

PETERBOROUGH AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE REGISTERED MANAGERS NETWORK

Dear Registered Manager,

As I am sure you are aware, many announcements were made on Friday by the Government about future arrangements for care homes, and all of Adult Social Care as we continue to live in uncertain times.

- Care homes in England to get £546 million extra funding
- There is a new winter plan for care homes
- Free personal protective equipment for care providers until next March
- Visitors to care home to be supervised at all times to ensure social distancing
- A new role of Chief Nurse for social care

Extra £546 million in extra funding.

There will be an extra £546 million for the Infection Control Fund. This will help care providers pay staff full wages and enable staff to work in only one care home.

The Government said this brings the total funding for infection control measures in care homes to over £1.1 billion and underlines the government's commitment to ensure adult social care has the resources it needs to keep residents and staff safe.

A new adult social care winter plan to support care homes through winter including free PPE and £546 million Infection Control Fund.

Care providers must stop all but essential movement of staff between care homes to prevent the spread of infection.

New Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care will be appointed to provide leadership to the social care nursing workforce.

As part of the new plan:

- People receiving adult social care and care workers will receive free PPE
- A new dashboard will monitor care home infections and help local government and providers respond quicker
- A Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care will be appointed to represent social care nurses and provide clinical leadership to the workforce

Local providers must restrict all but essential movement of staff between settings to reduce transmission, supported by an extra £546 million for the Infection Control Fund. This will help care providers pay staff full wages and enable staff to work in only one care home.

The government is prepared to strengthen monitoring and regulation by local authorities and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Including, asking them to take strong action where improvement is required or staff movement is not being restricted. This can include restricting a service's operation, issuing warning notices or placing conditions on a provider's registration. Further details of how the winter plan will be enforced will be set out shortly.

In a letter to Local Authorities the Minister Helen Whately said;

- *We are 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.*
- *We will scale up our PPE distribution to make free PPE available for all adult social care providers and care workers through to March 2021. All CQC registered adult social care providers can now register on the PPE portal and order limits will be increasing over the coming weeks. We will also support the wider PPE needs of the sector.*
- *Care providers must stop all but essential movement of staff between care homes. We know that the majority of care homes have already done this – now we are taking this restriction further.*
- *Further steps will be taken to reduce the risks of visiting in care homes. Visits are important for the wellbeing of residents and loved ones, but with the higher rates of COVID-19 in the community, extra precautions will be needed including supervision of visitors to make sure social*

distancing and infection prevention and control measures are adhered to.

- *Meanwhile, designated 'areas of intervention' must not allow visiting except in exceptional circumstances, such as end-of-life.*
- *A Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care will be appointed to provide leadership to the social care nursing workforce.*
- *A new dashboard will monitor care home infections and provide data to help local government and care providers respond quicker.*

The £546m Infection Control Funding is in addition to the £600 million already provided, and the £3.7 billion provided to local authorities to support all COVID-19 activity. We've also announced £588m for the NHS to support the safe discharge of patients from hospital.

Over and above these national-level measures and resources you will know we have put in place a comprehensive testing strategy for care homes, with whole home testing in outbreak situations; and regular testing of staff (every 7 days) and residents (every 28 days).

There will be more information from the Department of Health in the coming days and we will make sure you receive it.

All good wishes

Sheila Scott OBE

Chair - Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Registered Managers network