

Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting Date: 12th November 2020

Paper title: Adult Social Care Winter Plan

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1. Summary

Winter presents a significant challenge to our Health and Social Care services during this pandemic. Traditionally, Adult Social Care has worked alongside partners to produce a comprehensive and overarching system approach to winter planning, which is embodied in a single document. The Covid19 pandemic created an exceptional situation worldwide and resulted in challenges for all parts of the system.

In September 2020, the government published the Adult Social Care Winter Plan which, for the first time, sets out the different responsibilities for each level, i.e. national responsibility, local authority and NHS responsibilities over the coming months.

The Government's three overarching priorities for Adult Social Care are described as:

- Ensuring everyone who needs care or support can get high-quality, timely and safe care throughout the autumn and winter period.
- Protecting people who need care, support or safeguards, the social care workforce, and carers from infections including Covid-19.
- Making sure that people who need care, support or safeguards remain connected to essential services and their loved ones whilst protecting individuals from infections including Covid-19.

This report highlights the way in which Adult Social Care will deliver the 2020/21 Adult Social Care Winter Plan, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this comprehensive report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

This plan acknowledges the current challenge and builds on existing support, and partnership with system colleagues and our care providers. We have been working constantly throughout the pandemic to support our population, especially the elderly and most vulnerable people, despite facing huge pressures. This winter plan sets out what we have been doing and what we will be putting in place as we move forward together through the months ahead.

2. Recommendations

To accept and endorse Shropshire Councils Adult Social Care Winter Plan

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- The Winter Plan gives Shropshire Council the opportunity to evidence the significant amounts of work that have been undertaken so far during the pandemic and tell people about what is planned in preparation for the coming winter.
- It is also an opportunity to create a shared understanding of how we are moving forward in partnership, publicly appreciate the hard work that has already been undertaken and work collaboratively to support the safety and wellbeing of all of us.
- Further, it is an opportunity strengthen and capitalise on our work with the voluntary and community sector.
- The pandemic has created significant costs for the council: Government funding has supported this risk but has not mitigated it in full and there are remaining budget risks to the Council.
- Shropshire Council have created a Winter Plan that evidences that we will support people equally across the County and work positively to support our communities and our environments.

4. Financial Implications

A large proportion of Shropshire Council funded gross expenditure relates to contracts with over 200 registered providers, including both Domiciliary Care Agencies and Shropshire care homes.

At the start of the pandemic, in recognition of the challenges that care providers would be likely to face, Shropshire Council contacted our providers to offer assurance, support and flexibility in how care could be delivered. Our engagement with providers confirmed that they were incurring significant additional costs in relation to the purchasing of PPE, agency staff, funding for staff who were unable to work and other financial challenges.

Due to these issues the Local Authority (LA) allocated funding from the LA's Covid resource to cover anticipated additional costs of £980k and a 10% uplift payment that was made to all providers for a 12 weeks period at a cost of £2.392m. We have also chosen to fund some other additional Covid related expenditure from this funding, within Adults Social Care, that is not paid to external care providers such as additional in-house staffing resource.

We have been granted two rounds of infection control fund which has amounted to £8.631m. This has been/in the process of being passported to in county residential and dom. care providers as well as day service providers, direct payment and shared lives service users and the voluntary community sector.

In addition, we established a business grant fund for providers who have experienced financial loss due to Covid 19 of up to £10,000 and 41 provider companies accessed the grant money.

In total this means £11.4 million will have been injected into the Shropshire care market by the Council since the pandemic began. This does not include the costs of new services being commissioned which are in addition to this figure.

At the start of the Covid pandemic in March 2020, all funding to facilitate hospital discharges and to support an Admission Avoidance was paid for by the NHS. This was to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and to ensure that patients moved on from their acute hospital stay as quickly as possible. Since September 2020 the cost of post-discharge recovery and support services, such as rehabilitation and reablement, is supported by the CCG for a maximum of six weeks, in all care settings.

5. Background

On 18th September 2020 the Minister of State for Care launched the National Adult Social Care Winter Plan, setting out the actions the government is taking at a national level to support those who provide and receive care. The plan outlines the actions every local area (local authorities and NHS partners) and every care provider must be taking to maintain our collective efforts to keep the virus at bay and ensure that we are ready for a challenging winter period. The government's plan to protect social care includes increased support to the sector, and further expectations and requirements of care providers, local authorities and NHS organisations.

Under this plan the government is:

- Supporting the sector with an additional £546 million Infection Control Fund, to help with the extra costs of infection prevention and control measures – including the payment of care workers who are self-isolating in line with government guidelines.
- Scaling up PPE distribution to make free PPE available for all adult social care providers and care workers through to March 2021. All CQC registered adult social care providers can now register on the PPE portal and order limits will be increasing over the coming weeks.
- Advising that Care providers must stop all but essential movement of staff between care homes. We know that the majority of care homes have already done this.
- Taking further steps to reduce the risks of visiting in care homes. Visits are important for the wellbeing of residents and loved ones, but with higher rates of Covid-19 in the community, extra precautions will be needed including supervision of visitors to make sure social distancing and infection prevention and control measures are adhered to.
- Appointing a Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care to provide leadership to the social care nursing workforce.
- Creating a new dashboard which will monitor care home infections and provide data to help local government and care providers respond quicker.

