

BRIEFING FOR CABINET SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND SPORT

Meeting with Scottish Care

Date and time of engagement	Wednesday 18 March, 1.30 to 2.15pm
Where	T3.23 – Scottish Parliament
Who	Dr Donald Macaskill (CEO of Scottish Care)
What	To discuss the response to COVID-19 in social care sector.
Why	<p>A meeting was scheduled for 2 April to discuss some areas of concern for Scottish Care, but given COVID-19 this additional, more urgent meeting has been arranged. It gives the Cabinet Secretary the chance to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank Scottish Care for their input so far in responding to COVID.• To discuss some immediate matters of concern for Scottish Care and their members.
Likely themes	<p>Coronavirus/Covid-19 – current position and advice for social care sector</p> <p>National Care Home Contract</p>
Official Support	Elinor Mitchell 47978 and Jamie MacDougall 45517, Directorate for Community Health and Social Care
Briefing Content	<p>Annex A: COVID-19</p> <p>Annex B: National Care Home Contract</p> <p>Annex C: Other matters</p>

Coronavirus/COVID-19

Scottish Care's role in supporting the sector

Since the outbreak, Scottish Care has been in frequent contact with officials regarding matters that their members are raising. Scottish Care is doing its utmost to ensure that care homes and care at home is being provided in line with government advice and keeping services operational.

Line to Take

- Acknowledge how helpful Scottish care has been in supporting the response to the outbreak.

As at 17 March, Scottish Care has raised the following matters:

Supplies

Some providers are having difficulties accessing Personal Protective Equipment that they need to provide safe care. Scottish Care acknowledge there is now movement on supply chain issue, in terms of trying to resolve this issue.

Line to Take

- We are working with the NHS and NSS as a matter of urgency to ensure that there is access to Personal Protective Equipment.

Testing

They have concerns regarding the current testing arrangements and would like:

- people tested before they are discharged from hospital to care homes so that care homes feel confident in accepting admissions from hospitals; and
- testing for frontline social care staff in order to avoid 14 day isolation periods to enable them to return quickly to work.

Lines to Take

- Testing for patients/ people is currently being triaged into four different categories in the following order 1) patients needing critical care/ventilated 2) admissions to hospital with pneumonia/influenza like illness or acute respiratory distress syndrome, 3) clusters of outbreaks such as in care homes and 4) if there is capacity - testing of staff.
- Testing for staff – currently neither health or social care staff are being tested unless they fall under categories 1 or 2. This is mainly due to testing capacity issues with labourites etc, however the policy of testing staff may change.
- Graham Ellis, senior medical officer with CMO, spoke to Dr Macaskill about issue of testing.

Guidance

Scottish Care has circulated the updated guidance to the sector that was prepared by Health Protection Scotland and the CMO to support the sector with advice on how to prevent the spread of all respiratory infection including COVID-19. Scottish Care also highlighted that it was important that providers continue to accept new admissions from hospitals, and continue to use student nurse placements. Scottish Care