



AGENDA ITEM NO 5

REPORT NO IJB 19//20

ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 24 JUNE 2020

ANGUS CARE HOME COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE UPDATE

REPORT BY GAIL SMITH, INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER

ABSTRACT

The Scottish Government introduced Coronavirus (COVID-19): Enhanced Professional Clinical and Care Oversight of Care Homes Guidance issued on 17 May 2020. This report provides the Integration Joint Board with an update on the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Care Homes.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board: -

- (i) note the current position and actions being taken by Angus Health and Social Care Partnership to support Care Homes in Angus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. BACKGROUND

Angus has 28 Residential Care and Nursing Homes for Older People and 2 additional Homes for people with Learning Disabilities. This includes 3 Residential Care Homes and a Learning Disability Care Home operationally managed by the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership. The remaining Care Homes are either run by Independent Providers or charitable organisations. There are approximately 1000 residents in Angus Care Homes at any one time. The average age at admission is 85 and a half years of age. The residents are a vulnerable group with high levels of physical frailty, multi-morbidity and dementia.

The Scottish Government introduced new legislative measures to ensure clarity around the professional accountabilities for supporting aspects of care for people within Care Homes. Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) alongside other stakeholders are working in a coordinated and integrated way to ensure Care Homes are appropriately supported, that services work together to meet the needs of individuals at this time and that we respond to the additional requirements to reduce the risk from COVID-19 on a timely basis.

3. CURRENT POSITION

With the emerging signs of the COVID-19 pandemic in early March, AHSCP met with the Care Home Providers Group to plan management of the response. This meeting included the Lead Clinicians, Service Managers and Care Home representatives. The group acknowledged the likelihood of COVID-19 affecting Care Homes and the probability that,

given the frailty of the residents' population, and the experience seen in other countries, there would be a significant proportion of the Care Home population who would not survive the infection.

The following measures, focussing on prevention of an outbreak, were developed at an early stage:

- restriction of visitors.
- suspension of planned respite (in-house provision).
- provision of good supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the AHSCP where gaps emerged, and the development of a staffed PPE hub to support on an ongoing basis.
- testing for staff and residents implemented at an early stage across Tayside, coordinated initially by the AHSCP linking into health systems prior to a NHS Tayside solution being found.
- re-deployment of AHSCP staff into Care Homes (on a voluntary basis) with a Redeployment Group established to support the process.
- monitoring of delayed discharges - these were at a minimum at the start of the pandemic, close working across the whole system has maintained this status with no concerns raised regarding pressure to move people into Care Homes.
- data collection to inform the requirements for support through a survey monkey reporting system. This was implemented prior to the Scottish Government reporting requirements and has enabled support to be provided to Care Providers from an early stage.

AHSCP has been liaising with Providers throughout the pandemic with support that has been practical and developmental where needed. Providers have spoken highly of the approach and support offered and provided by the team throughout this.

Since the announcement, by the Scottish Government, of new legislative measures, AHSCP have established a multi-agency operational group which reports to the Tayside Oversight Group. The daily Angus Care Home Huddle Group is composed of Senior Managers and Service Leaders from AHSCP, Public Health, Scottish Care, the Care Inspectorate, Social Work Professionals, Infection Prevention and Control and Lead Clinicians. A programme of assurance visits to all Care Homes over a three week period has been agreed. The visiting teams consist of an aligned experienced Nurse and Care Manager from the local Enhanced Community Support (ECS) team which provide a link to the wider ECS team including Pharmacy, Allied Health Professionals (AHP), GP and Medicine for the Elderly colleagues. Daily contact with each Care Home is maintained by the Community Nursing teams. This model has been chosen with a view of medium to long-term sustainability in supporting Care Homes while benefiting from links to the AHSCP and Tayside Oversight Group for wider issues such as ensuring education and development and implementation of relevant policies and guidance.

The Health Protection Team collate information from the Care Homes regularly and report through a RAG status to the Scottish Government on a weekly basis. Visits are prioritised and arranged when required. A survey monkey system is in place to collate information from every Care Home on a daily basis which supports early identification of issues such as PPE supply difficulties, workforce shortages or other concerns. The AHSCP can then act on these concerns on a same day basis to ensure the Care Homes are directed to receive the support they require.

The Angus Care Home Huddle Group reviews the collated data from the Care Inspectorate, Health Protection, through professional lines of management, from the AHSCP survey and the feedback from the Care Home visits weekly. This allows assurance to be provided to the daily Tayside Oversight Group via the Interim Chief Officer based on information from a variety of sources, following appropriate levels of scrutiny and with a coordinated multi-professional response.

A care assurance template is being developed based on the Forth Valley documentation. A Tayside-wide group has been mobilised, the AHSCP Lead Nurse participates in this group.

4. PROPOSALS

Angus IJB note the current position and extensive work going on across AHSCP and other stakeholders to support residents in Angus Care Homes. It is recommended that the focus on quality of care through a multi-professional approach continues in order to best meet the needs of residents in the longer term. NHS Tayside Health and Business Intelligence Team, within the Business Unit, are developing a consistent data collection process which can inform a daily oversight dashboard which supports in providing the organisation with decision-ready data to help management of services.

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List of Appendices: TERMS OF REFERENCE