While central Government has an essential role to play in providing these resources and defining and setting expectations, it is also our obligation to drive, support and encourage high performance at a local level, in every care setting and by every person in the workforce.

Local authorities have a crucial role to play in support of this, consequently we have our own tailored and robust Shropshire winter plan which sets out how we will achieve the implementation of the governments promised actions as set out above and also how we are working to support the wellbeing of our residents, our care markets and our partners through the challenging months ahead. Our comprehensive approach to system wide winter planning includes;

- A local Winter Plan

- A Winter Task Force action plan.
- Outbreak Plan
- An STP Winter Plan

The Shropshire Outbreak plan to prevent, contain and recover from the COVID pandemic is available at https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/local_outbreak_plan.

The plan supports system wide monitoring of guidance which is continuous and robust.

6. Shropshire's Winter Plan

Winter planning is a necessary and critical part of business planning in order to set out business continuity and manage major areas of risk during what is typically a pressured season of the year. Shropshire Council works closely with its neighbouring local authority of Telford and Wrekin Council. We are partners in one Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) along with one Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital Trust (SaTH). Our STP is strong and robust and we are working together effectively through the Covid-19 pandemic. Partner organisations are closely following guidelines and putting appropriate support in place. This, along with our effective processes to plan, action and respond to issues as they arise is resulting in a high level of confidence in our winter period system response.

Shropshire's winter plan meets the governments overarching priorities for Adult Social Care which are:

- Ensuring everyone who needs care or support can get high-quality, timely and safe care throughout the autumn and winter period.
- Protecting people who need care, support or safeguards, the social care workforce, and carers from infections including Covid-19.
- Making sure that people who need care, support or safeguards remain connected to essential services and their loved ones whilst protecting individuals from infections including Covid-19.

An ageing population in Shropshire combined with increasing numbers of people with a long term health condition means that demand for both health and social care is increasing, and we know that these pressures increase during winter months, particularly across the urgent care system and in light of the pandemic

The Governments approach to winter planning is focused heavily on care homes due to the significant vulnerability of this cohort of people and their intensive support needs. This has also been a key focus for Shropshire, but we have also ensured that other care market areas and all cohorts within our population who need support have a focus in our inclusive winter plan. As part of a multi strand approach we have established additional pandemic support teams for Care Homes as well as Domiciliary Care Services, Day and Learning Disability Services, Community Resilience Teams, expansion of the START Reablement Service; to name a few. The full winter plan gives the details of all of these and many more services we have put in place and will commission going forward.

Shropshire is fortunate to have a strong and resilient voluntary and communities sector, which complements the activity of the statutory health and care organisations. The Shropshire Voluntary and Community Sector Association (VCSA) is effective in how it represents the sector and regularly works in partnership with the council to achieve shared objectives and common goals. The council commissions and grant funds a number of VCS organisations

and consortiums to deliver local wellbeing, independence and preventative services and this activity is a cornerstone of the Adult Social Care delivery model based on people being able to stay well and independent at home supported by staff and volunteers from their communities.

The Council is committed to involving the people who make use of services in their design and delivery. We engage, consult, collaborate and co-produce services and practice the principles of Think Local, Act Personal. We have a Making It Real Board and Advisory Groups and a variety of themed Partnership Boards, with expert by experience members, who work alongside us to develop policy and strategy. Current examples of our co-production approach are the transformation of Direct Payments and the development of our Carer Support Service specification.

7. Conclusions

As we head into winter 20/21 the intensive work done in the preceding months on market support and resilience, ensuring we have the right support and the right resources in place to help our population, our robust partnership working and significant outbreak management work place us in a strong position. The Winter plan capitalises on and evidences that work and sets out how we are moving forward.

Adult Social Care will continue to work with our system partners through existing networks and new ones created to respond to Covid 19; When systems are under pressure it remains important to collaborate to make best use of public funding and to reduce duplication, and Shropshire Council will continue to plan with partners to ensure that these principles underpin our collective response to winter resilience.

We would welcome the endorsement of the Winter Plan by the Board and note that the Winter Plan will be published and will be communicated to all of our partners and care providers. There is a system wide process in place for communication of guidance through weekly communication so that we can ensure everyone gets the information they need to through processes which are appreciated and anticipated by the market.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Government guidance Winter planning: https://www.gov.uk/

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
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Cllr. Dean Carroll

Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Climate Change, Health and Housing

Local Member

All

Appendices

Appendix A – The Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020
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