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Update to Health & Social Care Scrutiny

Covid-19 - Adult Social Care response

January 2021





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ASC Update



We now have a comprehensive work plan to ensure we are prepared for fluctuations in Covid 19 cases, building on the findings from the ASC Covid Taskforce, the publication of the ASC Winter Plan, and Ministerial calls. We carried out a comprehensive exercise to identify people who might be particularly vulnerable to COVID 19, as part of our Silver arrangements. This has enabled us to carry out targeted work with people suffering disproportionate effects of COVID 19. Sitting alongside this is another piece of work identifying the responses necessary across ASC as the situation changes. This gives us a very detailed overview of adult need in Islington, and is allowing us to react efficiently as we move between tiers.

Both the Winter Plan and Task Force recommendations focus on our work with providers, and particularly infection control, and how we oversee and support providers. This includes,

- distributing and reporting on the distribution of infection control funding
- Support to roll out the vaccine
- supporting providers with guidance as it emerges
- ensuring access to PPE by providers, either via the Portal or elsewhere
- supporting providers with testing availability according to appropriate guidelines
- promoting the use of the flu vaccine to the social care workforce
- supporting the re-opening of day/respite services where possible. Where not possible we are developing alternatives.
- working to prevent hospital admissions and supporting safe hospital discharges.



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Older People's Care Homes and Domiciliary Care



Older People's Care Homes and Domiciliary Care Overview

Older people's care homes

- There are eight older people's care homes in Islington – over the course of the pandemic **there have been COVID situations of varying scales in all homes.**
- Following a period of relative stability between April and December 2020, **we have started to see an increase in the number and scale of COVID situation in care homes** – this is likely linked to significantly increased rates of community transmission.
- **The nature of cases reported has changed over time with a decrease in symptomatic residents presenting and an increase in asymptomatic residents identified through whole setting testing.**
- **Staffing levels in Older People's care homes have remained generally stable** throughout the course of the pandemic.

Domiciliary care

- **Domiciliary care agencies report that they have cared for relatively low numbers of residents who have been confirmed COVID positive or who have been COVID symptomatic. Domiciliary care agencies have reported no COVID-related deaths of residents they care for to commissioners.**
- **After some initial workforce challenges in the sector staffing levels have stabilised and there is capacity within the market.**

Please see slides overleaf for information on COVID-related trends in older people's care homes.

Domiciliary care COVID testing update

Domiciliary care testing is being rolled out as part of the national programme.

- Link here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-homecare-workers>
- Overview from their website: NHS Test and Trace is making weekly COVID-19 testing available to all homecare workers in England. All registered homecare agencies will be contacted with details of how to apply for test kits for their homecare workers. Homecare agencies will be responsible for ordering and distributing test kits to all homecare workers for them to conduct at home on a weekly basis. Homecare worker testing should only be conducted on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (if the homecare worker is able to access a priority post box with Sunday collections). We will be extending this service shortly to all homecare workers in adult social care, including unregistered organisations, live-in carers, and personal assistants.
- Webinars: For more information providers can join webinars, hosted every Tuesday and Thursday.

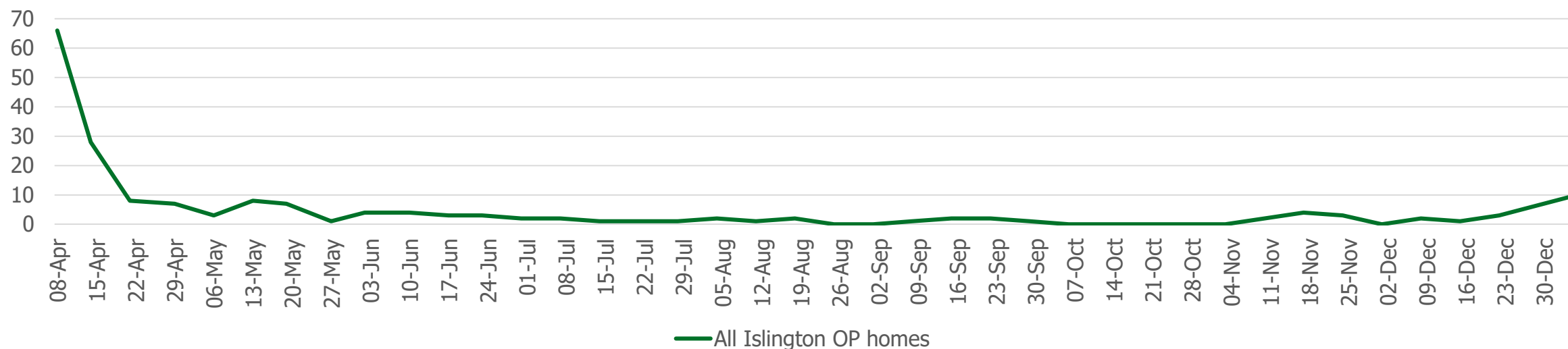
Feedback from providers:

- Providers progressively receiving testing kits and reporting an increase in staff testing.
- For providers yet to receive kits, officers have shared information on how symptomatic staff can access the test sites in Islington in addition how to access additional testing sites via NCL arrangements.



