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| <b>Report To:</b>       | <b>Policy &amp; Resources Executive<br/>Sub-Committee Committee</b> | <b>Date:</b>       | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020</b> |
| <b>Report By:</b>       | <b>Louise Long</b>  | <b>Report No:</b>  | <b>SW/27/2020/AS</b>            |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> | <b>Allen Stevenson</b>  | <b>Contact No:</b> | <b>O1475 715212</b>             |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | <b>Support to Care Homes COVID19</b>                                |                    |                                 |

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is to advise the Sub-Committee of the preparation and actions taken by the HSCP to support Care Homes in Inverclyde during the COVID 19 pandemic.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the HSCP, along with the other HSCPs in GG&C, submitted a Hospital Discharge Mobilisation plan detailing the key actions required to facilitate discharge from hospital and free up capacity in the Acute Sector to help ensure that hospitals had sufficient capacity to respond to COVID 19. The mobilisation plan was based on the worst case scenario at that time.

The focus of the plan was to:

- Facilitate quick and safe discharge from the Acute Sector;
- Protect the Care at Home Service and to continue to provide a safe, albeit reduced service, and
- Sustain Care Homes for the projected loss in income.

The plan included securing additional bed capacity in the care home sector through the block purchase of 50 care home beds with outline plans for a further 20 potentially by mid-April which was not required. The anticipated costs for this were included in the mobilisation plan financial returns which have been submitted to Scottish Government on a weekly basis since late March. The additional cost of these beds will be coded against the COVID19 budget which has been set up in Health and the Council for all COVID related costs.

There has been a drop in care home placements reflecting the overall number of people who have died.

COSLA and the Scottish government are currently consulting with all partners to determine a way forward to support Care Homes in the post COVID19 recovery phase. In the interim joint guidance has been issued by COSLA and Health & Care Scotland regarding sustainability payments which are to apply until the end of June. The payment is to be based on usual Care Home occupancy levels. Officers are currently calculating the financial implications of this and an update will be provided to the next meeting.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 the Government issued new guidance around support and governance of Care Homes. The letter emphasised the need to monitor and support Care Homes around 3 key areas;

- Ensure support around workforce to maintain safe staffing levels
- Infection control
- Supply of Personal protective Equipment. (PPE)

The Cabinet Secretary has also directed NHS Boards and Councils to ensure direct oversight of Care Home standards of care with schedule of meetings led by the Nursing Director, Chief Social Work Officer and Chief Officer.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **3.1 Committee is asked to:**

- a) To note correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary regarding the arrangements to ensure appropriate clinical support and oversight to Care Homes
- b) To note the continued implementation of the delayed discharge mobilisation plan to address the pressures presented by COVID19 pandemic.
- c) To note that the additional 20 Care Home beds initially planned for are no longer required.
- d) To note the current arrangement to purchase 50 care home beds for 12 weeks till mid June 2020 period under the National Care Home Contract
- e) To note the current discussions between COSLA and the Scottish Government to determine how to support Care Home providers in the post COVID19 recovery phase.
- f) Note that a future report on Care Homes including analysis of impact of COVID 19 will be presented to future committees.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 On 11 March Scottish Government wrote to all NHS and local authority Chief Execs and IJB Chief Officers requesting submission of mobilisation plans.
- 4.2 A key element of these plans was to be how partnerships were scaling up general care home bed capacity and what they were doing to reduce delayed discharges to support acute services in tackling Covid19.
- 4.3 Plans were submitted through the Health Boards to Scottish Government in late March and weekly updates have been submitted since then. For Inverclyde this included the bulk purchase of 50 additional care home beds from 23rd March for 12 weeks and the provision to purchase a further 20 from mid-April at a total estimated annual cost of £3.054m for Inverclyde.
- 4.4 On 9th April the Scottish Government wrote to all Chief Officers and confirmed approval in principle for the plans submitted but asked that costing's within those plans continue to be reviewed and refined based on local positions.
- 4.5 The decision to purchase the additional 50 care home beds was to:
  - Facilitate quick and safe discharge from the Acute Sector;
  - Protect the Care at Home Service and to continue to provide a safe albeit reduced service, and
  - Sustain Care Homes for the projected loss in income.
- 4.6 Of the 14 Care Homes in Inverclyde 10 agreed to the arrangement for purchase of blocked beds, the other Care Homes declined.
- 4.7 COSLA and the Scottish Government have recognised the issues Care Home Providers will face in the post COVID19 recovery phase in particular in light of the reduced number of care home placements not only in Inverclyde but across Scotland.
- 4.8 **Other non-financial support to Care Homes**

In Inverclyde there is an existing partnership approach between providers and the HSCP. It is this good relationship that has allowed continued high level performance around discharges from Hospital.

