BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADULTS & COMMUNITIES

COVID-19 BARNSLEY CARE HOME PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To share with Cabinet Members Barnsley's recent submission of the template 'local authority's care home planning' and supporting letter outlining Barnsley's system wide offer to care homes as part of the covid response.

1.2 To inform Cabinet Members of the current support offered to care homes in response to the Covid 19 crisis.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Cabinet Members note the contents of this report and attached submission.

That Cabinet notes that all Care Home plan submissions are being reviewed through the regional Better Care Fund team and that formal feedback will be provided. Where required the plan will be amended subject to this feedback.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 Barnsley care homes support over 1800 residents across 72 homes. A large number of homes are occupied by elderly residents who are classed as vulnerable to covid 19, as such the need to wrap those homes with support is essential in response to the covid outbreak.

3.2 Care homes provide invaluable to support to some of Barnsley's most vulnerable residents. Very early into the Covid 19 outbreak we recognised the significance of getting alongside both our care home market and our home care market to ensure their preparedness for Covid, to share understanding of the potential risks and what we could do together to reduce them, ensuring that across adult social care, community health, the hospital and public health we were doing all that we could to keep residents and staff as safe as possible.

3.3 Care homes also play an invaluable role in the discharge 2 assess model ensuring fast discharges from hospital beds to ensure there is capacity to support those needing acute care as a result of covid 19.

3.4 As a response to the challenges within the care sector the government launched the Adult Social Care plan which described the four pillars :
1) Controlling the spread of infection.
2) Supporting the workforce.
3) Supporting independence, supporting people at the end of their lives, and responding to individual needs.
4) Supporting local authorities and the providers of care.

3.5 Following increasing media coverage of care homes during Covid 19 the government issued further guidance and communications to councils with a requirement that each council working alongside health partners develops a care home plan to evidence how care homes are being supported and that the planning return is submitted by 29 May. The return consisted of a letter that sets out a short overview of our current activity and forward plan alongside a short template that confirms the current level of access to the support offer.

The return includes homes that the local authority does not directly commission from, as well as details of issues and support needs.

Engagement with the residential care sector was undertaken to enable the plan to be collated and 100% of the homes in Barnsley participated in the completion of the plan.

3.6 Data from the return will be incorporated into Barnsley's broader care home assurance and delivery plan. The governance of this plan will be overseen by the Bronze health and social care cell and reported to both cabinet members and the CCG's governing body as required.

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

4.1 That Cabinet note the content of the report and specifically the actions within Barnsley's Care Home Plan.

4.2 That Cabinet notes that all Care Home plan submissions are being reviewed through the regional Better Care Fund team and that formal feedback will be provided. Where required the plan will be amended subject to this feedback.

5. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

5.1 Barnsley's approach to supporting its care homes ensures that care homes are given the support, advice, guidance and tools they need to safely support residents through this outbreak and to ensure staff working in care homes are supported to continue their caring role.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council was allocated CV-19 funding to support key frontline services including adult social care as well as an additional infection control funding of £3m to specifically support care providers to reduce the rate of transmission in and between care homes and to support workforce resilience.

6.2 The total payments made to date (and committed) as direct support to care providers in Barnsley against the impact of the CV-19 pandemic is **£7.0M**, analysed as follows:

Whom	**Purpose of funding**	£
Care home providers	**Infection control**: to reduce the rate of transmission in and between care homes	2.3M
Domiciliary care & Supported Living providers	**Infection control**: to support wider workforce resilience in relation to Covid-19 infection control measures	0.7M
All care providers (including care homes)	Support to care sector to ensure financial resilience and to cover additional cost pressures arising from: use of temporary staff; increased statutory sick pay; cost of procuring personal protective equipment (PPE)	3.1M
Care homes providers	On-going payment for voids as a result of the deaths in care homes during the pandemic period	0.7M
Domiciliary care & Supported Living providers	Providers are being paid 'on plan' i.e. based on the planned care hours (rather than actual hours of care provided)	0.2M

Infection control funding

6.3 The Infection Control Funding is ring-fenced for adult social care. The grant conditions require 75% of the funding (£2.250m) to be paid directly to care home providers (on a per beds basis) and must be used to fund a range of infection control staffing costs, including paying the wages of staff self-isolating; recruitment of additional staff; limiting staff to segregated CV-19 residents; limit the use of public transport by staff and providing accommodation for staff to limit social interaction outside work.

6.4 Consideration is currently being given to allocating the balance of the infection control funding £0.752m to other care providers (domiciliary care, supported living, etc.) to support wider workforce resilience in relation to Covid-19 infection control measures.

6.5 The funding is conditional on care home providers completing the NHS Capacity Tracker on a consistent basis. Funding is allowed to be clawed back from providers if it is unused or has not been applied for infection control purposes. The Council is required under the grant conditions to submit a certified statement on the use of the funding on the intended measures by 30 September 2020.

7. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

7.1 All care providers are being sent a regular information bulletin with updates on guidance, links to useful information and information relating to Barnsleys' covid response plan.

7.2 Each Local Authority is required to publish their Care Home Plan alongside transparent data regarding rate uplifts and other extra funding available to care providers e.g. cash flow support etc and that these are this information is published by 29 May 2020.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The care home plan is reflective of a system wide approach to supporting care homes. The plan was produced with representatives from the following organisations: BMBC/SWYPFT/Barnsley CCG/Barnsley Healthcare Federation/BHNFT.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Barnsley Care Home Support Template
Covering Letter

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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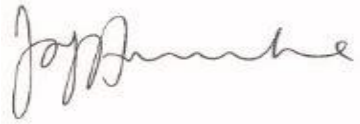
Financial Implications/Consultation



Joshua Amahwe (10/06/2020)……..

(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer to confirm the financial implications in the report)