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**REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ON 24 FEBRUARY 2022**

**SUBJECT: CARE HOME SUPPORT AND OVERSIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

**BY: CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1. To provide the Committee with an update on care home support and oversight arrangements.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1. It is recommended that the Committee note the content of this report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 On 17 May 2020 the Scottish Government sent a letter to all Integration Joint Boards to require that each establish oversight arrangements for their local care homes. The initial wave of COVID-19 had resulted in, in some areas, widespread infection in care homes. The resulting illness amongst the very frail caused concern. Moray was fortunate that the initial incidence of COVID-19 was relatively low and care homes in Moray experienced comparatively little infection.

3.2 The letter of 17 May 2020 mandated:

Professional Roles

Every Health Board and its Health and Social Care Partnership colleagues in the Local Authority must put in place a multi-disciplinary team comprised of the following professional roles:

- The NHS Director of Public Health
- Executive Nurse lead
- Medical Director
- Chief Social Work Officer
- HSCP Chief Officer: providing operational leadership

Support and role

The Health Board and Local Authority will provide support to the Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight team to enable it, in conjunction with

the healthcare associated infection (HAI) lead, to hold daily discussions about the quality of care in each care home in their area, with particular focus on infection prevention and control, but also to provide appropriate expert clinical support to residents who have Coronavirus:

1. Care needs of individual residents
2. Infection prevention and control measures, including PPE and cleaning requirements
3. Staffing requirements including workforce training and deployment
4. Testing arrangements for outbreak management and ongoing surveillance

These senior leaders will be responsible and accountable for the provision of professional oversight, analysis of issues, development and implementation of solutions required to ensure care homes remain able to sustain services during this pandemic and can access expert advice on, and implementation of, infection prevention and control and secure responsive clinical support when needed. The Executive Nurse and Medical Directors may devolve these roles where appropriate but will retain accountability through clinical governance arrangements. Close relationships will be maintained between this group and the Care Inspectorate relationship manager.

- 3.3 In Moray the care home oversight group has met consistently since May 2020. The group's purpose was to establish and share knowledge and information in respect of care home functioning.
- 3.4 Oversight arrangements in Moray evolved to include support to care at home providers in 2021. The tripartite support of Nursing, Social Work and Public Health was expanded to include on a regular basis, the Care Inspectorate and later Allied Health Professional (AHP) Lead.
- 3.5 Assurance visits have been made by both Social Work and Nurse assurance staff who visit care homes on a regular basis to troubleshoot any difficulties, pick up on any infection control issues and to provide support to managers.
- 3.6 All care home residents were reviewed by social work during 2021, utilising a mixture of face to face visits and digital connection.
- 3.7 Information from both assurance visits and reviews shows that care home residents in Moray were, and continue to be, well supported by care home staff, but that isolation from relatives was of concern to both residents and their families.
- 3.8 Assurance continues to be provided in relation to the infection prevention and control measures within all care homes, and this is supported in the following ways:
  - Ensuring there is an adequate supply of PPE for staff to use and that it is used correctly.
  - Ensuring that correct testing is conducted for staff and residents in accordance with relevant guidance.
  - Reviewing TURAS information.
  - Ensuring that relevant social distancing measures are in place.
  - Advising on cohorting of staff and residents where necessary and if the home can accommodate these arrangements.

- Seek assurance from the care home team that all recommendations have been put into place.
- 3.9 There has been regular and consistent support to Care Homes from the Senior Commissioning Officer allocated to their contract. This has included telephone contact that has varied from weekly through to daily depending on the Care Home needs and the impact of the pandemic and also the staffing crisis.
- 3.10 Weekly Care Home Managers meetings continue to take place which encourages peer support between the managers as well as support from the Assurance Nurse, Consultant Social Work Practitioner and the Senior Commissioning Officer. At a recent review of this meeting it was requested by a majority of those present that the meetings continue on a weekly basis because of the support they provided.
- 3.11 A summary of the current position of Care Homes in Moray is:
- As of 16/02/22 there is only one Care Home on RED covid status, preventing any admissions. However this is due to be reviewed on 17/02/22 and it is anticipated it will return to GREEN status as there have been no further cases.
  - As of 15/02/22 there are 41 vacant beds across Moray, of which 20 can be admitted to. Of the remaining 21 vacant beds, 15 have offers made against them, 2 are in the RED status home and the final 4 are requiring deep clean, emptied or awaiting furnishings/fittings.

#### **4. KEY MATTERS RELEVANT TO RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1. Oversight arrangements have been in place in Moray since May 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved, and guidance has been amended, the oversight group has evolved to support care homes and care at home providers in line with the changed guidance.
- 4.2. It is important that Oversight groups continue to evolve and to work in close partnership with care homes, care at home providers and the Care Inspectorate. The pandemic has helped forge new and strengthened relationships between care homes and Health and Social Care staff. It is important that this continues so that residents and staff in care homes have the full support of Moray's Health and Social Care resources.

#### **5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)) and Moray Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan "Moray Partners in Care 2019 – 2029"**

This is in line with the above and supports the return to delivering against these plans by forming part of the ongoing recovery phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The processes and actions within this report are in line with Scottish Government and Health Protection Scotland guidance and requirements

**(c) Financial implications**

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

**(d) Risk Implications and Mitigation**

Currently any risk implications are mitigated via the support and direction of Health Protection Scotland, Scottish Government, and locally via the Multidisciplinary Care Homes Oversight Group.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications as a direct result of this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications as a direct result of this report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

There are no implications as a direct result of this report.

**(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

None directly arising from this report.

**(i) Consultations**

Consultations have been undertaken with the following staff who are in agreement with the content of this report where it relates to their area of responsibility: Sam Thomas, Chief Nurse; Marie Noble, Consultant Practitioner; Pauline Knox, Senior Commissioning Officer; Fiona Stevenson, Care Home Assurance Nurse; Maggie Taylor, Care Home Lead Nurse.

**6. CONCLUSION**

**6.1. Committee are asked to note the continuing oversight and support arrangements being provided to care homes and care at home providers in Moray.**

Author of Report: Jane Mackie, CSWO/Head of Service

Background Papers:

Ref: