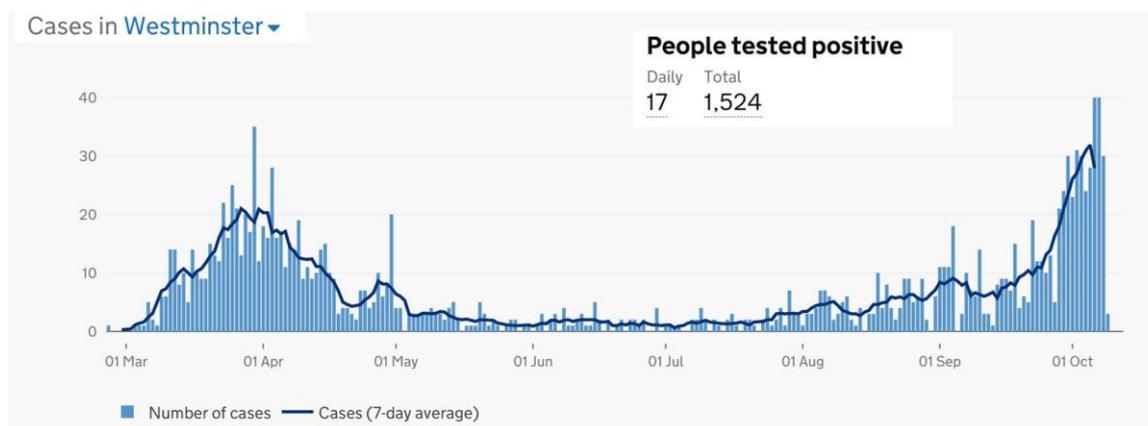


Adult Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Member – Policy & Scrutiny Update

Title:	Cabinet Member Update for Policy and Scrutiny
Division:	Adult Social Care and Public Health
Briefing Date:	20 October 2020

1. COVID-19 Update – Adult Social Care & Health

- 1.1 1,524 Westminster residents have tested positive for Covid-19 as of 12 October 2020^[1]. The accumulative rate of infection is lower in the City of Westminster than the regional and national average.



- 1.2 In line with the national and regional trend, the rate of infections has seen an increase in recent weeks.
- 1.3 Local Outbreak Management Plans continue to be implemented to reduce the spread of the virus and ensure the most efficient use of local Mobile Testing Units and Local Testing Sites.
- 1.4 Public Health and Communications colleagues continue to work closely in delivering the council's Coronavirus communications strategy which aims to provide clear, prompt, and easy to understand information to residents, staff, volunteers and business owners, so they can stay safe, access any support they might need, and help each other. Colleagues have been working quickly to ensure that the latest Coronavirus advice and guidance is explained clearly, and in languages spoken by our communities. Colleagues have been working with local businesses, community groups and the interfaith forum, as well as providing information across council channels. This ranges from the latest advice and

^[1] Public Health England. Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK. Accessed 12th October 2020.

information, to where and when testing is available and the latest case rates within our borough.

- 1.5 National research to date, including that published by Public Health England, has confirmed that Covid-19 has disproportionately impacted certain people and communities, and has exacerbated existing inequalities. Local data and intelligence suggests that this pattern is being reflected in Kensington and Chelsea. Specifically:
 - A higher proportion of deaths from Covid-19 are among people from a BAME background compared to non Covid-19 deaths.
 - Deaths are higher in more deprived areas with the pattern mirrored, not exacerbated, by Covid-19. Those from a BAME background are more likely to be at risk due to higher prevalence of diabetes, hypertension and obesity.
- 1.6 In relation to co-existing conditions, of those residents who have died from Covid-19 and had their death registered in WCC, 89% had an underlying health condition. Our One You and Change4Life services are addressing these risk factors however we are reviewing how services can reach out to BAME groups and others that have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19.

2. **Community Champions**

- 2.1 The Community Champions delivery approach has been adapted to continue to reach and support vulnerable residents in each project area during the pandemic, with many activities provided online. Many residents have been supported through Champions' contributions to food distribution networks across the borough, helping to alleviate food poverty created or exacerbated by the Covid pandemic. Phone line, WhatsApp, and socially-distanced face to face doorstep support has also been provided.
- 2.2 Champions have been successful in reaching a diverse range of community groups that council services often find more difficult to engage, and have helped to find ways of mitigating the disproportionate impacts of Covid on BAME communities in particular. Projects have become actively involved in supporting or leading local partnership responses with other voluntary and community sector, council and NHS services. Champions have continued in their role as a conduit for residents' concerns and worries; providing information in accessible ways from reliable sources and helping to dispel myths and fake news. They are valuable sources of reliable community intelligence for the council and CCG on the many challenges Covid19 has presented.

