

**27 August 2020**

## **Midlothian HSCP Older Peoples' Care Home briefing paper**

**Item number: 5.9**

### **Executive summary**

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This report will provide an overview of the ongoing work with Care Homes in Midlothian, and the enhanced response now required following the release of Scottish Government Guidance.

This work will continue to advance best practice, embed local clinical governance arrangements, and provide ongoing assurance regarding the care of people in Midlothian Care Homes.

### **Recommendations**

Board members are asked to:

- Note this update on current COVID-19 work within Older Adult Care Homes in Midlothian.
  - Note the significant work undertaken by the HSCP team in line with Scottish Government and Health protection Scotland guidance at all times.
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## Midlothian HSCP Older Peoples' Care Home briefing paper

### 1 Purpose

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- 1.1 To update the Board on the current situation for Care Homes within Midlothian.

### 2 Recommendations

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- 2.1 As a result of this report what are Members being asked to:

**Board members are asked to:**

- **Note this update on current COVID-19 work within Older Peoples' Care Homes in Midlothian.**
- **Note the significant work undertaken by the HSCP team in line with Scottish Government and Health protection Scotland guidance at all times.**

### 3 Background and main report

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#### 3.1 Governance and Assurance

Midlothian HSCP continues to work in partnership with all local Care Homes. Daily telephone calls and situation reports continue to be received from each Care Home which provide data in relation to residents and staff suspected or confirmed as having Covid-19, deaths related to Covid-19, PPE stock levels, testing data and areas where HSCP support/input could be of benefit. This information is collated and discussed at a HSCP daily huddle within the HSCP under the leadership of the Chief Nurse, with any issues being escalated to the daily NHS Lothian Strategic Operations Group. There is a weekly Midlothian HSCP Care Home Assurance Group chaired by the Chief Nurse supported by the Clinical Director, Chief Officer, the Head of Primary Care and Older People's Services, Chief Social Work Officer, and Director of Health and Social care

From Monday 24 August 2020 an online system will be used to directly gather these reports from Care Home providers. This information will allow direct transfer of information to Scottish Government and the Health Board.

A weekly joint Care Homes Forum is held involving Care Home managers from across Midlothian. This Forum provides an opportunity for shared learning, review

and discussion relating to guidance updates and local problem identification/resolution.

The Scottish Government and Health Protection Scotland produce regular guidance around COVID-19 including specific guidance and instructions related to Care Homes.

If a staff member is identified as Covid positive a review is undertaken by NHS Lothian Health Protection Team via the agreed standard operating procedure.

On 4 August 2020 the Scottish Government issued *Coronavirus (COVID-19): Clinical and Practical Guidance* for adult Care Homes which outlined necessary action following a single positive case identified within a Care Home with the aim of minimising spread of infection throughout the care setting.

- 3.2 Midlothian HSCP has responsibility on behalf of NHS Lothian Executive Director of Nursing to have clinical oversight across all Care Homes, providing support and education.

The Scottish Government guidance provides the necessary legislation that in the situation where a Care Home can no longer provide safe clinical care to its residents, NHS Lothian and Midlothian Council will be required to take steps to agree a plan to take over the management to ensure safe and effective delivery of care.

### 3.3 Impact on Covid-19 in Care homes

Midlothian HSCP has contributed to the local NHS Lothian work: *Evolution and impact of COVID - 19 outbreaks in Care Homes: population analysis in 189 care homes in one geographic region*:

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.09.20149583v1>

This report is now being discussed nationally to support the ongoing learning around care home provision during Covid19.

Learning around Covid-19, and its impact on Care Home residents, families and staff continues, and indicates the need to learn from local, national and international practice including those countries who managed to limit infection spread and fatalities in their Care Home populations. To this end, the Lord Advocate of Scotland is undertaking an independent investigation into Care Home deaths across Scotland. Midlothian will contribute to this and will provide information required to support the investigation.

### 3.4 Best practice Toolkit

Midlothian HSCP has led the development of a best practice toolkit, working in partnership with the Care Inspectorate, to support care homes through the different phases of Covid. The toolkit includes key factors that Care Homes have identified as potentially aiding the prevention and containment of Covid 19. It also draws on

Care Inspectorate standards and emerging guidance and advice from research into the spread and management of Covid 19. The toolkit provides a framework for services to reflect on what worked well and to prepare for any future outbreak. The toolkit will evolve in line with emerging evidence and learning. For it to remain relevant and useful it is crucial that care homes are involved in its development. This will be applied across Midlothian, and will be presented to NHS Lothian Assurance group for consideration of use across Lothian.

### **3.5 Care Home Support Team**

The Care Home Support Team is working in partnership with the District Nursing service and GPs to further enhance the support to all Midlothian Care Homes. The team continue to have daily contact with Midlothian Care Homes, and provide support with any areas of need/concern raised. They support teams to identify training needs and link with NHS Lothian Care Homes Education Team to arrange training updates and bespoke training as required to address any needs/requirements.

