



Adult Services

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Department for Health and Social Care

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30th October 2020

Dear Sirs

I am writing to confirm the development of the Bromley Adult Services Winter Plan as requested as part of DHSC guidance in relation to the Adult Social Care Winter Planning and associated guidance.

I can confirm that we are working with providers and partners locally to make contingency plans and to respond to the dual challenges of the on-going pandemic and winter pressures.

We are undertaking this work in line with guidance, in the light of the DHSC Adult Social Care Winter Plan and the recommendations from the COVID – 19 Social Care Taskforce.

This plan is aligned with and published alongside the system wide plan developed with NHS and Voluntary and Community Sector partners in Bromley.

The following provides you with an executive summary of the work in our plan:

Preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings

Robust arrangements are in place for support in this area in relation to testing, PPE, and (in partnership with public health) infection control. Plans are in place to roll out flu vaccine programmes. Action is planned to enhance communications with unpaid carers and those in receipt of direct payments to support their access to infection control advice and guidance. New arrangements are in place for the Local Authority to distribute PPE to those not eligible for the National Portal. Barriers to access to testing have been identified and local action is in place to complement the national offer with hyper local testing, support for those in isolation and engagement regarding test and trace with voluntary and community groups.

Collaboration across health and care services

The Single Point of Access (SPA) arrangements are functioning well to support the maintenance of capacity in acute hospitals. This support also addresses the planning for self-funders who are being discharged from hospital. Joint arrangements are in place to broker placements in care homes and domiciliary care packages to support timely discharge. Joint leadership is in place to manage joint health and social care action in Bromley. Good support for enhanced support in care homes is in place for those services for older people and action has been taken to enhance this support to services for people with learning disabilities and mental health support requirements. There is active involvement of VCS partners in the SPA led by Bromley Well. Data is being collected to

review the potential impact of these processes on services funded and commissioned by social care and a suite of measures has been devised to monitor the impact of winter pressures on social care services and resources. Action is in place to manage the backlog of CHC assessments arising from COVID-19 and to monitor Discharge to Assess performance over the winter and incentivise timely response from D2A providers to service requests.

Supporting people who receive social care, the workforce, and carers

Public health in Bromley have been providing enhanced advice and guidance to support and care providers and this has been complemented by information and support from commissioning and quality and compliance colleagues in the directorate.

For people in receipt of direct payments the local provider of direct payment and payroll support have been active in providing advice and guidance in relation to COVID – 19 regarding both infection control and employment rights during the pandemic.

VCS partners are providing a range of enhanced support to unpaid carers in the light of COVID 19 which will continue during winter months. Action is planned improve care management oversight of support for unpaid carers.

The Council has not used Care Act Easements which means it continues to act on the full range of Care Act duties.

A range of supports are in place to help support and care providers manage workforce challenges during the pandemic including the distribution of Infection Control Grant monies, uplifts, testing arrangements and public health advice. There is excellent capacity tracking in place led by the quality and compliance team which provides live intelligence from providers.

Despite the enhanced support internally and for the market it is clear that all involved are feeling the pressure of the demands of the extended pandemic. Action is in place to distribute second tranche of infection control grant, continued enhanced support for the workforce and use of COVID-19 grants to help maintain wellbeing and capacity. The Council has a comprehensive range of wellbeing advice and guidance in place for all staff. The Directorate is working to enhance this through maintaining a local focus of staff support during the pandemic.

Supporting the System

The Council has appropriate information systems, communication and processes in place to support local regional and national market oversight, work with the CQC and the management of the Infection Control Grant. Enhanced financial support and a range of related measures that were developed to support providers in the early stages of the pandemic remain in place in coming winter months.

Data, Resources and Measures

This plan identifies a suite of measures that will support the Directorate to monitor the impact of both winter pressures and the pandemic on social care services and resources. These measures will enable evaluation of the impact of continuing single point of access arrangement for hospital discharge, will compare the data for winter 20/21 to previous years and also monitor issues of productivity and cost across services resulting from hospital discharge, in on-going support and care and in relation to changing working patterns for Council staff.

The plan draws from existing data to identify issues and action. In short data has shown a shift in demand and patterns of support since the beginning of the pandemic.

Initial data analysis from wave 1 of the pandemic has identified lines of enquiry relating to the impact of new hospital discharge arrangements and has highlighted shifts in demand relating to COVID-19.

All measures will involve comparison of data from winter 19 20 v winter 20 21 to highlight strategic issues for adult social care. The measures will be reported at the December, February and May Transformation Boards and will inform action to meet the dual challenges of winter pressures and COVID 19.

A SMART action plan will be linked to the system wide plan and will enable monitoring of the actions noted in this plan.

I will be presenting our detailed Winter Plan at the Adults Policy and Development Scrutiny Committee in November and following that we will post on our public Webpages so the plan will be accessible to the public and our partners.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KIM Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'C'.

Kim Carey
Interim Director
Adult Care Services