

NHS Highland



Meeting:	Highland Health & Social Care Committee
Meeting date:	7 October 2020
Title:	Care Home Oversight Board
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:	David Park, Chief Officer
Report Author:	Simon Steer, Head of Adult Social Care

1. Purpose

To provide assurance on and updates on new arrangements for the oversight and support of Care Homes.

In May the Cabinet Secretary wrote to Health Boards and Councils outlining new arrangements for the oversight and support of Care Homes.

NHS Highland agreed with the Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council to establish an oversight group with the purpose of ensuring that all of the actions arising from the letters **(attached)** from the Cabinet Secretary direction for a multi-professional approach to care homes were implemented and any issues that cannot be resolved are escalated to Executive Director level.

In NHS Highland, this group is chaired by the HSCP Chief Officers and is a sub-group of the Executive Directors Group.

Prior to the establishment of this structure, the work to support care homes had been successfully actioned and monitored through the Board's COVID19 Gold Silver Bronze structure where all members were present. However that decision making structure has now been integrated into the Boards standard decision making structure, and as a result it was felt that this group should be formally convened to oversee the work, not least because it is clear that this is now likely to be a longer term requirement.

The Group meets on a fortnightly basis at present. Initially, a joint A&B/Highland meeting underpinned this, however this approach proved unsatisfactory in terms of addressing local characteristics, therefore in Highland the work is has been supported by regular safety huddles and a Care Homes Programme Group (encompassing all improvement and support work). This arrangement is being extended to support the Care@Home agenda.

The principle agenda for the Oversight Group is outlined in the Cabinet Secretary communications and includes:

- A report from the daily Bronze huddles including any escalations
- A report from the Director of Public Health as submitted weekly to Scottish Government
- Review of testing adherence and results to the latest SG policy
- Review of Nursing support to Care Homes
- Review and implementation of latest SG policy in relation to Care Homes
- Review of Care Inspectorate gradings and reports for Care Homes

2. Route to the Meeting

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

- Executive Directors Group – Reviews output from this meeting every two weeks

Confirmation received from EDG on TBC

3. Recommendation

- The Committee are asked to note that the above agenda of testing, support visits, oversight and engagement represents a significant new area of work throughout the Covid period and provides assurance that appropriate and compliant oversight is in place to ensure support of Care Homes
- The Committee are asked to note that the requirements of the attached letter have been actioned as required.



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All organisations including care providers (statutory, third sector and independent sector) are responsible for effective and safe care in their services and are expected to work closely together and at pace to give effect to these arrangements.

There are specific responsibilities that Health professionals will need to deliver within these whole system arrangements. This is because Covid-19 is a public health crisis in our social care settings, and therefore clinical colleagues have a critical role to play in assuring the safety of people who live in care homes. These responsibilities are:

- Nurse and Medical Directors taking direct responsibility for the clinical support required for each care home in their NHS Board area in collaboration with Directors of Public Health
- Nurse and Medical Directors, in conjunction with HAI leads, providing practical expert advice and guidance on infection prevention and control

Escalation

Where the Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight team believes there is a significant issue that requires onward escalation – i.e., which cannot easily be resolved through routine local reporting and support mechanisms – that should be escalated by the Director of Public Health to the Chief Executives of the Health Board and local Authority. Such issues should also be escalated to the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Government, and ultimately if required, to use emergency powers held by Ministers.



- Head of Nursing for HSCP will provide leadership and link with the care home and determine support an expert advice required from other teams including care home liaison, PDU and palliative care, psychological therapy

