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## **London Borough of Enfield**

**[Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel**

**Meeting Date: 03/11/2020**

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**Subject: Enfield Care Home update**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Cazimoglu**

**Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou**

**Key Decision: N/A**

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To advise Scrutiny of the current position with regards to Care Homes in Enfield and the impact on them, both previous and current, of the pandemic.

### **Proposal(s)**

2. That Scrutiny note the measures put in place to manage the impact of the pandemic, improvements that have resulted and the risks due to the second wave of the pandemic.

### **Reason for Proposal(s)**

3. Enfield's Care homes, their staff and residents, as with all other local authority areas, suffered significantly as a result of the first wave of the pandemic. This report demonstrates the progress that has been made since March/April 2020 and highlights the risks inherent in the second wave of the pandemic and mitigating actions taken to address them.

### **Relevance to the Council Plan**

4. As part of the Council's commitment to sustain strong and healthy communities, the Health and Social Care system needs to work in partnership and do all that it can to safeguard staff and residents working and living in Enfield's care homes from the risks of the second wave of the pandemic.

### **Background**

5. The impact of Covid 19 on our care homes, staff and residents has been significant;
6. 77 care homes providing over 1750 beds
  - a. In March 20 our care homes were reporting 62 empty beds

- b. In October our care homes report 270 empty beds but, we have not yet lost a provider due to the pandemic;

7. **Current situation in our care homes as at the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020:**

- a. 9 of our care homes have a reported outbreak
- b. 10 staff with confirmed C19
- c. 2 residents with suspected or confirmed C19
- d. No reported deaths in September and none in October so far
- e. March & April saw 139 deaths reducing to 16 in May, 5 in June, 3 in July, 1 in August.

8. **Testing** – Government guidance states that in care homes all staff should be tested on a weekly basis and residents every 4 weeks. Significant improvement in mass testing for care homes over the last two months with Council flagging areas of concern through weekly contact calls. As at 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 91% of care homes had had their residents mass tested and 87% of care homes had had their staff mass tested. The council continues to raise concerns on behalf of care homes with the Department for Health and Social Care.

9. The Charts below demonstrate the early and devastating impact that Covid19 had on vulnerable people living in care homes in the borough:

Chart 1)

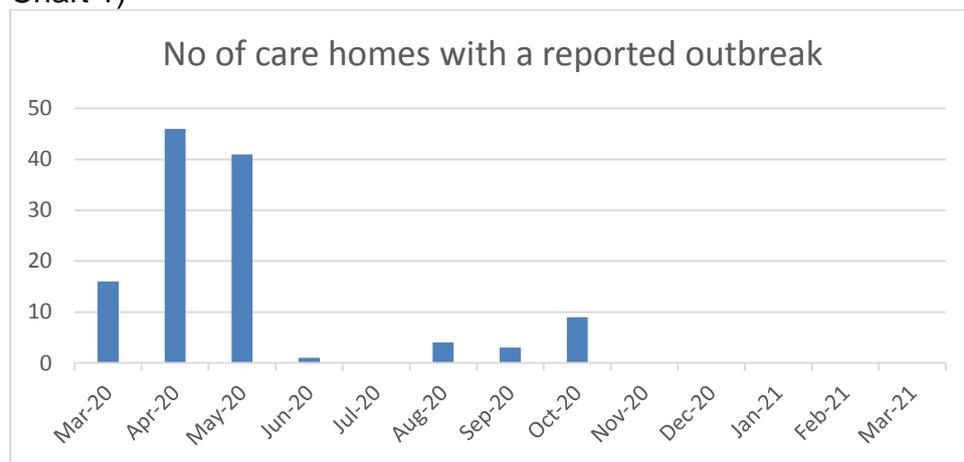


Chart 2)