### **3.6 Workforce Capacity**

Work continues around the recruitment and redeployment of staff to care and support roles including the recruitment of locum staff. Staff training will continue to be prioritised, as will work on the Clinical Support Worker model.

### **3.7 Test and Protect**

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 the Scottish Government issued *Coronavirus (Covid-19): Guidance for the management of Covid-19 PCR testing in care homes and the management of covid-19 PCR test positive residents and staff*. This guidance included requirements for pre-admission testing of potential residents as well as the testing protocol for symptomatic staff/residents and outbreak response guidance. It also included the process for asymptomatic staff testing which was extended to all Care Home staff on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020. This overarching testing scenario constituted a prospective screening programme. Midlothian HSCP works in partnership with NHS Lothian to monitor the uptake of testing across Midlothian Care Homes, providing weekly updates to the Lothian Care Home Strategic Oversight Group. Care Home testing for asymptomatic staff is managed via the Scottish Government testing portal.

### **3.8 Standards of Care/Health Protection Guidance**

Each care home has a duty to follow Scottish Government and Health Protection Scotland guidance. Midlothian HSCP continues to reinforce this by ensuring the distribution of guidance and updates to all Care Homes and discussion of guidance implementation during the support calls. Support around PPE guidance and infection control have been provided in partnership with the NHS Lothian Health Protection Team.

## **4 Policy Implications**

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- 4.1 Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership will continue to comply with national and local guidance and policy and will work with local care homes to ensure maximum compliance.

## **5 Directions**

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- 5.1 This supports the work of Direction 9 - Older People.

## **6 Equalities Implications**

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- 6.1 Evidence shows that Covid-19 disproportionately affects people who are older, and those with long term conditions. All people in Care Homes fall into these categories and are generally frail, and therefore more vulnerable if they contract Covid-19.
- 6.2 The NHS Lothian Public Health team is analysing data to better understand all impacts of Covid-19. An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken around COVID-19 work in care homes specifically. However, one will be carried out on the HSCP Care Home Strategy.

## **7 Resource Implications**

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- 7.1 There are significant resource implications for Midlothian HSCP in the event that a care home experiences considerable difficulties and the NHS/Council are required to agree responsibility for the operational running of the care home. There are also implications for the HSCP and IJB relating to additional Covid costs for Care Homes (sustainability payments), and this is registered on the HSCP mobilisation plan and monitored by the Chief Finance Officer.

## **8 Risk**

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- 8.1 Midlothian HSCP has responsibility on behalf of NHS Lothian Executive Director of Nursing to have clinical oversight across all Care Homes, providing support and education as required.
- 8.2 The Scottish Government guidance provides the necessary legislation that in the situation where a Care Home can no longer provide safe clinical care to its residents, NHS Lothian and Midlothian Council will be required to take steps to agree a plan to take over the management of Care Homes to ensure safe and effective delivery of care.
- 8.3 There are risks related to safe care and treatment, resource (primarily but not exclusively staffing) and reputation. These are noted on the HSCP Risk Register.

## 9 Involving people

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- 9.1 Midlothian HSCP provides clinical oversight of Care Homes within Midlothian working in partnership with NHS Lothian, Public Health and our Care Home providers. The Care Home Forum includes membership from the HSCP, independent Care Homes, Public Health and Care Inspectorate.

## 10 Background Papers

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- 10.1 Coronavirus (COVID-19): clinical practice and guidance for adults in care homes (4 August 2020) Scottish Government  
[https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/2980/documents/1\\_covid-19-information-and-guidance-for-care-homes.pdf](https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/2980/documents/1_covid-19-information-and-guidance-for-care-homes.pdf)
- 10.2 Coronavirus (COVID-19): clinical guidance for nursing home and residential home residents (13 August 2020) Scottish Government  
[https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/3045/documents/1\\_covid-19-guidance-social-community-residential-care.pdf](https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/3045/documents/1_covid-19-guidance-social-community-residential-care.pdf)
- 10.3 Coronavirus (COVID-19): enhanced professional clinical and care oversight in care homes, on 17 May 2020. Scottish Government  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-care-home-oversight/>
- 10.4 Coronavirus (Covid-19): Guidance for the management of Covid-19 PCR testing in care homes and the management of covid-19 PCR test positive residents and staff  
<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/guidance-on-covid-19-pcr-testing-in-care-homes-and-the-management-of-covid-19-pcr-test-positive-residents-and-staff/>
- 10.5 Evolution and impact of COVID - 19 outbreaks in care homes: population analysis in 89 care homes in one geographic region  
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.09.20149583v1>

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Grace E Cowan
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Head of Primary Care and Older People's Services
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	<a href="mailto:grace.cowan@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk">grace.cowan@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk</a>
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