

NHS Board Meeting  
24 February 2021

Lanarkshire NHS Board  
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## SUBJECT: CARE HOMES UPDATE

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide Board Members with an update on the support being provided to Care Homes in NHS Lanarkshire.

For approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	For assurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To note	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### 2. ROUTE TO THE BOARD

This paper has been prepared by Sharon Murray, Associate Nurse Director, Care Home Assurance and Support, on behalf of Eddie Docherty, Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Professionals.

### 3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Of the 93 Care Homes in scope there are currently 10 care homes in Lanarkshire with on-going COVID-19 outbreaks. There are 5 homes rated red due to the high number of positive resident cases that has an impact on staff management of Infection Prevention & Control Team (IPCT). All of these homes are being actively supported and monitored. By the same measure there are 5 Care Homes rated Amber, the remainder are rated Green.

There are no current issues with supply of PPE.

The Care Home Assurance Team have completed their first face to face supportive visit to all 93 care homes, this involved Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Nurses and Care Home Liaison to provide assurance of IPC measures and person centred care. The Care Home Assurance team which includes a dedicated IPC Nurses have reviewed all reports and RAG rated each home based on their compliance against Standard Infection Control Precautions. This has resulted in more care homes being RAG rated Amber as previous RAG rating was based on self-reporting compliance via virtual visits or face to face visits from staff with no specialist IPC qualification or experience.

The Care Home Assurance team continue to follow up homes rated red in relation to IPC, however active outbreak visits are prioritised.

All remaining homes are rated as Amber; the Assurance team are confident that with additional support the homes can manage to resolve these emerging issues. All amber homes have action plans and will continue to be supported to resolve identified issues.

We have established access to NHS Lanarkshire Staff Bank for Care Homes to assist in supporting them to access a skilled and competent workforce to support the management of short term absences. A governance paper has been approved to support this which provides a clear structure for staff to raise concerns.

## Covid vaccination

The planned schedule for second dose of the vaccination has commenced this week. The first dose of the vaccine is complete in all care homes; the compliance is detailed below:

	Resident compliance	Staff compliance
Older Adult Care Homes	94%	80%
All Lanarkshire Care homes	92%	79%

The Care Home Assurance Team are continuing to support individual homes to improve compliance with the support of the care home's provider as required.

## Staff & Management Wellbeing

The group has also launched a designated telephone line for care homes to access the "All of Us" wellbeing support service. This will be communicated via a newsflash to reach a wide audience on social media as well as credit card size laminated cards with the number and posters giving further information. The Care Home Assurance Team will support the launch by distributing laminated cards to all staff who are being vaccinated and using a 'pop up banner' to highlight the support available to all staff (**Appendix 1**).

## Testing Strategy

A testing team is in place to test in care homes where there is evidence of a new outbreak of infection. Where a care home with an outbreak is part of a group or chain and staff may still be moving between homes, we investigate whether testing is required in any of these linked homes. There will be additional pressure on the testing team as a result of increased resident testing in outbreak homes.

Sample surveillance in non-outbreak homes has been paused to allow staff to focus on roll out of the Covid vaccine.

All care homes have access to weekly asymptomatic staff testing through either the NHS Scotland regional laboratory or NHS Lanarkshire laboratory testing. South Lanarkshire homes have been transferred to NHS Scotland regional lab testing and North Lanarkshire homes will be transferred w/c 22 February 2021.

w/c 15/02/21

Testing regime	No. care homes tested	No. residents sampled	No. residents COVID confirmed	No. staff sampled	No. staff COVID confirmed
Outbreak	16	324	35	0	0
Sample surveillance	0	0	0	0	0

Weekly testing data via TURAS

Reporting week	Number of care homes submitting data	Number of staff tested	Number of staff declined testing
w/c 25/01/21	92	4405	76
w/c 01/02/21	91	4427	17
w/c 08/02/21	84	3882	141

84/93 of Care Homes populated weekly testing compliance on Safety Huddle. Issues with access to Turas to submit compliance has been escalated.

South Lanarkshire Short Breaks did not submit as they remain closed at present and the staff have been furloughed.

Abbeycare moved premises out with Lanarkshire to Erskine on 1/2/21 they have been asked to ensure the CI contacts TURAS to update their registration and we have highlighted their nil return.