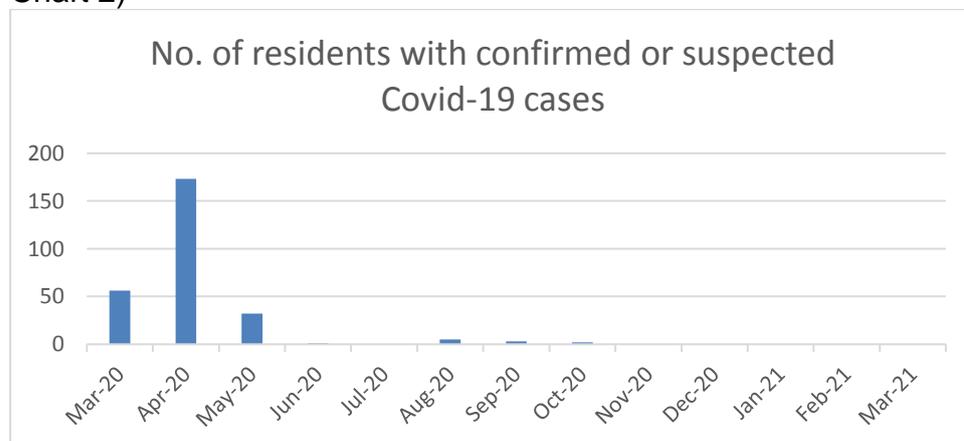
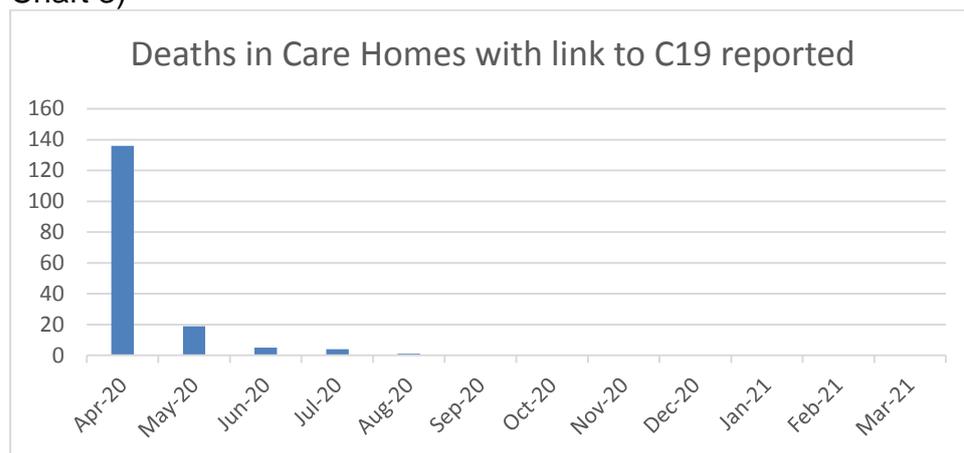


Chart 3)



The COVID response within Enfield has been significant for care homes and independent sector providers. Enfield is one of the largest provider markets in London and this market is of strategic importance to the Council. The care home market is a regional one and all NCL boroughs (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington) place residents in Enfield care homes.

Providers have faced and continue to face huge financial issues as a result of the pandemic, high levels of staff sickness, increased use of agency staff for some providers, increased costs of PPE both due to increased demand and prices increases. A comprehensive package of support for providers has been agreed by the Council in line with national guidance to prevent provider failure and support the care market.

Enfield has agreed to the principle of taking a sub-regional approach to meeting short-term, additional costs associated with COVID-19 for its care home providers. This takes the form of a time limited grant payment to each of our individual residential/nursing care home providers equivalent to 5% of the cost of current placements paid by Enfield Council for April and May 2020.

Further support offered to our social care providers in the borough, which includes:

- Daily contact with providers, to understand the impact of the pandemic on staffing levels, service delivery and information uploads to the ADASS MIT and the NHS Tracker. We have also used this process to disseminate all of the latest guidance to our providers, including offers of training and assistive technology;
- The Council has been purchasing the PPE due to the challenges being faced by providers. The Council has sent over **4 million items** of PPE to our providers at no cost to them to support them as of October 2020 with many deliveries made on the same day, six days a week;
- Maintaining information and advice and disseminating this to all of our providers via email, on our Mylife portal and through webinars for training and practical advice on all PPE and infection control matters relating to Covid 19;

- Provision of daily contact support, guidance and advice to care providers through existing and extended council quality assurance and commissioning functions;
- Supporting providers to access NHS mail to support better information flows;
- Supporting over 80 of our local providers to access tablets as a pilot to increase social contact with family and friends during the lockdown period;
- Providing a £1000 payment in March 2020 to all of our local providers to support them with the additional costs they may incur due to the pandemic including PPE;
- Continue to pay our community providers, including day services, on 100% of their commissioned care packages;
- Extending the Council's Employee Assistance Programme free of charge to all of our care providers in the borough to support their staff with counselling and financial advice;
- In Enfield, we have supported all care homes to access the national offer of testing for all residents (whether or not they have symptoms) and asymptomatic staff. This capacity has been supplemented by the NCL NHS providers offering on-site support with testing to build sector capacity to self-manage swabbing, and to support any future repeat mass testing. Collaborative approaches across the council and health services, for example, the provision of access to free transport to convey nurses, testing kits to and from care homes where testing is taking place.

