

Oxfordshire County Council

Adult Social Care

Winter Plan 2020-21

Report by the Corporate Director of Adults and Housing

Background

This winter is likely to place unique pressures on the health and care system. COVID-19 will be co-circulating with seasonal flu and other viruses, and transmission may increase over the winter period. In addition, there are longstanding ongoing local factors including an ageing population and increasing numbers of people with a long term health condition which means that demand for both health and social care is increasing. Even without Covid these pressures typically increase during winter months.

As a result, the government has created a national Covid-19 Winter Plan. It sets out the key elements of national support available for the social care sector for winter 2020 to 2021, as well as the main actions to take for local authorities, NHS organisations and social care providers, including in the voluntary and community sector.

The Covid-19 Winter Plan sets out an expectation that Local Authorities must put in place their own local winter plans for Adult Social Care and write to DHSC to confirm they have done this by 31 October 2020. It states that local winter plans must incorporate the recommendations set out in the national Covid-19 winter plan.

In summary Local Authorities should:

- Work with NHS colleagues to ensure primary and community services are supporting local providers, as well as social care services and voluntary organisations to ensure people can access the help and support they need.
- Ensure providers are kept up to date with the local guidance and there is weekly communication from the Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Public Health.
- Maintain oversight of the care home support plan, ensuring providers are well supported to prevent infection outbreaks in care settings.
- Act as lead commissioners for those discharged from hospital using the Treasury/NHS money, unless otherwise agreed.
- Remain responsible for providing alternative accommodation in the event that a care home is unable to cope with the impact of the person's COVID-19 illness safely.

- Distribute funding made available through the extension of the Infection Control Fund to the sector as quickly as possible, and report on how funding is being used, in line with the grant conditions
- Continue to put co-production at the heart of decision-making, involving people who receive health and care services, their families, and carers.
- Ensure providers are aware of the suite of national offers available to support with staff recruitment, induction, training and wellbeing.

The Oxfordshire ASC Winter Plan Gap Analysis

A template document has been produced which allows local authorities to compare the requirements set out in the national winter plan compared to what's happening locally. The template asks authorities to highlight any gaps and set out what actions they intend to take to fill those gaps.

The actions set out in the template align to five key themes which are:

- Theme A - Overarching work
- Theme B - Preventing & controlling the spread of infection in care settings
- Theme C - Collaboration across health & care services
- Theme D - Supporting people who receive social care, the workforce and carers
- Theme E – Supporting the system

In drafting Oxfordshire's response to the winter plan, we have sought input from colleagues across commissioning, operational social care, public health and the NHS.

Whilst there is no requirement to formally submit the Winter Plan template, it has proven to be a useful analysis of the current position in Oxfordshire. The template demonstrates the considerable amount of collaborative work that has already taken place across the system in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a result, many of the actions set out in the plan are either complete or well under way as part of local plans and where there are gaps, there are plans in place to close these.

Monitoring and Review

Performance of the Oxfordshire system is kept under review on a daily basis via a system call chaired by the Corporate Director of Adults and Housing. This focuses on patient flow and service capacity and provides the earliest indication of emerging challenges, and the earliest opportunity for corrective action.

Regular review of system pressures are also undertaken by the Urgent Care Delivery Group and the A&E Delivery Board also provide system oversight of whole system management.

Adult Social Care DLT meetings will provide the ongoing focus on winter pressures, performance and business continuity arrangements.