level. A summary of these is provided below. The main requirement from the Council's perspective was to have confirmed, in writing by 31 October 2020, that a winter plan was in place.

##### **1.2. National Support**

The Winter Plan outlines national support (some of which had been announced prior to the plan's publication):

- Over £500m nationally to extend the Infection Control Fund to tackle the spread of the virus in care homes to March 2021.

- Local authorities to establish winter plans, working with the NHS, the voluntary sector and local people; the DHSC to be informed these are in place by 31 October.
- Free Personal and Protective Equipment (PPE) to local resilience forums that wish to continue distribution and to local authorities to distribute to social care providers.
- A designation scheme for the Care Quality Commission to identify premises that are safe for people leaving hospital tested positive or awaiting results.
- NHS organisations to continue to support care home providers through the enhanced health in care homes framework from October – all care homes aligned to a primary care network with a lead clinician.
- Local authority public health to continue to assess the safety of care homes for visiting and to take action to halt these where necessary.
- A new dashboard to monitor care home infections.
- A chief nurse to be appointed by the DHSC.

### 1.3. Local Planning Requirements

The Winter Plan covers four main themes which detail the work being undertaken at a national level, and the expectations of local areas (local authorities, NHS organisations, and other providers of care services). In total there are 76 actions which must be addressed in a local authority's own winter plan.

- i. Preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings. This includes guidance and actions on areas such as infection and prevention control; managing staff movement; use of PPE; Covid-19 testing; seasonal flu vaccinations.
- ii. Collaboration across health and social care services. This includes guidance and actions on ensuring safe discharges from NHS settings and the avoidance of hospital admissions; introduction of the Enhanced health in care homes; use of technology and digital support to support/provide services.
- iii. Supporting people who receive social care, the workforce, and carers. This includes guidance and actions across two sub-headings. The first concerns support to those who receive and/or provide unpaid care: visiting arrangements; direct payments; support for unpaid carers; appropriate end-of-life care; and use of Care Act easements.
- iv. The second set of actions relate to the workforce and cover: staff training; workforce capacity; shielding of people who are clinically extremely vulnerable;
- v. Supporting the system. This includes guidance and actions on funding for local authorities (use of infection control funding); market and provider sustainability (includes supporting an Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Local Government Association Service Continuity and Care Market review); continued working with CQC.

### 1.4. Summary of local response

Outstanding actions from the Adult Social Care Winter Plan are:

- *support care homes, working with local partners to carry out learning reviews after each outbreak to identify and share any lessons learned at local, regional and national levels. This will be actioned in the Local Outbreak Plan.*
- *review current occupational health provision with providers in their area and highlight good practice. Providers have been asked about their occupational*

*health provision. Good practice will be shared via the newsletter sent to providers.*

- *understand and address health inequalities across the sector and develop actions with partners, where required, taking into account the implications of higher prevalence of COVID-19 in Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities, autistic adults, and people with mental health difficulties.*

A Corporate Management Team communications group is looking at appropriate communication to ensure that message is consistent and understandable for all citizens of Stockton on Tees. Recruitment of Covid community champions will help us to understand communities and how best to engage with them. Social workers are identifying people who may be disadvantaged and supporting them through the Care Act responsibilities and generic social care services.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

2. None

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

3. None

## **HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

4. The Winter Plan requires providers of care services to ensure that the movement of staff between settings, such as residential care homes or day service, is minimised. Workforce implications arising from this will be monitored on a regular basis throughout the winter plan to identify any risks to continuity of service provision across both the Council and Private, Voluntary, and Independent (PVI) sector.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

5. In developing the Adult Social Care Covid-19 Winter Plan 2020-21 due consideration has been given to the requirement to address inequalities in the provision of services.

## **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

6. In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Social Value, Human Rights, equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property, social value and crime and disorder considerations.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7. Adult social care: our COVID-19 winter plan 2020 to 2021, Department of Health and Social care (published by Department of Health and Social care, 18 September 2020)

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