Within Enfield we have been working closely with our NCL Colleagues on additional initiatives such as:

- Working with worked with public health and CCG quality colleagues to develop information packs on key topics for care providers, which we update regularly shared with all providers;
- Weekly IPC webinars, providing guidance on IPC / appropriate use of PPE ,the weekly webinars have 40-80 providers most weeks;
- Mass testing in care homes and the provision of suitable mobile testing sites;
- invested in and supported equipment, technology and digital to support care homes (vital signs monitoring equipment, roll out of NHS Mail, including plans for far wider roll out of equipment to include providers of support which are smaller and working with people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental ill health);
- London wide recruitment campaign #proudtocarelondon, which has attracted hundreds of north London residents to apply for roles in care;
- Support care homes with infection prevent & control (IPC) including training, development of and access to super-trainers, webinars and a telephone response service to provide advice.

Enfield's allocation from the £600m funding pot is £2,478,334 with 75% of this funding to be paid to care homes registered in the borough. The remaining 25% of this government funding will be used to fund pressures caused by the COVID 19 pandemic in community services such as supported living and domiciliary care.

- Development of podcasts to support providers to follow good practices and promote wellbeing for staff and residents when restrictions are in place
- More provision of Tablets to all providers to support access of staff to digital training and information/advice as well as supporting increased contact between service users and their families;
- More Vital Signs Equipment packs to all providers across all service areas including learning disabilities, mental ill health and smaller more specialised providers;
- Supporting providers who have staff isolating in order that they receive normal wages.
- Specialised equipment to help reduce the risk of infection to residents requiring multiple visits in a day.
- Round 2 of government Infection Control Funding has now been released and will be distributed in line with government guidance to our local providers. This is around £2.1m.

### **Winter Planning:**

- 85 escalation beds (NHS ward beds) available across NCL for Covid 19 positive cases – no positive cases to be admitted to care homes!
- Planning for additional capacity with NHS which is likely to mean mobilisation of unused wards (Capetown ward in Enfield)
- PPE stocks maintained at 15 weeks (at least) supply with free PPE available for regulated providers through the gov. portal and all other organisations/services through the Council
- Flu inoculation programme being led by the Council – stocks are now available with wider free access to the jab (all key worker staff, over 50s, children up to end of primary school age)
- With a resurgence in C19 cases and Winter coming our key message to care homes continues to be:
  - Additional PPE needs will continue to be met
  - No staff working across different locations where possible
  - Continue to follow government guidance on infection control
  - No admissions of C19 positive cases
  - Inoculate your residents and staff against flu
  - Lockdown your establishment in the event of an outbreak

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

10. That arrangements agreed across North Central London to protect our care homes, their staff and vulnerable residents, continue with no admissions of any new or existing residents where a Covid positive test result has been returned or where contact has taken place with someone who has tested positive for the virus. Designated ward based bedded care is available for residents as described above both in borough and across the sub-region.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

11. The people most at risk from the pandemic live and work within our care homes. Everything that can be done must be done to protect them from the further impacts of this pandemic. This includes ensuring they continue to

receive the practical support they need and monitoring the impact of systematic and mass testing availability for both residents and staff.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken**

12. The number of people infected (both staff and residents) within our care homes directly contributed to the significant number of deaths in our care homes. Should the virus re-enter our care homes and take hold, the risk is that we will see further significant virus-related deaths.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks**

13. If the number of people admitted to hospital as a result of the pandemic increases beyond their capacity to cope and the designated pandemic step down beds are all full across the sub-region, the matter will be escalated to Council/NHS Trust Chief Executive Officers to review the position.

### **Financial Implications**

14. N/A here.

### **Legal Implications**

15. N/A here

### **Workforce Implications**

16. Protecting our care homes and the staff who work in them must continue be a priority for this Council and for the Health and Social Care system more widely. The lives and livelihoods of staff who work in those care homes will be placed at considerable risk should the system de-prioritise the support our providers need.

### **Other Implications – Procurement Implications**

17. N/A here.

### **Options Considered**

18. As above, where the hospitals and step down wards are moving towards capacity, consideration will need to be given to the identification of any capacity within care homes where isolation of covid positive cohorts is possible.

### **Conclusions**

15. The contents of the report are noted, and Scrutiny is updated as to the current and planned response to the Pandemic with regards to Enfield's Care Homes.

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**Appendices – None**

**Background Papers**

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

**None**