

Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 18 th November 2020 Covid-19 and Care Homes PANEL DISCUSSION	Item No 4
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PURPOSE OF ITEM

To examine how our local care homes, as part of the wider health and care system, are coping during the Covid-19 pandemic and to seek reassurance that the local system is now better prepared for a second wave, should it occur. To examine what lessons have been learnt from March-April when many vulnerable patients had to be discharged very rapidly from acute services into our care homes.

OUTLINE

The discussion with our key stakeholders will explore:

- how effective are the current processes around the discharge of elderly patients from the Homerton to local Care Homes?
- when and how are they tested and how long do they wait for results?
- are positive and/or symptomatic patients 'cohorted' into particular wards or floors/sections and what if this can't be achieved?
- is there now adequate provision of PPE?
- Have care home staff received adequate guidance on Covid?
- what is the current situation re asymptomatic testing of patients?
- what is the current situation on testing of care home staff?
- have arrangements for visitors altered and how?
- what other steps e.g. iPads have been implemented to support residents to keep in touch with families?
- what has the impact been on those on End of Life Care Plans?
- what has the impact been on the 'Discharge to Assess' system?
- how has the additional funding from central government been spent?
- what is best practice elsewhere and what can be adopted locally?

In the context of an emerging second wave of Covid, we will ask what plans are in place to ensure that our elderly are being kept safe and what work is ongoing between the Homerton, the Council/CCG and local care homes.

Attached please find a briefing paper from the Council's Adult Services team.

PROGRAMME

Time	Subject	Name	Position	Affiliation
19.02	Context and background to item	Cllr Ben Hayhurst	Chair	Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission
Introduction from local commissioner and a local provider				
19.05	Opening remarks from the commissioner	Denise D'Souza	Interim Strategic Director of Adult Social Services, Health and Integration	Hackney Council
19.10	Opening remarks from local care home provider	Diane Jureidin	Manager	Acorn Lodge (part of Lukka Homes)
Benchmarking best practice and a national policy perspective				
19.15	Academic perspective benchmarking national and international best practice	Adelina Comas-Herrera	Assistant Professorial Research Fellow in the Care Policy and Evaluation Centre https://ltccovid.org/	London School of Economics
19.20	National policy perspective	Simon Bottery	Senior Fellow – Social Care Latest papers here	The King's Fund

19.25 – 20.15 PANEL DISCUSSION

The above will be joined by:

Cllr Chris Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Leisure, Hackney Council

Tracey Fletcher, Chief Executive, Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, also Senior Responsible Office for Unplanned Care Workstream

Nina Griffith, Workstream Director for Unplanned Care for City and Hackney Integrated Commissioning Partnership (Hackney Council/ CCG/ Corporation of London)

Areas of questioning

- How to achieve **safe discharge** to Care Homes what lessons have been learnt from April.
- Access to latest **guidance, training, PPE and testing** for staff
- Human rights implications of restrictive **visiting guidance**
- Is the '**additional funding**' new and how has it been channelled to the front-line providers?
- Kings Fund has pointed out that the means-tested system has also led to a situation where the care home market relies on significant **cross subsidy** between care home residents paying for themselves and those who are funded by their local authority. On average, a self-funder's care home place costs around 40 per cent more than one paid for by the local authority
- We hear nationally about the **risk of market collapse** by providers withdrawing from offering services to council-funded clients and focusing exclusively on the self-pay market – how is this in east London?

Some background reading

[The International Long Term Care Policy Network \(Dr Comas-Herrera a member\) pulls together the international research](#)

[Mortality associated with COVID-19 outbreaks in care homes: early international evidence by International Long Term Care Policy Network, May 2020](#)
[Comas-Herrera A and Fernandez-Plotka JL \(2020\) Summary of international policy measures to limit](#)

House of Commons

[Coronavirus: Adult social care key issues and sources - House of Commons Library](#)

[HoC Health and Care Select Cttee report on future of care funding 21 Oct 20](#)

Amnesty

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/uk-older-people-in-care-homes-abandoned-to-die-amid-government-failures-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

King's Fund

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/covid-19-magnified-social-care-problems>

Health Foundation

<https://www.health.org.uk/what-we-do/responding-to-covid-19>
<https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/adult-social-care-and-covid-19-assessing-the-impact-on-social-care-users-and-staff-in-england-so-far>

ACTION

Members are requested to consider the reports and discussions and make any recommendations as necessary.