

CCG5. Care Home Assurance during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The committee considered a report by the Head of Integration which outlined the process that Falkirk HSCP, NHSFV, Public Health and partners had established to ensure an enhanced oversight of care assurance, testing and support to care homes in the current Covid-19 pandemic. The process had been established in accordance with current Scottish Government recommendations and guidance.

A Care Home Strategy and Planning Group had been established to develop, design, implement and oversee comprehensive support arrangements, testing and outbreak management for care homes within Forth Valley.

The remit of the Care Home Strategy and Planning Group included:-

- provide expert oversight and scrutiny of the data and information in relation to COVID-19 in all care homes in Forth Valley on a daily basis;
- ensure guidance on testing care home residents and staff from Scottish Government was implemented and updated as subsequent guidance was issued, with clear routes and responsibilities, providing timely access, reporting, analysis and response;
- ensure contact tracing was in place in response to residents and staff with positive test results;
- implement clear processes and a mechanism for monitoring each care home on a day by day basis. This data collection must identify homes at risk;
- ensure that a clear and transparent reporting system was in place;
- implement appropriate outbreak management arrangements, to maintain effective clinical standards which prevent outbreak or to manage an outbreak if it occurred;
- demonstrate that Infection and prevention control arrangements meet all relevant requirements including PPE and cleaning, and;
- provide assurance regarding the arrangements that had been implemented;
- promote best practice in terms of decision making about care and treatment for residents; and
- identify requirements for staff support and well being and implement actions as appropriate.

In addition, the Forth Valley Assurance Group had been established. The remit of the Group was to seek assurance regarding professional support and quality of care provided to care homes and to ensure that the national reporting requirements and operational framework were being delivered by the Care Home Strategy and Planning Group. The Group could escalate issues to the Assurance Group if required.

Decision

The committee noted the report.