**Lateral Flow Testing (LFD)**

All care homes requiring support around the implementation of LFD testing. The Care Home Assurance Team will monitor completion of training and competency assessments for LFD.

A Short Life Working Group has been developed to provide additional support to homes who are early adopters and allow the care homes to share any lessons and their improvement work. Care homes are having issues receiving additional LFT kits, if required. Scottish Government policy is that each care home staff member has supplies for twice weekly testing x 4 weeks supply. Where care homes are required to use stocks to meet outbreak guidance, this can mean testing daily for seven days using LFTs, which has led to issues in ensuring sufficient supplies being available for the 4 weeks.

**Safety Huddle**

All 93 care homes are registered on safety huddle tool. On 15/02/21 a total of 83 care homes submitted data on safety huddle.

Scottish Government have been asked to consider requesting that Care Homes submit data by midday rather than 5 pm as our ability to use TURAS as an escalation tool is limited due to time of completion and the poor compliance over the weekend due to NES allowing Care Home Managers to submit data for Saturday / Sunday retrospectively on a Monday.

**Knowledge and Application of IPC**

The IPC knowledge of staff and managers and their ability to apply Health Protection Scotland guidance into practice – videos and telephone advice - do not appear to be adequate. Not all care homes have the ability to self-recognise limitations in their knowledge and need for expert advice. We have established a service model to respond to the Scottish Government directive on clinical and care assurance which includes recruitment of IPC nurses to provide support to care homes in their knowledge and practical application of IPC measures.

A short life working group has been set up to work with care home managers in order to better understand their training and educational requirements regarding infection prevention and control. This is being supported by the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Care. Three modules from the

Scottish Infection Prevention and Control Education Pathway (SIPCEP) have been identified as key priorities and 3 care homes have currently registered and trialling these. A plan is in place to promote and roll this further.

A PowerPoint presentation focussing on the care environment and care equipment has been developed for delivery to care home staff with the first session complete and further sessions arranged.

During the supportive visits it has proven to be a challenge to identify appropriate cleaning products, this has been escalated via national meeting requesting guidance. A National Infection Prevention Control Manual for care homes is in final draft and includes a national cleaning specification specific to care homes. The roll out is planned for March/April.

### Examples of good practice

Despite the substantial workforce challenges the providers are working across the sector to try and find local solutions.

The providers are engaging well with weekly conference calls and engagement visits where they are sharing solutions to challenges faced and seeking support.

- A young couple in David Walker Gardens celebrated Valentine's Day as they approached their 70th wedding anniversary.
- Launch of wellbeing support service for all care home staff.
- IPC nurses are carrying out a planned programme of education sessions in relation to the care environment in care homes available for all disciplines of staff. The first sessions have been carried out and positive feedback has been received.
- Collaborative working with Care Home staff and HSCP's in supporting our COVID vaccination schedules.
- One Home brought the snow indoor for residents to enjoy the sensory experience.

## 4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This paper links to the following:

Corporate objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Government directive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statutory requirement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AHF/local policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urgent operational issue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## 5. CONTRIBUTION TO QUALITY

This paper aligns to the following elements of safety and quality improvement:

### *Three Quality Ambitions:*

Safe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person Centred	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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### *Six Quality Outcomes:*

Everyone has the best start in life and is able to live longer healthier lives; (Effective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People are able to live well at home or in the community; (Person Centred)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Everyone has a positive experience of healthcare; (Person Centred)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff feel supported and engaged; (Effective)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthcare is safe for every person, every time; (Safe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Best use is made of available resources. (Effective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 6. MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT

These are monitored on a weekly basis by the Support Team and issues escalated appropriately.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Additional resources have already been committed to establish the support team until June 2021. These funds are included in the additional COVID costs being incurred by the Board.

## 8. RISK ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is a significant risk if Nursing Homes are not fully supported, and for any reason are unable to continue to look after residents appropriately.

## 9. FIT WITH BEST VALUE CRITERIA

This paper aligns to the following best value criteria:

Vision and leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective partnerships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance and accountability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Use of resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Performance Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

## 10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT / FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

Not Applicable.

## 11. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Not Applicable.

## 12. ACTIONS FOR THE BOARD

The Board is asked to derive assurance from the report and note that the appropriate support is being provided to Care Homes.

## 13. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about any aspect of this paper, please contact:

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