

Message

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Subject: Cov-id 19 and Social care meeting read out - 11 March 2020

Hi All,

Find brief read out below from this week's social care/Cov-id meeting.

Social Care/Coronavirus meeting – 11 March 2020

- Rosamond Roughton (RR) flagged importance of engagement with the sector. Three pieces of guidance have been drafted and are being tested with stakeholders. Outstanding issue is Public Health advice particularly on home care workers and care homes receiving people with COVID-19. RR noted we also need to agree if a social distancing policy will be introduced into care homes this week.
- Jenny Harries (JH) noted a clinical meeting last night about seasonal flu messaging.
- RR noted homecare is in effect an emergency service.
- SoFS asked about providers paying staff if they are ill and asked to self-isolate in order to disincentivise staff with milder conditions going to work with older people.
- RR flagged a number of providers will not be in contact with local authorities, MS(C) suggested using CQC as a mechanism, SoFS was in agreement with this approach. There was a discussion on people who are on 0 hour contracts and being paid through the SSP. SoFS noted working with HMT to solve this.

- There was a discussion on the social care guidance. SofS asked for this to be published by Friday 13th at the latest. **ACTION: For social care to ensure this is published by Friday (today).**
- There was a discussion on comms around the bill and measures in the bill around social care, SofS stressed importance of ensuring the comms is as positive as possible. RR reassured examples are being prepared to support comms on this.
- Ian Dodge (ID) asked if everything is being done to speed up hospital discharge, and raised the issues surrounding social care beds. It was noted CHC assessments and funding constraints means beds aren't always used.
- RR noted we have proposals around CHC easements but we need to do more join up between NHS and social care. SofS noted this is one for HMT to confirm marginal increase in ASC cost will be covered.
- There was a discussion on hospitals discharging people this week. There was a brief discussion on publishing and backdating until the moment of publication. SofS noted he is content to say clauses in the bill will be enforced from the moment of declaration. JM raised a discharge to assess option, which SofS agreed with.
- PS(P) provided an update on volunteers and the two tiers of volunteering, medical and practical.
- RR provided an update on staff sickness and isolation. RR noted providers are feeling panicky and there will be calls with all provider organisations.
- MS(C) flagged we need a clearer sense on how people will cope when 20% of the workforce isn't able to work.
- RR noted joint working taking place with MHCLG ministers to access LRF plans.

Best wishes



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