Older People Care Homes Support Plan – Update, August 2020

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| **Next Steps as of May 2020** | **Deadline** | **Action** | **Further Actions** |
| Develop and disseminate a “care home preparedness checklist” covering all 5 support areas (Infection Prevention and Control, Testing, Personal Protective Equipment, Workforce Support & Clinical Support) to assess current status and identify areas care homes need support with. | Early June 2020 | Complete. A checklist/risk assessment tool has been compiled. All providers have completed and returned the documents with required information. A review was undertaken of the returns by Public Health, Infection Prevention Control and Commissioning leads to ensure that all required actions have been taken. | N/A |
| Assess how many care homes are using staff who work in more than one care home. | Early June 2020 | Complete. The assessment confirmed that two care homes are using staff who work in more than one care home. | Continue to monitor position across all care homes. |
| Discuss and agree plan with care homes to ensure staff are only working in one home and/or reducing workforce movement and transmission as much as possible (e.g. through covering taxi costs to and from the care homes, hotels costs to limit social interaction outside work etc.) | Mid-June 2020 | Complete. All providers have confirmed actions they will take to reduce the movement of staff across care homes. | Continue to monitor position across all care homes. |
| Confirm care homes payment arrangements for staff that are self-isolating; agree a consistent approach across all the care homes, in line with national guidance. | End June 2020 | Complete. The payment arrangements have been confirmed for the care homes. | Continue to monitor position across all care homes. |
| To implement virtual MDTs in our older people’s homes. | Commencing from June 2020 | Complete; virtual MDTs are now in place. | N/A |
| Develop and implement guidance around care homes residents that wander. | Mid-June | Complete; guidance has been compiled and disseminated to the older people’s care homes. | N/A |
| Assess current level of take up in care homes of “train the trainer” infection control offer. | End May 2020 | Complete. All care homes have completed the training. | N/A |
| Undertake on-site (where possible) assessment of each care home to review design/layout of the building, and determine how this can be enhanced/maximised to support IPC management e.g. around zoning, cohort staffing etc. | End September 2020 | In progress. A team of staff have been identified (environmental health, fire brigade, public health etc.) to undertake virtual assessments which are being scheduled for September. | N/A |
| Explore and implement incentives to encourage staff testing. | August 2020 | Complete and ongoing. Formal letter has been issued to all providers, emphasising the importance of staff testing. Uptake is slowly but steadily increasing; latest testing round for 13th-31st July showed 78% compliance. | Continue to monitor position across all care homes. |
| To continue to develop and deliver virtual training sessions to all care home staff, in line with training gaps that are identified by them and the wider partnership. | Ongoing | Complete and ongoing. A series of virtual training sessions have been delivered to the older people’s care homes including PPE, testing etc.An outbreak simulation session lead by Public Health took place in August.Additional training has been designed in respect of Dementia and People who Wander which is being piloted and will be rolled out to all care homes in September. | N/A |
| Undertake review of access to medical equipment and training in each of the care homes; determine what equipment is required, and support with procurement where required. | End June | Complete; no care homes identified the need for additional equipment.Pulse Oximeters are available through the GPCG. | N/A |
| To review the financial situation for all of our care homes. | End September 2020 | In progress; negotiations re: block contracts and uplifts for 20/21 are underway. | N/A |
| Work with Commissioners in other boroughs to ensure that the care homes support offer is in place where we commission placements. | End September 2020 | In progress; currently sourcing data on out of borough placements, to pick up with the relevant commissioners. | N/A |
| **Next Steps as of August 2020** | **Deadline** | **Action** | **New/Further Actions** |
| Actions taken to ensure that staff do not work across care homes. | End August 2020 | Two care homes have staff working in more than one care home. One home has two staff members working at a sister home, but they are starting and ending shifts from home to limit any possible transmission. The organisation has the added protection of having made routine testing mandatory and only using tested staff on their rotas.The other care home reverts to agency staff in the event of an emergency or when specialist staff take annual leave. This is now kept to a minimum due to a further round of recruitment. | Continue to monitor position across all care homes. |
| Confirm care homes payment arrangements are in line with national guidance | End August 2020 | One provider has advised that they continue to comply with paying all Covid-related Statutory Sick Pay from day one. 4 of the 5 homes pay staff in line with the national guidance after a positive test result. | Continue to monitor position across all care homes. |
| Develop a leaflet for carers and relatives of residents in a care home. | End September 2020 | A leaflet has been written and signed off. Quotes for the publishing and printing of the document are being sought. | N/A |
| Explore opportunities for care homes to continue to involve relatives and carers in the development of the care home. | End October 2020 | Providers have been encouraged to set up virtual care home meetings for relatives and carers using Zoom or Teams to encourage mutual support. | N/A |
| To explore opportunities to offer psychological support to care home managers and staff. | End September 2020 | A process has been agreed via the Older Adults Mental Health Team and a programme of sessions is in development. | N/A |
| Promote the uptake of flu vaccinations for both staff, residents and visitors to care homes. | End October 2020 | All the care homes have nominated a flu champion and a lead officer has been identified by Tower Hamlets CCG. | N/A |
| To implement a system to monitor all referrals into care homes. Ensure they have tested negative prior to admission and self-isolate for 14 days in line with national guidance. | End August 2020 | The system is in place and regularly updated to track and monitor access to provision in the borough. | N/A |