3. **Flu update**

- 3.1 There is a high emphasis being placed on the national flu vaccination campaign this year in order to minimise the risk of both flu and Covid19 co-circulating in communities with the consequent risk to individuals and the health care system.
- 3.2 The national NHS England ambition is to have 100% of health and social care workers and 75% of all eligible groups vaccinated by December 2020.

- 3.3 Public Health teams are working with BAME networks, community champions and community engagement leads to ensure that the flu vaccine is promoted effectively to all communities, and that there is an opportunity for communities to raise questions and have them answered.
- 3.4 There have been challenges with vaccine supply which are being resolved, and all partners are working closely together to monitor and support uptake amongst the most vulnerable groups.

4. Beachcroft House

- 4.1 All residents completed their moves into the new Beachcroft House earlier than planned, and were moved-in safely and comfortably by 29 September. The timeline was brought forward partly to minimise any risks associated with the increasing infection rates across the borough, but also because our residents and their families were excited about the move to new accommodation. Feedback from residents has been very positive.
- 4.2 Prior to the transfer to the new site, the Westmead and Carlton Dene homes were closed to new admissions meaning that there are around 12 vacancies to fill at Beachcroft. We will work with the provider to fill these places from the end of this month once everyone is settled in to new accommodation. This will, of course, be done strictly in line with infection control protocols. For information – there are 84 beds at Beachcroft in total.
- 4.3 Residents at Beachcroft will also be trialling some of our new technology in the community spaces as part of our Smart City ambitions. This includes exercise bikes that are linked to virtual routes on a television screen, and competitive leagues for those who like to put the miles in. We are also trialling a Scandinavian innovation called Toval Tables or “magic tables” - mobile machines that project animated, interactive games onto a table surface that residents can play for leisure and fun. These have been tested in other homes to date and proved popular with residents, so we are pleased to be able to test them further in Beachcroft.
- 4.4 As with other residential settings, visits from family and friends in the building are not possible due to current safety restrictions. However as soon as it is safe to do so, family visits will recommence, and a full opening ceremony will be held.

5. Development of Carlton Dene and Westmead

- 5.1 Following the opening of Beachcroft House, the sites for Carlton Dene and Westmead are due to be redeveloped.
- 5.2 Carlton Dene is due to include a 65-bed extra care housing scheme for older people, as well as an increased number of affordable housing. The second phase of public consultation was open between 28 September and 18 October.
- 5.3 The online consultation sessions that took place on 1 October and 7 October can be viewed on the consultation website: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/carlton-dene>
- 5.4 The Westmead site is also scheduled for redevelopment as part of the housing development programme.

5.5 The consultation phase for the new Westmead proposals has closed and we are currently reviewing feedback before submitting a planning application.

6. Support to Care Homes

6.1 We continue to provide daily support calls to care homes, as well as supported accommodation schemes and homecare organisations working in the City. Our support and advice includes the following areas:

- Access to, and use of, Personal Protective Equipment. The government is now making PPE available for free to most providers of social care via a national online portal. We are supporting organisations to access this and continue working with other Boroughs to ensure we have sufficient stock and supply for urgent situations.
- We are following up on a recent announcement by the Minister for Social Care, Helen Whatley MP, that there will be a pilot scheme for treating family members of care home residents as staff. The proposal is that they will become part of the testing regime and trained in the use of PPE, so that they can visit their loved ones within the home.
- We have helped care homes and other care providers to move across from our local testing regime (which was through local primary care) onto the national testing portal. The portal is now in a more stable position and both the logistics and results are being returned in a timely way. Staff continue to be tested weekly, with residents tested every four weeks. If there are any positive results, all staff and residents are tested immediately and then re-tested within seven days.
- There has been a small number of positive results for staff in recent weeks. Fortunately there have been no positive amongst residents during this time, and providers are doing all they can to maintain strict infection control measures, using the national Infection Control Fund distributed by Council staff, to ensure that staff can work with discrete groups wherever possible to minimise risks.

7. Winter Planning

7.1 On 18 September 2020 the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a National Social Care Plan for Winter 2020-21, focusing on managing the 'second wave' of the coronavirus pandemic. Although local health systems are already required to produce winter plans each year, this is the first time the Government has produced a national plan outlining actions that local authorities, NHS organisations and social care providers must take ahead of the winter.

7.2 Winter presents numerous challenges to the health and care system through increased demand on front line services. Covid 19 will be also be circulating, alongside seasonal flu and other viruses, and transmission is predicted to increase over the winter period. These pressures will create risks to the health and wellbeing of both people who need care and support and the health and social care workforce.

7.3 The Bi Borough and West London and Central London CCG are working together to develop a winter plan, along with other system partners to support the management of flow through local acute settings.

7.4 The winter programme has two broad priorities in supporting the local health and Care system:

- manage demand pressures on the NHS with reference to seasonal winter pressures e.g. reduce admission to acute settings by supporting people to receive their care closer to home or in community settings
- support timely and safe discharges from hospital, with the appropriate support in place, to help promote people's independence and choice.