

**REPORT TO:** Health & Wellbeing Board

**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Sue Wallace Bonner – Director of Adult Social Services, Halton Borough Council

**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing

**SUBJECT:** Halton’s Adult Social Care: COVID-19 Winter Plan 2020/21

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with an overview of Halton’s Adult Social Care (ASC): COVID-19 Winter Plan 2020/21.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board:

i) **Note the contents of the report and associated Appendices.**

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On the 18th September 2020, the Government published the [National ASC: COVID-19 Winter Plan](#), which was developed from the work undertaken nationally by the ASC Covid-19 Taskforce during the summer.

The plan sets out the actions that the Government are taking at a national level to support those who provide and receive care. It also outlines the actions that the Government expect every local area (local authorities and NHS partners) and every care provider to take, in order to ensure everything possible is being done to keep people safe.

3.2 Below is an example of some of the actions that the Government have outlined that they are undertaking as part of the national Plan:-

- 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 their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distribution to make free PPE available for all adult social care providers and care workers through to March 2021.
- A Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care will be appointed to provide leadership to the social care nursing workforce. NB. It was announced on 7<sup>th</sup> December that [Professor Deborah Sturdy](#) will be taking up this role.
- A new dashboard will monitor care home infections and provide data to

help local government and care providers respond quicker.

3.3 As part of the national plan, Local Authorities were required to write to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) by 31st October 2020 confirming that they have put in place a winter plan and that they are working with care providers in their area on their business continuity plans, highlighting any key issues if needed, in order to receive the second instalment of the Infection Control Fund. NB. This confirmation was provided.

3.4 In line with Government guidance, Halton's plan (see **Appendix 1**) considers the recommendations of the national Winter Plan and how we have responded/continue to respond to the local requirements.

Contributions were made to the plan from across ASC Services and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

3.5 The overall aim of our Winter Plan 2020/21 is to ensure that high quality, safe and timely care is provided to everyone who needs it during the winter, whilst continuing to protect people who need care, their carers and the social care workforce from Covid-19.

3.6 Our objectives for ASC during winter are to:-

- ensure everyone who needs care or support can get high-quality, timely and safe care throughout the autumn and winter period;
- protect people who need care, support or safeguards, the social care workforce, and carers from infections, including COVID-19; and
- make 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

3.7 Below are an example of the areas covered within the plan (list not exhaustive):-

- Safe Discharge from Hospital
- Provision of Alternative Accommodation
- Care Providers – Business Continuity/Resilience
- Outbreak Management
- Management of Staff Movement
- Flu Vaccinations
- Care Home Visiting Guidance

3.8 As part of the development of the winter plan a number of areas of outstanding action were identified and collated into an associated Action Plan. Progress has been monitored via the Care Home Resilience Plan Implementation Group, chaired by the Director of Adult Social Services, with representation from Public Health and NHS Halton CCG; see **Appendix 2** for progress towards outstanding actions as at 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

## 5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None associated with this report.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

### 6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None identified.

### 6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

### 6.3 A Healthy Halton

The aim and objectives of Halton's ASC: COVID-19 Winter Plan 2020/21 is directly linked to this priority.

### 6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

### 6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

## 7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Health and Social Care services are always under considerable pressure over the winter period as demand for services tends to increase significantly with the onset of the cold weather etc. This demand is only being exacerbated this year due to the Pandemic.

With the prevalence of coronavirus still high within communities emphasising the need to maintain vigorous infection control measures and to make sure that every-one is doing the right things to reduce the risk of transmission during the winter period is essential.

7.2 Local Authorities have a crucial role to play in this and Halton's plan outlines the efforts/activities taking place, over the winter period, to help keep the transmission rates low but also ensuring that quality and effective service delivery is maintained.

We are confident that we are taking all the necessary steps to work across the health and social care system, including with care home providers, to keep everyone safe and well during this period.

## 8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None associated with this report.

9.0

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
National ASC: COVID-19 Winter Plan	Internet: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-coronavirus-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021/adult-social-care-our-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-coronavirus-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021/adult-social-care-our-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021</a>	Sue Wallace Bonner <a href="mailto:Susan.Wallace-Bonner@halton.gov.uk">Susan.Wallace-Bonner@halton.gov.uk</a> Tel: 0151 511 8825