- 4.9 Inverclyde HSCP are supporting Care Homes at present through the COVID19 situation by a variety of means. The Commissioning Team currently undertake regular calls to check on the welfare of the home and its Manager/Staff and supplies, provide information and advice on the latest guidance/information available from the Scottish Government/Public Health Scotland. Any concerns or significant events are reported to the Commissioning team daily. This allows the HSCP to “traffic light” providers and direct support to the care homes most in need.
- 4.10 A Scottish Care Representative attends the LRMT meetings which are held 3 times a week, they are the voice of care homes and relay vital information back to providers and highlight any issues. CVS is recruiting volunteers who will be available to assist staff in care homes if the situation requires. Through NES and SSSC there is access to staff they may wish to employ should they become short staffed. The Council and NHS have process to support care home with staff. In addition to this all Care Home Managers have direct access to a member of the Strategic Commissioning Team via telephone or email.
- 4.11 **Offer of Support to Care Homes**

The HSCP wants to support Local Authority, independent and Third Sector care home providers to protect their staff and residents, ensuring that each person is getting the right care in the appropriate setting for their needs. The HSCP recognises how important it is for care homes to have access to the right knowledge, staff and resources so they are equipped to deliver care at all times, but it is even more critical we do so at this challenging time. This is

why officers are working very closely with local care homes to offer any support they require including (but not limited to) the following:

- appropriate information, guidance and support to safely admit, accept discharges from hospital, and care for patients during the pandemic with direct access to the Public Health Protection team
- the right information and the right support to care for people within their care home
- ensure fair and prompt payment for existing care commitments by working with Commissioners
- ensure they have the right equipment and supplies, this includes appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for care homes and that staff receive the right training in donning the equipment, its safe removal (doffing) and disposal so that staff can provide care safely and that they are appropriately
- psychological support to staff working in care homes
- training opportunities and support to all care homes in GGC through Webinars

In order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading within care homes the latest government guidance requires any patients being discharged from hospitals to care homes to be tested twice for the virus. Only after 2 negative tests can they be discharged to a care home.

#### **4.12 Testing of Residents in Care Homes**

Scottish Government Guidance has recently agreed to test for COVID19 for all residents in Care Homes as well as key staff. This process will become an ongoing cyclical programme on a yet to be determined timescale. We have currently tested all residents and staff in 14 older people care homes.

As per Scottish Government guidelines COVID19 testing for Residential and Nursing Care Homes has been established to test symptomatic residents via their GP and via Port Glasgow test centre for symptomatic staff. In addition to this from the 7th of May 2020 testing of non-symptomatic staff and residents will take place within individual residential and nursing care homes and will be undertaken by the outreach testing service. This will be coordinated from the Port Glasgow testing site.

Care homes who do not wish for large numbers of staff to enter the premises and have been carrying out their own tests with support from the HSCP Care Home Liaison Nurses where requested.

This testing of potential service users who will be placed into care homes has also extended to admissions from the community where all service users will be tested on admission and isolated for 14 days in line with Scottish Government guidance. This will allow for more confidence on the part of care homes to take admissions in the coming weeks.

Across Scotland all HSCP and Acute Sectors have been asked to look at practical support if staffing numbers in care homes fall below safe levels. This may require deployment of staff to these settings. All Care Homes in Inverclyde have contingency plans in place to address staff shortage and this option will only be employed if necessary.

#### **Oversight and Support**

On the 17th May 2020 the Cabinet Secretary issued new guidance around support and clinical governance of Care Homes. The letter emphasised the need to monitor and support Care Homes around 3 key areas;

- Ensure support around workforce to maintain safe staffing levels
- Infection control
- Supply of Personal protective Equipment. (PPE)

The Cabinet Secretary has also directed NHS Boards and Councils to ensure direct oversight of Care Home performance with daily meetings led by the Chief Social Worker Officer, Nursing Director and Chief Officers.

