



---

**REPORT TO: MORAY INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD CLINICAL AND CARE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ON 27 AUGUST 2020**

**SUBJECT: CARE HOMES UPDATE**

**BY: CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1. To provide the Committee with an update regarding the current status of the Care Homes in Moray whilst delivering services during the Covid-19 Pandemic

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1. **It is recommended that the Committee note the continued work that is being undertaken to support the Care Homes in Moray and the positive results of working in partnership with them.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 There are 13 registered Older People's Care Homes in Moray, 12 of which are private businesses and 1 is a charitable organisation. All but one of the homes provide a mix of nursing and residential care and the remaining 1 is residential care only.
- 3.2 Collectively these homes provide a total of 581 beds, although some of these beds are occupied by private residents and are not known to us. Currently we have 25 beds available, but some of these have restrictions on the level of needs that they are in a position to admit. The process through which allocations are made to the Care Homes is via a Resource Allocation Meeting that operates as part of our Enhanced Discharge Hub.
- 3.3 Care Homes in Moray continue to have restricted access to the premises in place, however they now support outdoor visiting for one key visitor to be able to visit once a week whilst maintaining social distancing and wearing a face

mask. The care homes have reported that this is generally going well and is a positive experience for the resident.

- 3.4 A letter was sent from the Cabinet Secretary on Saturday 08 August, to advise that outdoor visiting was to be expanded to up to 3 visitors, from no more than 2 households, once per week. This was to take effect from Monday 10 August, however most of the care homes require a little time to put this in order, ensure the space previously used is sufficient, make sure they have enough PPE for the increased number of visitors and co-ordinate the increased visiting appropriately to mitigate any increased risks.
- 3.5 The above letter also advises that the homes should now produce plans for the implementation of indoor visiting. These should be completed by 24 August and need to be approved by Public Health colleagues. As yet there is no set date for when this next stage of visiting is to begin.
- 3.6 Over the last several weeks there have been 2 follow up inspections from the Care Inspectorate. The inspections currently are unlike the usual format, and are much more covid related in line with the current situation. The first of these took place at Spynie Care Home, which showed significant improvements and resulted in an overall grade 4 being awarded. The second follow up inspection was at Cathay Care Home, and whilst some improvements were evident, there were still some elements that needed further work, and as such a grade 3 was awarded and a further follow up inspection will take place.
- 3.7 The following elements are in place in order to ensure the continued provision of support to the Care Homes, some are the same as in previous reports and there are some additions that have been introduced since then:
  - Weekly meetings with Care Inspectorate, Public Health and Health and Social Care Moray (HSCM) to agree the combined RAG (Red, Amber, Green Traffic Light system) for Care Homes.
  - Sharing of Public Health daily RAG SitRep.
  - Minimum of weekly calls to the Care Homes, often more frequently to as much as daily, depending on the needs or current/presenting issues.
  - Open line of communication for Care Homes to contact HSCM for access to advice, information, support, which is regularly utilised.
  - Straightforward ordering system for support/supply of PPE requirements from the local hub.
  - Overview of each home in terms of numbers of staff and current residents, which is also supporting a current piece of work to model practical options for staff redeployment, if needed, based on the skills mix breakdown within the homes.
  - Assurance visits from the Chief Nurse for Moray and a Social Work Consultant Practitioner.

- Daily Multi-disciplinary Care Homes Oversight Meetings, attended by HSCM Interim Chief Officer, Chief Social Work Officer, Public Health Consultant, Chief Nurse, Commissioning Manager, Clinical Lead GP and Senior Commissioning Officer
- Q&A sessions with each individual Care Home Group have taken place during which the support from HSCM, Public Health and the Care Inspectorate was commended saying that they felt very supported.
- A weekly meeting to which all Care Home owners and managers are invited, along with members of HSCM, Public Health and the Care Inspectorate. This allows any current issues, queries etc. to be raised and discussed and has proved a valuable source of support that is well received by the owners and managers. Going forward, this is anticipated to be a more sustainable model of virtual face to face support.
- At the request of the Care Home owners, a meeting is being established specifically for the owners to meet with members of the Partnership and Public Health. This is to support opportunities to discuss matters that do not specifically relate to the operational day to day service delivery that the managers are focussed on. These meetings will initially take place on a monthly basis and the frequency will be reviewed after 2 or 3 months.

3.8 The Daily Safety Huddle Template that was mentioned in the previous update in June is now about to be replaced by a web based daily reporting system being implemented by Scottish Government. Nationally, those Care Homes that have seen the system have reported favourably about it. The Partnership have been asked to provide the details of anyone who currently needs access to the system, including the main lead for involvement with it. This information has been provided. It is due to go live on 14 August.

3.9 The weekly testing of Care Home Staff, which was introduced on 12 August continues to be carried out by the Care Homes. There remain a number of logistical and practical difficulties in the achieving of this which have been fed back to Scottish Government regularly. There has been some updated communication to Care Homes recently that indicates that some system improvements are on their way that should alleviate some of the administrative burden of the weekly testing programme, although no specific date for the change has been given.

3.10 With the exception of some HSCM staff having to attend some short notice meetings, there is currently no impact in Moray from the increased positive covid cases identified in Aberdeen City. However this is being monitored closely by Public Health and if the spread of positive cases moves closer to the Moray border then measures may be applied to Moray also.

3.11 The main highlights in relation to Covid-19 are:

- We currently have no staff members confirmed with Covid-19.
- We currently have 1 resident who has tested positive for Covid-19, however this is not a new case as this individual tested positive several

weeks ago and was erroneously tested again in the last few days. Older people are known to retain covid cells for many weeks past any active infection period, and as such will continue to test positive on and off for a long time. We are confident that this is not a situation of transmission within the Care Home.

- We currently have 1 staff member who is suspected of having Covid-19 and are awaiting test results.
- We have had no further deaths relating to Covid-19 within the Care Homes, so we have still had 3 deaths attributed, at least in part, to Covid-19.

#### **4. 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 Multi-disciplinary Care Homes Oversight Group (membership detailed above in paragraph 3.7)

##### **(e) Staffing Implications**

There continues to be approximately 50 hours of grade 10 staff deployed to support the care homes and the work around that relating to Covid-19. This will reduce within the next few weeks as a Clerical Assistant is in the process of being appointed and is being funded via the Scottish Government.

##### **(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) Consultations**

Head of Service, Strategy & Commissioning/Chief Social Work Officer  
Commissioning Manager

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1. The strong working relationships that have been built continue to pay dividends in the sustaining of low incidence of infection and transmission that we have seen so far.**
- 5.2. All involved continue to work in line with the guidance issued by Health Protection Scotland, which is updated on a regular basis, and this will continue to be the case to ensure that we are following all national and local requirements and delivering the best possible care and support under these unprecedented circumstances.**

Author of Report: Pauline Knox, Senior Commissioning Officer  
Background Papers: With the author  
Ref: