

National COVID-19 Adult Social Care Winter Plan

[Briefing on national publication](#)

Published 18th September 2020



2/12 Local winter plan



- LA's to put local **winter plan in place by 31st October 2020** & confirm that it is in place to DHSC; along with confirmation that we are working with care providers on their business continuity plans – as a condition of receiving additional Infection Control Funds.
- This should:
 - Build on existing **Care Home Support Plans**, Local Outbreak Plan and extreme weather plans.
 - Incorporate recommendations in the **national winter plan**
 - Incorporate action being taken to tackle **inequalities**
- **Involve** NHS, VCS & those with lived experience in the development of the plan where possible.



3/12 Funding



- Over £500 million of additional funding to **extend the Infection Control Fund to March 2021**
- Amount is in addition to the £3.7 billion in emergency funding for local authorities, and the £588 million for discharge as part of the £3 billion NHS winter funding to cover the costs of ongoing care for the remainder of the financial year
- This funding is:
 - For providers to put in place measures to **stop staff movement** – so staff movement between settings is limited to only what is absolutely necessary
 - To **pay staff who are self-isolating** their normal wages while doing so
 - To provide further support to homecare and other community settings
- LA's to:
 - **Support and monitor** use by care providers
 - **Submit regular returns** on how the funding has been used, with first by 30th September 2020 in line with the grant conditions
 - **Continue to maintain published** information on their websites about the financial support to local adult social care market



4/12 Hospital discharge & joint working



- **NHS funding** until 31st March 2020 for:
 - Cost of **post-discharge recovery** and support services, such as rehabilitation and reablement, for up to a maximum of 6 weeks, in all settings
 - **Urgent community response** services for people who would otherwise be admitted into hospital. Typically urgent support within 2 hours for 48 hours
- Guidance states that a care and health **assessment** for any ongoing care needs, including determining funding eligibility, should take place during the **first 6 weeks** in a community setting.
- LBTH & CCG to work together to:
 - **Jointly commission** care packages for those discharged. LA as lead commissioner unless otherwise agreed.
 - Establish an **Executive Lead** for the leadership and delivery of the discharge to assess model;
 - Secure sufficient staff to **rapidly complete deferred assessments**, drawing on discharge funding but without negatively impacting on care home support

Linked guidance and announcements: [CHC assessments](#) resuming from September 2020. The [discharge guidance](#) sets out detailed actions for relevant agencies. Includes extending the use of the Trusted Assessor Model and digital assessments.



5/12 Hospital discharge & care homes



- Govt is 'working up a designation scheme' with CQC for premises that are safe for people leaving hospital who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are awaiting a test result.
- Hospital teams:
 - to **ensure COVID-19 testing** of all discharged from hospital to a care home.
 - Where possible hospitals should **plan 48 hours in advance** of discharge to ensure test results are available and care homes have a chance to plan for a timely discharge.
 - Test results should always be **communicated to the care home** before the individual leaves the hospital (unless otherwise agreed with the care home)
 - No one should be discharged from hospital directly to a care home without the involvement of the local authority
- Care homes have a **right to refuse admission** to residents and should not accept admissions if they cannot safely cohort or isolate them.
- Local authorities:
 - Should work with CCG to ensure they have **safe accommodation** for people discharged from hospital with a positive or inconclusive test.
 - Required to **provide appropriate accommodation** for people discharged from hospital, if their care home cannot provide appropriate isolation or cohorting facilities, as set out in the [Adult Social Care Action Plan](#).
 - **Discharge funding to NHS** to cover the costs of providing alternative accommodation
 - Consider adopting the cohorting and zoning [recommendations published by ADASS](#)



6/12 Care homes



Infection control & learning:

- Care providers to identify a **lead for infection prevention and control**
- From 1 October, **Primary Care Networks** will become responsible for delivering the Enhanced Health in Care Homes (EHCH) framework. This includes a named clinical lead from the PCN for every care home, and weekly multidisciplinary team support
- Care providers to undertake a **learning review** after an outbreak, with support from LBTH

Visits

- Directors of Public Health should give regular assessments of whether visiting care homes is likely to be appropriate within local authority or within local wards; & **immediately move to stop visiting if an area becomes an 'area of intervention'**, except in exceptional circumstances, e.g. end of life.
- Care home providers should develop a **policy** for limited visits (if appropriate) in line with local guidance & a risk assessment.
- Visitors limited to a single constant visitor wherever possible, with an absolute maximum of two constant visitors per resident. Supervised at all times.
- Visits should take place outside or in a well-ventilated room wherever possible.

