

COVID-19 ASC Infection Control Fund Return > Implementation Status

Local Authority Somerset County Council
Last Updated by Strategic Manager, Q&P - 29 May 2020

Please complete all fields in yellow and marked with an asterisk (*) before submitting

Key COVID-19 Support Actions for Care Home	Number of Care Homes	Would additional support be helpful to progress implementation further <i>If yes, please offer a brief description of the type of support that would be helpful</i>		Please indicate any issues that you would like to highlight (optional)
Focus 1: Infection prevention and control measures				
1.1) Ability to quarantine/isolate/cohort when needed	180/220	No	* N/A	* Homes already had established infection control procedures for flu and Norovirus which they adapted. The majority of our Care Homes have separate living space with en-suite facilities making isolation easier. We did not place in homes that did not have this as standard.
1.2) Actions to restrict staff movement between care homes	173/220	No	* N/A	*
1.3) Paying staff full wages while isolating following a positive test	68/220	No	* N/A	* Please note that the majority of Somerset providers responded 'No' as they have not had staff absence due to positive covid tests
Focus 2: Testing				
2.1) Registration on the government's testing portal	135/220	No	* N/A	* There have been a variety of challenges for providers in accessing the digital portal which have been escalated.
2.2) Access to testing for all asymptomatic residents and staff	70/220	Yes	* Widening testing availability and frequency to ensure care settings are seen as safe spaces and remain COVID-free Unlocking testing capacity to enable regular visitors / relatives to spend time within the care setting	* Local care providers are querying what arrangements will be provided into the future for repeat 'whole home' testing; There are also concerns re contact tracing and isolation periods impacting on staffing capacity.

2.3) Testing of all residents discharged from hospital to care homes	151/220	No	*	N/A	*	This was not available as standard practice at the outset in March but has been since and is rigidly adhered to.
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Focus 3: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Clinical Equipment

3.1) Access to sufficient PPE to meet needs	194/220	No	*	N/A	*	The government systems (both via Clipper service and via Local Resilience Forum “drops”) were unworkable/inadequate. The Local Authority stepped in to provide 70% of the PPE needs for our care homes. To date, the LA has supplemented PPE provision to all local care provider settings with regular deliveries and a significant investment by the LA. The financial sustainability of this arrangement is being reviewed.
3.2) Access to clinical equipment needed for COVID-19	171/220	No	*	N/A	*	

Focus 4: Workforce Support

4.1) Access to training in the use of PPE from clinical or PH staff	187/220	No	*	N/A	*	Our Local IPC Nursing Team have provided guidance and support in use of PPE
4.2) Access to training on the use of key medical equipment needed for COVID-19	159/220	No	*	N/A	*	Bespoke training offered on case by case basis for complex medical equipment where required
4.3) Access to additional capacity including from locally coordinated returning healthcare professionals or volunteers	93/220	No	*	N/A	*	Minimal requests for staffing support received from Somerset providers; temporary staffing arrangements available if required but havent been needed due to good care home contingency plans

Focus 5: Clinical Support

5.1) Named Clinical Lead in place for support and guidance	127/220	No	*	N/A	*	Some lack of clarity re 'clinical lead' as a new term amongst some providers, as opposed to lack of confidence in accessing support and guidance. Establishment of End of Life pre-emptive support and Consultant Connect line for access to acute consultants on call - needs capacity to continue.
5.2) Access to mutual aid offer (primary and community health support)	185/220	No	*	N/A	*	This was coordinated early on by the LA with joint teams with community health. Primary Care Networks also now have structured support networks in place.

ASC Survey Response Chart

Criteria

STP

LRF

Local Authority

Date

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Responses by Question

Yes No No response

