

Update from Jane Wood, AD Commissioning and Integration

29 October 2020

Dear colleagues,

I hope you find the information in this update helpful as I know it is an extremely challenging time for you all.

We will continue to work with the BCA and you all to respond to the challenges as effectively as we can.

Please let me or the Covid Support Team know of anything else that you think would be helpful.

Infection rate

- You will all be aware that unfortunately the infection rate continues to rise in Bradford and nationally and it is likely that we may enter tier three restrictions soon.
- For care settings we continue to closely monitor outbreaks through the capacity tracker and through liaison with the Public Health Protection Team and our local IPC team
- Outbreaks in care homes had got down to 2 or 3 during August but have been increasing since then.

- At the present time there are active outbreaks in 26 care settings of which 19 are independent sector older peoples care homes
- The trend had been that most outbreaks have been small numbers of asymptomatic staff or residents found through whole home testing
- As the infection rates in the community have risen we are now increasingly seeing people developing symptoms (staff and residents) and unfortunately there are a couple of homes with larger outbreaks at present

Covid Support Team

- The new Covid Support Team led by Paul Hunt is working on bringing together key information on infection rates, workforce challenges and occupancy data into one sit rep report/ dashboard and this will be shared regularly with you once developed
- The Covid Support Team is now nearly fully staffed and is working on improving further the sector support arrangements in place
- The team has its own email address for direct contact about Covid related issues
Covid19SupportTeam@bradford.gov.uk.

Financial Sustainability

- The council has now agreed further funding to support the sector
- A new occupancy support scheme will be launched before the end of this week and will be available to support minimum occupancy up to 75% for all care home providers registered in Bradford that contract with us
- The first element of the second IPC grant has now been paid to care homes and we are progressing validation of payments for community services – please make sure you follow the instructions to sign up in order to receive your payment
- Work to determine areas of use for the discretionary part of the grant is underway and we will communicate that as soon as possible
- A further retrospective contingency payment is also in development

Winter Plan

- The Adult Social Care Winter Plan is in place and will be monitored regularly
- As part of the winter plan we have sent out an expression of interest to nursing care homes today to provide additional 'designated settings' for Covid positive people who need to be discharged from hospital
- The in house residential care settings are also providing Covid positive cohorted beds and are currently going through the designation process with CQC
- We will be working on further discharge to assess (not Covid positive) capacity and formalising arrangements with independent sector residential and nursing providers who may wish to be involved next