



Dumfries and Galloway
Integration Joint Board

6th August 2020

This Report relates to
Item 6 on the Agenda

Governance Arrangements for the Care Home Professional Oversight Group

(Paper presented by Julie White)

For Discussion and Noting

Author:	Gail Meier, Senior Manager
List of Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Governance Framework for Care Home Oversight Group Appendix 2 – Report from Care Home Visits Appendix 3 – Draft Terms of Reference

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	X
	2. Dumfries and Galloway Council	
	3. NHS Dumfries and Galloway	
	4. Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Dumfries and Galloway	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport in May 2020 all Health and Social Care Partnerships were directed to provide “Enhanced Clinical Professional and Care Oversight” for Adult Care Homes. This included responsibility and oversight/assurance of the Care Homes management during the CoVID19 pandemic.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked discuss and note:

- **The requirements set by Scottish Government for the Health and Social Care Partnership to provide assurance in relation to Care Homes**
- **Note the governance arrangements in place**
- **Note the summary report of the findings from the programme of Care Home visits**

3. Background and Main Report

- 3.1 The communication from the Cabinet Secretary on the 17th May 2020 highlighted that the vast majority of Care Homes in Scotland are for older people (75%) and that of these homes 75% are operated by the private sector, in Dumfries and Galloway that number is 100%. Care Homes are environments that have proved to be particularly susceptible to Coronavirus and many residents are at risk of poorer outcomes if they were to contract it due to pre-existing conditions.

- 3.2 The governance arrangements for the care home oversight work have been developed and are attached at **Appendix 1**. The purpose of these arrangements is to ensure a clear understanding of the new accountabilities and responsibilities Scottish Government requires NHS Boards and HSCP’s to establish to provide enhanced professional clinical and care oversight arrangements for Care Homes with effect from the 18th May 2020.

- 3.3 Prior to the May 2020 guidance, the Health and Social Care Partnership, given understanding of the increased risk for care homes, had already in place a suite of initiatives supporting the 31 adult care homes within the region. This included:

- The formation of a Care at Home Support group comprising of a range of stakeholders connected with care homes.
- A Community Nurse Manager was identified to lead on a number of initiatives including providing a named ‘link’ community nurse for each individual care home. These ‘link’ nurses provided extra support around infection control, PPE and advice.
- Support teams were put in place to support rapid deployment across the region should any care home experience issues with staff or sickness/absence
- The Health Protection Team carried out phone audits and then followed up with unannounced visits in most care homes.
- A programme of education and training around Covid 19 was made readily available and distributed by Scottish Care to care home colleagues. Subsequent updates have followed
- Staff and family testing is available and outreach testing for residents is in

place

The Care Inspectorate is providing liaison support to care homes and has been available to the HSCP to support this agenda.

3.4 A Dumfries and Galloway Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group was established following receipt of the guidance. Membership consists of:

- Chief Operating Officer/Chief Officer
- Chief Social Work Officer
- Medical Director
- Nurse Director
- Interim Director of Public Health
- Head of Strategic Planning

The group has been meeting daily since May 2020 and commissioned a senior nurse and senior social work manager to provide assurance around a number of specific areas detailed in the guidance. These were:

- Infection prevention and control support
- Cleaning to prevent transmission and appropriate use of PPE
- Development and implementation of a testing approach
- Support sourcing of staff to care homes
- Reviewing care home safety huddles and data provided to Public Health
- Specific nursing support including clinical input from Community Nursing supporting individuals with increasingly complex needs

3.5 To provide this assurance, the Oversight Group were asked to implement a programme of visits to all care homes. This was achieved through the establishment of 12 staff in four teams of 3, comprising of Community Nurses and Social Workers from the HSCP. Each visit to the care homes was undertaken by two members of each team. These visits were undertaken between 29th May and the 18th June 2020.

- All visiting staff were tested for Covid 19 prior to and at required intervals throughout the visiting schedule. They also wore PPE and maintained social distancing within their teams and whilst visiting the care homes.
- An audit template was developed and Health Improvement Scotland Care of Older People in Hospital standards and plans were shared by colleagues nationally to address the required areas of assurance. This was completed for each care home visited. The care home was also asked to participate in a telephone survey following the visit to explore their experience of the process and provide them with an opportunity to comment.
- Each care home was contacted by a senior manager via telephone prior to the visit to explain its purpose and the template was shared with them in advance. All visits were announced.
- Individual reports for each care home were completed including strengths, areas for development, analysis and a statement of the overall assurance provided by the care home. These have been sent to each care home inviting comment and response which have been included in the reports then provided to the Oversight Group.
- A copy of the Care Home Assurance Report, which provides an overview of the findings from the visits and subsequent actions to be addressed and support is attached at **Appendix 2**. Follow up of the identified actions is

underway.

4. Conclusions

4.1 Based on this information provided, Members are asked to discuss and note the report together with the attached appendices.

5. Resource Implications

5.1 Any resource implications as a result of work undertaken and decisions made by the Oversight Group will be included as part of Scottish Government Funding.

6. Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy

6.1 This report links with Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9

7. Legal and Risk Implications

7.1 If no support was provided to the care homes by the HSCP this could create a risk to the welfare of those residing within the care homes.

8. Consultation

8.1 The Corporate Management Team, Care Home Oversight Group and the Health and Social Care Executive Team are aware of and agree with the content of this report.

9. Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment

9.1 An Impact Assessment is not required at this time, however, if as a result of work required it will be undertaken throughout the process.

10. Glossary

10.1 All acronyms must be set out in full the first time they appear in a paper with the acronym following in brackets.

HSCP	Health and Social Care Partnership
IJB	Integration Joint Board
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment

Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board

DIRECTION

(ISSUED UNDER SECTIONS 26-28 OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (JOINT WORKING) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014)



1.	Title of Direction and Reference Number	
2.	Date Direction Issued by Integration Joint Board	
3.	Date from which Direction takes effect	
4.	Direction to	
5.	Does this direction supersede, amend or cancel a previous Direction? If yes, include the reference number(s)	
6.	Functions covered by Direction	
7.	Full text of Direction	
8.	Budget allocated by Integration Joint Board to carry out Direction	
9.	Desired Outcomes	
10.	Performance Monitoring Arrangements	
11.	Date Direction will be Reviewed	