

## Care Homes Action Plan – Summary of Progress

30 September 2020

### Introduction

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services set out six themes in July that would be considered over the summer to support care homes. The themes encompass work being undertaken with our partners including Regional Partnership Boards who have identified specific support they will deliver to care homes in their areas. These themes are:

- 1) Infection prevention and control;
- 2) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- 3) General and clinical support for care homes;
- 4) Residents' well-being;
- 5) Social Care workers' well-being; and
- 6) Financial sustainability.

The Care Homes Action Plan sets out our high-level actions under these themes to ensure the care home sector is well supported ahead of winter pressures, learning lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic. This plan is a component of our overarching Welsh Government Winter Protection Plan.

The below table summarises the progress that has been made – and that we are continuing to make - against the high level actions in the plan.

1) Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C)		
Initial action and progress	Next steps	Target date
We will develop a clinical contingency template and will provide further advice and support for individual care homes to complete the template, to enable their whole team to prepare for the management of any further infections in the home. The template, which will include environmental and	We will share the clinical contingency template with care home providers and details of assistance that will be available to aid completion.	October 2020

<p><b>staff management (minimising staff movement), personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing of care home residents and staff will enable care homes to consider their own resident group, staff group, environmental layout and service delivery.</b></p> <p>The IP&amp;C contingency template is currently being finalised, informed by expert stakeholders on the Nosocomial Transmission Group. It is anticipated that individual care homes will be supported to complete the template by Local Authority Environmental Health Officers and community IP&amp;C teams. Once completed this template will support homes in ensuring strong IP&amp;C arrangements are in place, including in relation to the movement of staff, tailored to the specifics of the individual premises.</p>	<p>Vaccination of our vital social care workers will be paramount to minimise infection transmission. Health and social care partners are considering how they will deliver an influenza and Covid-19 vaccination programme for the social care workforce.</p> <p>We will receive assurance of the vaccination delivery arrangements for the social care workforce in each region in early October and monitor implementation.</p>	<p>Early October 2020</p>
<p><b>We will continue to work with the Nosocomial Transmission Group, chaired by the Deputy Chief Medical Office.</b></p> <p>An IP&amp;C training task and finish group is developing consistent Covid-related training materials across health and social care, reporting to the Nosocomial Transmission Group. Short and longer term support is being considered. Current advice and guidance is shared across the social care sector as it becomes available for example PHW guidance for care homes and further correspondence on minimising staff movement in care homes was issued in August. Information is shared directly via Care Inspectorate Wales care home distribution list and other well established sector mechanisms such as the Association of</p>	<p>Regular communication and support for care homes is essential.</p> <p>We will continue to work with the Nosocomial Transmission Group to raise awareness and provide training, guidance and support to care homes.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>