Technology & digital

- Govt to distribute **tablet** devices to care homes in greatest need
- CCGs & LA's to support eligible care homes to apply
- All care providers are asked to **register** with DSPT by 30 September 2020, to engage with NHSX DSPT support offer and



7/12 PPE



- Govt to provide free PPE to care homes and homecare, via the PPE portal, until end of March 2021 to supplement BAU supplies.
- Govt to provide free PPE to **LRFs** who wish to continue distribution, and to **LA's** in other areas, to distribute to **social care providers ineligible** for the supply via the PPE portal, until March 2021. This includes to personal assistants.
- Govt to provide free PPE to LRFs to have an **emergency stockpile** in case of local spikes.
- All eligible care providers can register for and use the new PPE portal. Shortages to be reported through the Capacity Tracker, LRFs where applicable, or any other relevant escalation or data collection route.
- Govt publishing a **PPE strategy** shortly which will set out winter and longer-term plans in greater detail



8/12 Workforce, communication, market oversight



Workforce

- Govt to appoint a **chief nurse** for social care to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- Range of national support available in relation to staff training and wellbeing.
- Govt to set up a short-term workforce planning group to help address further workforce capacity issues which could occur over winter, e.g. staff banks
- Care providers to **review business continuity plans** for the autumn and winter. Workforce resilience should be a key component.

Market oversight

- Govt, ADASS & LGA to carry out a Service Continuity and Care Market Review in autumn.
- Local authorities will be asked to complete a **self-assessment** of the health of local market management and contingency planning leading into winter.

Communication

- LA's should establish a **weekly joint communication** from local Directors of Adult Social Services and Directors of Public Health to go to all local providers of adult social care, as a matter of course, through the winter.



9/12 Flu

- Govt to make flu vaccine free & promote to:
 - Health and social care **staff** in direct contact with people who receive care or support and who are employed by a residential care or nursing home, registered homecare organisation, or hospice
 - All **PA's** who provide care and support via a direct payment, personal budget or personal health budget
 - People with certain **medical conditions**, those with learning disabilities, those **aged 65** years or over, and people who are pregnant
 - People who are living in a long-stay residential **care home** or another long-stay care facility
 - People on the '**shielded**' list, their household and carers
 - **Carers**, defined as people who receive a Carer's Allowance or are the main carer for an older or disabled person
- LA's & health organisations should promote take-up; providers to report take-up



10/12 Direct payments, day services, respite, shielding



Direct payments

- Continued focus on **flexibility**
- Updated direct payment **guidance** to be published shortly.

Day services & respite*

- LA's to work with services that may have closed to consider how they can **reopen safely** or be reconfigured to work in a COVID-19 secure way
- LA's to consider using **Infection Control Fund** to put in place infection prevention and control measures to support resumption of services
- Where SU can no longer access the day care or respite services that they did pre-Covid, work with them to **identify alternative arrangements** that meet their identified needs.

Shielding

If shielding advice is reintroduced in a local area:

- Govt. will write to shielding cohort in that area with further advice
- **LA will coordinate support in that area.** Includes provision of enhanced care and support for clinically extremely vulnerable people on the shielded persons list.

**To note, DHSC has confirmed that support groups 'with, or caring for person with, any long-term illness, disability or terminal condition or who are vulnerable' are exempt from the legal gatherings limit of six people. This includes day centres and other organised support activities.*



11/12 Inequality, quality assurance, safeguarding



Inequality

- DASS & PSW to develop actions with partners to address health inequalities, taking into account inequality associated with Covid and BAME communities, people with an LD, autism or MH issue
- Local Winter Plan to incorporate actions to address inequalities

Quality assurance

- DASS & PSW to review current quality assurance frameworks & governance oversight arrangements to ensure that pressures do not reduce ability to deliver high-quality social work practice.

Safeguarding

- DASS & PSW to review any systemic safeguarding concerns that have arisen during the pandemic period & ensure actions in place to respond to them.



12/12 Data, Care Act Easements, CQC



Data

- Care providers to continue to update the **Capacity Tracker** daily or more frequently if something changes
- Govt. to publish new Adult Social Care **Dashboard**

Care Act Easements

- Ability to put them in place remains over winter

Care Quality Commission

- Transitional Regulatory Approach from October
- CQC developing a new approach to **monitoring**, capturing a broader range of topics
- Increasing the number of physical **inspections**, focussing on high-risk providers with safeguarding concerns, the provider has an overall rating of inadequate & other factors.