This will include daily safety huddle to determine levels of risks within care homes around the 3 key areas. Determination of the need to escalate these concerns and put in place extra support and if required management and staffing. The Scottish Government has put into place under the COVID Act 2020 powers for Local Authority to take over responsibility of management of any care home as well as the Local Health Nurse Director taking on governance and responsibility for this care in each care home.

Inverclyde HSCP are establishing daily Safety Huddle and will submit a daily sit rep report which will inform weekly meeting chaired by the Chief Officer with Chief Social Work Officer, Lead Nurse and Head of Service Health and Community Care, Clinical Director and Public Health who will determine levels of risk and requirement to escalate support to any Care Home in Inverclyde.

#### **4.13 Current Situation**

From escalation a schedule of visits will be arranged. The purchase of extra beds began on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 The best worst case scenario has not as yet materialised and contingency preparations put in place have been successful in managing the demand and pressures on a reduced service.

- 4.14 Though it was never envisaged that we would use 100% of the beds this is lower than expectations. Officers are reviewing the arrangements for additional bed provision in conjunction with Care Home providers and will amend bed commitments and forecasts accordingly as the pandemic continues.
- 4.15 The recent information released by National Records of Scotland has sadly confirmed that Inverclyde has been disproportionately affected by the disease. Whilst the most recent signs are that the spread of the disease and the number of deaths arising from COVID-19 is slowing down the number of deaths being registered within Inverclyde remains higher than normal.
- 4.16 Deaths in Care Homes have increased during the pandemic In April 2019 we experienced 22 deaths compared to 74 in April this year. Over a wider period between the 18th March 2020 and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 (inclusive), Scottish Government Data shows here have been a total of 120 deaths in Inverclyde Care Homes. Of these deaths 29% (35) were COVID19 related.
- 4.17 It is therefore important that all partners locally work towards understanding how to minimise the number of COVID-19 cases and how best to protect those most at risk at this time.
- 4.18 As of Friday 25th March there were 50 vacant care home beds in Inverclyde the current position as of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May this figure had increased to 111 vacant care home beds in Inverclyde, including the additional 50 purchased at the start of the pandemic i.e. excluding the 50 additional beds, vacant Care Home Beds have increased by 11.

#### **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 Though data suggests we may have passed the peak of cases there is limited understanding about current pressures how long these will last and the medium term impact on Health and Social Care resources. It is likely that the recovery process will take many months or years.
- 5.2 The impact of this increase in vacancies will have a drastic effect on the sustainability of the care home sector and it potentially reduces the income to a number of care homes and may result in them becoming financially unsustainable and may result in care homes closing. This in turn leads to a risk of not having the necessary capacity in this sector for the needs of a growing elderly and frail population now and in future years.

A separate paper has been prepared looking at additional measures which can be put in place to provide additional financial assurance and support to the care home sector taking into account the Joint Guidance issued to Councils on 21 May.

The IHSCP are currently building on existing processes and structures to enact the Cabinet Secretary's guidance around oversight and support to Care Homes issued on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Robust systems are in place to support Care Homes.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

### Finance

- 6.1 The costs below reflect the full year cost of the purchase of 50 additional care home beds. If at the end of the initial 12 week contract those are not continued that anticipated cost will reduce. The cost of these beds for only the contracted 12 weeks would be £454k. COSLA is working with HSCPs to agree Scotland wide position on how we support the care home sector.

#### Financial Implications:

##### One off Costs

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Years   | Proposed Spend this Report | Virement From | Other Comments   |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|--|
| IJB COVID   | Care Home Beds | 19/20<br>20/21 | 82<br>1,975                |               | It is planned that any costs incurred will be fully funded by the Scottish Government via LMP returns. |

##### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | With Effect from | Annual Net Impact | Virement From (If Applicable) | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| N/A         |                |                  |                   |                               |                |

### Legal

- 6.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### Human Resources

- 6.3 There are no specific human resources implications arising from this report.

### Equalities

- 6.4 Equalities

- (a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| YES |  |
| x   | NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required |

- (b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed. |
| X | NO   |

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. |
|  | NO  |

**Repopulation**

6.5 COVID19 has impacted population in Inverclyde

**7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 The report has been prepared by the Chief Officer of Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) after due consideration with relevant senior officers in the HSCP.

**8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None