OP home sector level trends – resident cases reported over time

COVID-19 resident cases (confirmed and suspected) reported to commissioners across all OP homes – weekly Gold report

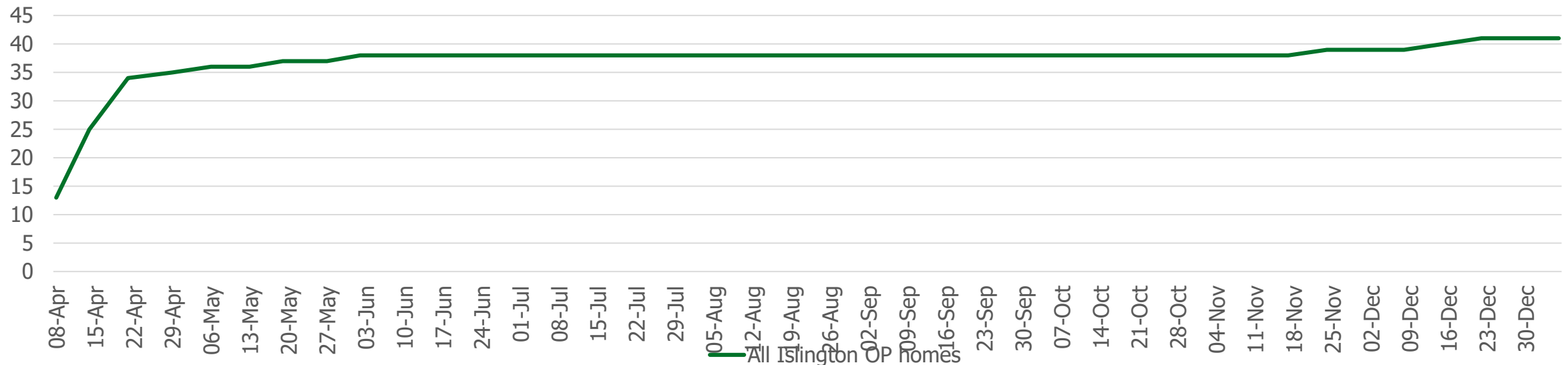


- All OP care homes have reported on the number of confirmed and suspected cases on a weekly basis to ASC commissioners since 8th April 2020. Prior to this, reporting was ad hoc, if there were cases suspected or confirmed. The above presents the total number of cases reported at weekly check ins, using the snapshot view to highlight trends. The above therefore may not accurately reflect day to day changes between value points.
- The data above includes confirmed and suspected cases – both symptomatic and asymptomatic. Changes reported week by week reflects that residents recovered, deteriorated and died, or testing clarified COVID status. It should be noted that limitations in the availability of testing and reliance on clinical judgement mean that this data, particularly earlier data, may not completely accurately reflect all COVID cases i.e. some suspected cases may not have been COVID-19 and some asymptomatic cases may not have been identified and there may variation in reporting.

There has been an increase in care home resident cases in late December 2020/January 2021 – this is likely linked to significantly increased rates of community transmission. The majority of current cases are in one home which is being supported by ASC and Public Health. The overall proportion of residents affected (c.3%) remains low.

OP home sector level trends – cumulative COVID-related resident deaths

Cumulative COVID resident deaths (confirmed and suspected) reported to commissioners all OP homes – Gold report



- All OP care homes have reported on the number of COVID-related resident deaths on a weekly basis to ASC commissioners since 8th April 2020. In the first report, commissioners asked providers to report on deaths that had occurred since 25 March 2020. The above presents the cumulative total COVID-19 deaths reported at weekly check ins, using the snapshot view to highlight trends. The above therefore may not accurately reflect day to day changes between value points.
- The data above includes both confirmed and suspected COVID-19 deaths. It should be noted that limitations in the availability of testing and reliance on clinical judgement mean that this data, particularly earlier data, may not completely accurately reflect all COVID deaths. Determining COVID's role in cause of death (e.g. where it was a secondary cause) is complex and there may be variation in reporting.

After a sharp increase in the number of confirmed and suspected COVID-related deaths early in the pandemic during wide scale outbreaks in some homes, the number of new COVID-related deaths has subsequently largely stabilised.



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Covid-19 Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Care Homes Update



Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Care Homes Overview



- There are **three learning disabilities care homes and five mental health care homes registered with the Care Quality Commission in Islington.**
- Over recent months there have been **small numbers of resident and staff cases identified via routine testing in these settings.** In all instances services have been supported by the local Public Health and Adult Social Care teams to ensure all appropriate steps are taken to reduce COVID risks.
- **There have been no COVID-related deaths in mental health or learning disabilities care homes in Islington.**
- **Staffing levels remain stable.**



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Covid-19 Care home vaccination update



- **Adult Social Care Commissioning is supporting local health partners and contributing to the rollout of the vaccination programme for priority groups (care home staff and residents, and health and social care staff) at pace.**
- **By 15th January 2021 residents in all older people's care homes and extra care housing will have been offered their first COVID vaccine.** Plans are being developed to expand this to wider accommodation-based settings.
- **Since early December 2020, the Council have been supporting care home staff to access vaccination via hospital hubs. In January 2021 the scope of this expanded to wider health and social care staff.**
- **Proactive and inclusive communications are being developed to promote uptake for all eligible social care staff.**
- **Officers will continue to support this work over the coming months.**



Care home colleagues have displayed excellent visible leadership on this front – from the manager at Bridgeside who [videoed](#) their experience to Lennox House staff who [videoed](#) theirs to encourage their peers to get the jab. There has also been great joint working across primary care, the CCG, acutes, and social care locally and across NCL.



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Thank You for listening

Any Questions?

