



ISLINGTON

Update to Health & Social Care Scrutiny

Adult Social Care: Covid-19 - Update

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Background – COVID vaccinations

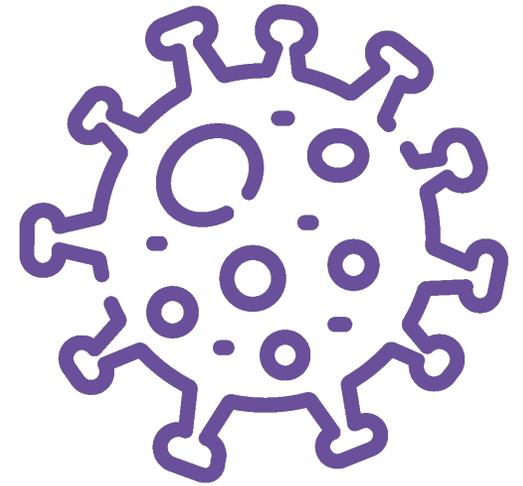
Since March 2020, **the COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of our lives and has had a disproportionately negative impact on staff and residents engaged in social care.**

The COVID-19 vaccination programme is a crucial national effort, alongside existing infection control measures, to protect people from the virus.

Since December 2020, the Council have taken a proactive role in promoting COVID vaccination uptake in the social care workforce – both in our own directly employed workforce, and for those employed by external providers in the local social care market.

In July 2021, the government passed legislation mandating that professionals entering CQC-registered care homes must be double vaccinated against COVID-19, unless medically exempt or entering in limited emergency circumstances. A wide range of professionals are now in scope of the new legislation, which comes into force in November 2021. For example, social workers, commissioning and contracts staff, occupational therapists, etc. in addition to those employed directly in care homes.

The majority of staff employed in care homes, as well as in the LBI ASC department are double vaccinated or will be by the time of the deadline.



Current COVID vaccination uptake – care homes overview

Type of homes	Total staff	Fully vaccinated	Partially vaccinated	Unvaccinated
Older People's	623	582 (94%)	20 (3%)	21 (3%)
Mental Health	63	52 (83%)	9 (14%)	2 (3%)
Learning Disabilities	75	61 (81%)	9 (12%)	5 (7%)
Total	761	695 (92%)	38 (5%)	28 (3%)

Islington is performing better in staff uptake rates (92%) than the national average (82.2%).

Type of homes	Total residents	Fully vaccinated	Partially vaccinated	Unvaccinated
Older People's	321	300 (93%)	1 (1%)	20 (6%)
Mental Health	69	53 (77%)	5 (7%)	11 (16%)
Learning Disabilities	17	15 (88%)	0 (0%)	2 (12%)
Total	407	368 (90%)	6 (2%)	33 (8%)

All Islington care home residents have been offered vaccinations on-site via in-reach teams.

Overall, there are high rates of full vaccination coverage with further increases expected. No providers expressed any business continuity concerns or concerns about impact on recruitment to date.

Islington approach to mandatory vaccinations



To prepare for implementation of mandatory vaccination, officers have taken a range of actions.

Work with affected external providers:

- **Commissioners have sought implementation plans and updated business continuity plans from providers to ensure compliance with the new requirements and that risks are mitigated.**
- **Commissioners are supporting development of plans by sharing best practice.**
- **Commissioners continue to promote the iWork and Proud to Care offer for recruitment.**

Work within the Council:

- **LBI employees in scope of new regulations have been contacted to advise of the new requirements with managers seeking evidence of vaccination and supporting unvaccinated staff to access vaccination.**
- **Dialogue and evidencing of vaccination status is ongoing for LBI staff.**
- **The approach to LBI staff has been developed in conjunction with Trade Unions and is in accordance with Legal advice.**

Recent work on implementation of mandatory vaccination builds on long-standing work undertaken within the department and with local providers to support vaccination uptake for social care staff

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.**
- There was an increase in care home resident cases in late December 2020/January 2021 – this was likely linked to significantly increased rates of community transmission. **Since February 2021 there have been very few cases – all of which have been asymptomatic.**
- **There have been no new deaths since the start of February.**
- **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.
- There has been **extensive proactive work across Adult Social Care and Public Health to support care homes** – including with provision of bespoke clinical and infection prevention and control support and advice.

Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Care Homes

- There are **three learning disabilities care homes and five mental health care homes registered with the Care Quality Commission in Islington.**
- **There have been no COVID-related deaths in mental health or learning disabilities care homes in Islington.**
- **Staffing levels remain stable.**

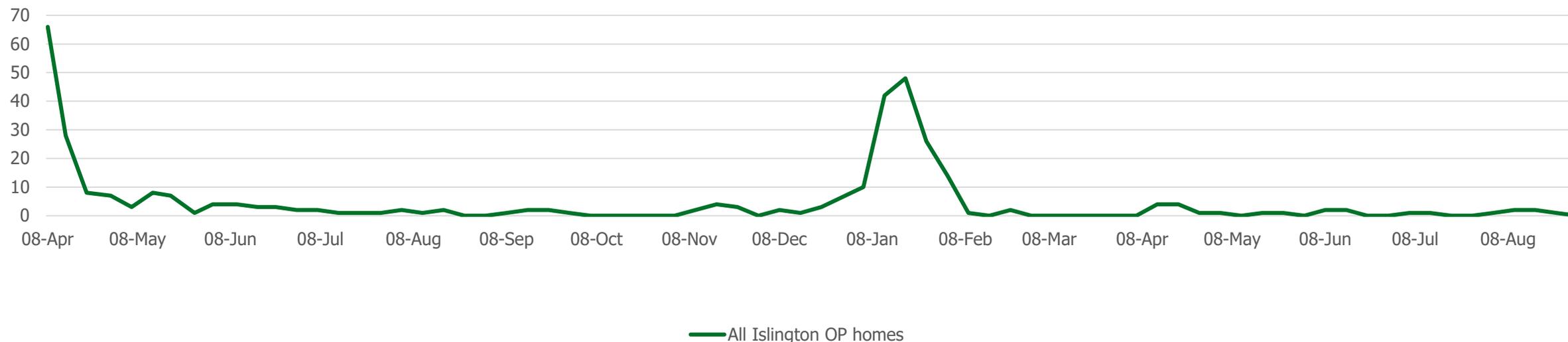
Domiciliary care

- **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.

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

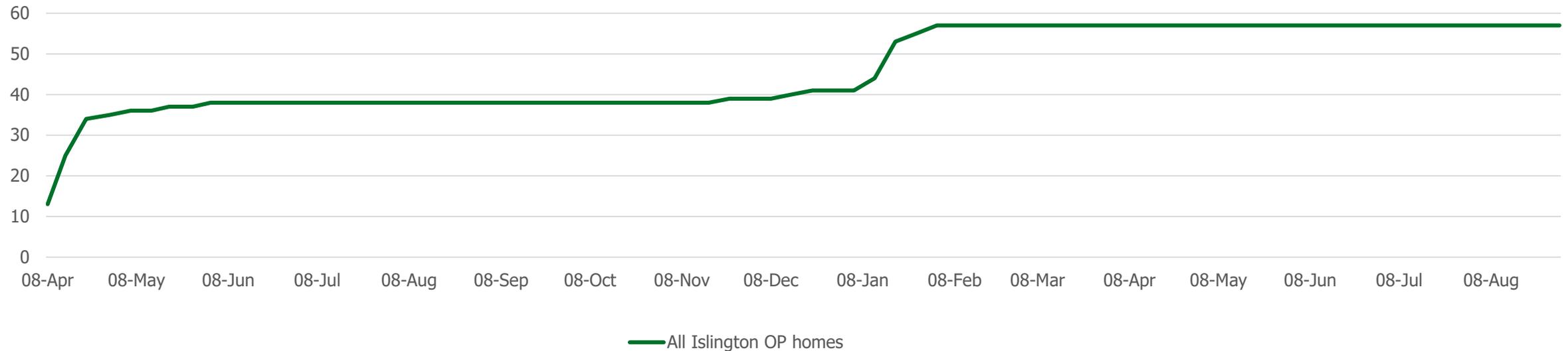


- All OP care homes have reported on the number of confirmed and suspected cases on a weekly basis to ASC commissioners since 8th April 2020. Prior to this, reporting was ad hoc, if there were cases suspected or confirmed. The above presents the total number of cases reported at weekly check ins, using 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 was an increase in care home resident cases in late December 2020/January 2021 – this was likely linked to significantly increased rates of community transmission. Since February 2021 there have been very few cases – all of which have been asymptomatic. There are currently no resident cases.

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 period of relative stability from April to November there was sadly an increase in the number of COVID-related resident deaths throughout December 2020 and January 2021, primarily linked to two large outbreaks. There have been no new deaths since the start of February.