

Adult Social Care Winter Plan

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Cabinet Member: Cllr David Huxtable, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published its Winter Plan on 18/09/2020. It is divided across four themes and sets out actions for Local Authorities (LAs), Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and health and social care providers.
- 1.2. All LA's are required to confirm to the DHSC that they have produced their own Winter Plan by 31/10/2020. This is a new requirement and is in addition to the usual health and care joint winter planning process.
- 1.3. The attached Adult Social Care Winter Plan for Somerset has been aligned with the actions required by LA's detailed in the DHSC plan. It also takes the opportunity to highlight additional work that has been undertaken by both the LA and wider system to date, that will continue during the winter period or which it is planned to undertake
- 1.4. Links to County Plan: "*Protect vulnerable children and adults and support them to reach their potential*"
- 1.5. The Winter Plan references current and previous work on two related returns, namely the Service Continuity and Care Market Review and the Infection Control Grant. Both are included in this presentation for completeness.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations	
2.1.	1 That the Scrutiny for Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee receives and considers the Adult Social Care Winter Plan for Somerset
	2 That the Scrutiny for Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee supports the actions contained in the Adult Social Care Winter Plan for Somerset
	3 That the Scrutiny for Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee notes the risks to the system during the coming winter period
2.1.	Reason for recommendations: The purpose of this report is to present the Adult

3. Background

- 3.1.** The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published its Winter Plan on 18/09/2020. It is divided across four themes and sets out actions for Local Authorities (LAs), Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and health and social care providers.
- 3.2.** All LA's are required to confirm to the DHSC that they have produced their own Winter Plan by 31/10/2020. They do not have to submit it. This is a condition of the Infection Control Fund extension, which has allocated £ 7,123,388 to Somerset. In addition to this LA's have also been asked to complete a Service Continuity and Care Market Review (SCCMR) and have strict new reporting requirements for the Infection Control Fund.
- 3.3.** The DHSC plan contains 77 actions for LAs. While many of these cover existing initiatives, and therefore do not represent uncharted work for the LA, there are some additional requirements that specifically relate to the DHSC actions.
- 3.4.** Overall, there is a focus on collaborative, partnership working across the system and sharing information with providers, as has been happening in Somerset for many months through a combination of webinars, weekly briefings and a provider information webpage.
- 3.5.** The Somerset Adult Social Care Winter Plan has been structured around the same themes as the DHSC plan. These are:
 - Preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings
 - Collaboration across health and care services
 - Supporting people who receive social care, the workforce, and carers
 - Supporting the system

It covers all actions for LAs contained in the DHSC Winter Plan:

- Some are a simple confirmation, for example that the Infection Control Fund allocation has been distributed
- Others contain more detailed information on the actions we have taken, will continue or plan to take

In addition, it also takes the opportunity to highlight the work that has been undertaken by both the LA and wider system

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** The plans have been finalised with colleagues from the local NHS; regional LA colleagues; SLT and through our weekly feedback from providers of social care.

5. Implications

5.1. Financial implications: Failure to confirm to the DHSC that Winter Plan is in place would place SCC in breach of the conditions of the Infection Control funds which, in line with government requirements, it has already begun distributing to eligible providers.

Any other financial implications either relate to the resources required to specific actions, for example in relation to the administration of the Infection Control Fund in order to demonstrate compliance with its conditions or relate to work that was already in place or underway that has been included within the plan.

5.2. Legal implications: None

5.3. Partner organisations: The Somerset Plan includes contributions from partner organisations, and recognises that a system wide response will be required during the coming winter period.

5.4. Equalities Implications: This Adult Social Care winter plan has not been impact assessed. This is because it draws together initiatives that were already underway and, where required, impact assessed in their own right into a single document to cover the winter period. Where it includes new actions they are, for example, in relation to the provision of information to providers, which do not have equalities implications.

5.5. Risk Assessment: This coming winter period is likely to be extremely challenging for the entire system. While Somerset has, to date, seen relatively low number of Coronavirus cases the numbers are rising. Coupled with normal winter pressures we expect the system to experience unprecedented levels of stress if current trends continue. Specific risks are laid out in section 6 of Appendix A and, in summary, include:

- Our care provider workforce, as with many other Local Authorities, is fragile – it can be normally be affected by things such as school holidays, caring responsibilities and poor wages. This is heightened by isolating, shielding and Covid related sickness during the pandemic.
- Somerset is seeing an increase in contacts to social care but also a change in presentation and an increase in complexity (and therefore cost), particularly in relation to the care of people with dementia.
- We also recognise the fragility of people's mental health and are seeing evidence start to come through of the impacts on this on those of all ages.

6. Background papers

6.1. Appendix A, Service Continuity and Care Market Review
Appendix B, Infection Control Grant (Round 1) DCLG return

Appendix C, Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020/21

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author