

DIVISIONS AFFECTED – ALL

OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 September 2021

ADMISSION TO CARE HOMES DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC - THE FIRST THIRTY DAYS AND BEYOND

Report by OCC Director of Public Health and Director of Adult Social Care

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to NOTE the information provided in the paper (Annex A) and response (Annex B).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This paper presents information about the discharge of people from acute hospital to care homes in Oxfordshire during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a response to that information by the County Council's Director of Public Health and Director of Adult Social Care.

BACKGROUND

3. Prior to April 2020 members of the Committee had discussed the process and consequences of following the national requirements to rapidly discharge patients from acute settings to care homes.
4. The HOSC meeting on 24 April 2021 was presented (within the Chair's Report) with a paper on the subject produced by two co-opted HOSC members, Barbara Shaw and Alan Cohen.
5. The two co-opted members had met with the county council's Director of Public Health, Ansaf Azhar, and the Director of Adult Social Care, Stephen Chandler, in March 2021 to understand this process.
6. The paper concerned the period from late February 2020 to 16 April 2020, after which the Government's guidance required that all patients should be tested for COVID-19 prior to discharge.
7. Annex A provides the co-opted members' report, which has been updated since April in light of further discussions with Council officers.
8. Annex B provides a response by the County Council's Director of Public Health and Director of Adult Social Care to the points raised in Annex A.

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September 2021

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Annex A: Admission to Care Homes During the COVID Pandemic - The First Thirty Days and Beyond – paper produced by co-opted HOSC members Barbara Shaw and Alan Cohen.

Annex B: Response to the paper in Annex A by OCC's Director of Public Health and Director of Adult Social Care