

DATA LABEL: Public

**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE****ENHANCED COLLABORATIVE CLINICAL AND CARE SUPPORT FOR CARE HOMES****REPORT BY HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY / CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER****A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To confirm the expiry of powers to intervene in care provisions, as set out by the Coronavirus (Extension and Expiry) (Scotland) Act 2021.

To update the Council Executive on revised arrangements for Enhanced Collaborative Clinical and Care Support for Care Homes.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council Executive:

1. Notes the work of the Collaborative Care Home Support Team for West Lothian.
2. Notes that officers continue to work in partnership with all care providers providing support and seeking assurance regarding care quality.
3. Agrees that reporting to Council Executive on the work of the Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group will now cease.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended, National Care Home Contract.
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	<p>The performance of external care services is reported to the council on an annual basis.</p> <p>Care Home ratings are linked to penalty and enhancement payments under the terms of the National Care Home Contract.</p>

<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	There is no existing council budget available to meet potential costs associated with the Act. The expectation at this stage would be that any costs incurred would be funded by the Scottish Government through Local Mobilisation Plans.
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	Not Applicable.
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	None to date.

## **D.1 TERMS OF REPORT**

### **Background**

The Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group was implemented in West Lothian as determined by the Scottish Government on 18 May 2020.

On 6 September 2022, the Chief Social Work Officer provided an update report to the Council Executive on the implementation of powers to intervene in care provisions, as set out by the Coronavirus (Extension and Expiry) (Scotland) Act 2021. An update was also provided on work of the Care Homes Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group.

The Scottish Government confirmed revised arrangements for enhanced support to adult and older people's care homes on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

## **D.2 Coronavirus (Expiry) Scotland Act 2021 – New Arrangements**

The Coronavirus (Expiry) Scotland Act 2021 expired on 30 September 2022. The majority of the devolved temporary provisions in the UK Act expired on 24 March 2022, and the five provisions which Scottish Statutory Instruments extended to 24 September 2022 have now expired.

The Advice Note from the Scottish Government for New Arrangements for Enhanced Collaborative Clinical and Care Support for Care Homes is not mandatory, and it is not intended to supersede existing arrangements but to provide guiding principles and a framework for collaborative improvement.

## **D.3 Enhanced Collaborative Clinical and Care Support for Care Homes**

The revised arrangements recommend that assurance and support continue focusing on adult and older people's care homes. Many of the challenges facing the care home sector that were apparent during the pandemic remain and have been exacerbated by the recent cost of living crisis, staff shortages and wider pressure in the health and social care sector.

The Collaborative Care Home Support Group will continue to build on existing good practices, collaborative improvement and assurance, including wider considerations around the pressures of financial viability/sustainability. It is expected the removal of oversight from the remit of the group will avoid confusion with the statutory duties of the

## Care Inspectorate.

Arrangements will continue to focus on clinical and care support, with leadership from Health and the Chief Social Work Officer in full partnership with providers and care home staff. Public Health will continue to play a role in outbreak support to care homes, and the social policy contracts and commissioning team will support the understanding of pressures, developments and opportunities across the system.

The new arrangements provide guidance to assist in monitoring capacity and to support the provision of assurance to Scottish Ministers.

The Collaborative Care Home Support Group continue to meet twice weekly to consider and evaluate information relating to the Covid-19 status and any other issues highlighted by older people and adult care homes in West Lothian. This is supplemented by twice weekly direct contact with care homes and daily oversight of information available through the TURAS system. Bed availability and occupancy were recently added to the KPI report on TURAS to assist the National Response Group in understanding occupancy and resilience.

Health and Social Care Teams work collaboratively to ensure care homes are provided with appropriate support to maintain the health and well-being of residents.

There is a range of resources available to care homes in West Lothian, including access to education and training, specialist wound care advice and vaccinations. Care Home residents are a key priority group for the upcoming Spring booster and were prioritised by the West Lothian vaccination team to receive their Winter influenza and Covid-19 booster in a timely manner, with all residents who were eligible being offered their vaccine within the first three weeks of the programme. In addition to Winter and Covid-19 vaccines the vaccination team has been working with care homes to ensure uptake of other vaccines such as shingles and pneumococcal vaccines.

This Winter has seen an increase in respiratory viruses other than Covid-19, such as influenza. Care Homes continue to receive specialist outbreak advice from Health Protection Teams. Work was undertaken locally to ensure appropriate testing was carried out in Care homes to ensure the identification of cases of influenza and other respiratory viruses as well as Covid-19 so that appropriate advice and support could be offered to keep residents safe and well within their Care Homes. The impact of Winter viruses on residents has been minimal, and Care Homes have experienced limited numbers of outbreaks. Outbreaks have tended to affect fewer residents and have been more easily contained.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

Over the next reporting period, collaborative arrangements will continue to reflect Scottish Government recommendations. Work will commence on the development of a Collaborative Improvement Model to provide a framework to support local approaches aligned to existing work to ensure they reflect current practice, are sustainable, and ultimately continue adding value for people supported by adult social care. There has been considerable learning and examples of partnership working during this time.

The number of Care Homes experiencing a Covid-19 outbreak has reduced over the reporting period, as has the impact of Covid-19 on residents. Health Protection Teams across Lothian continue to work with Care Homes to offer advice and support if symptomatic residents are presenting in a care home setting. The care home team continues to work with local vaccination teams to ensure all care home residents are offered timely vaccinations.

It is proposed that reporting to Council Executive on the work of the Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group will now cease. This aligns with the ending of associated legislation and increasingly stable position across care home provision. Any emerging issues or risk will continue to be closely monitored and reported via the associated governance structures.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Coronavirus Acts: fifteenth and final report to Scottish Parliament (October 2022)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-acts-fifteenth-final-report-scottish-parliament/pages/6>

<b>Appendices</b>	None
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Robin Allen, Senior Manager, Older People Services 01506 281851
	Jo MacPherson Head of Social Policy/ Chief Social Work Officer
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