

Social Care's experience of the 3rd Wave of COVID and impacts for recovery

Appendix 1

**Barking &
Dagenham**

one borough; one community; no one left behind

Impact on providers

- All of our older adult homes have had an outbreak of COVID in the second wave
- Burden of increased testing for staff and residents
- Some homecare providers unable to take COVID positive cases
- Infection Control Funding given out to all providers who work with adults to support safe practices for staff and recipients of care
- Designated settings have helped protect the care homes from positive discharges
- Impacts on other programmes such as the Home First pilot

Strengths of the system

- Support of system during outbreaks where response was coordinated across primary care, NELFT, BHR CCG, GP federations and the Local Authority
- Vaccine roll out has shown the strengths of the system. 83% of our care home residents are vaccinated
- Decision making structure was clear and allowed for decisions to be escalated as needed
- All three council commissioning, social care and brokerage teams along with the CCG worked to put in place an effective and fair discharge system

Actions taken

- Local Authority now places all discharges from hospital to mitigate financial impacts further down the line
- Supported 6 day working and discharges from the hospital
- Working on assessing backlog discharges from the first wave
- Designated settings for positive discharges to care homes has protected our care home market. LBBD has relied on mutual aid from LBH and LBR
- Implemented national discharge guidance

Areas for Improvement

- Difficulty recruiting to a NELFT IPC team left providers short of expert support
- Initial incident management teams didn't have representation across the system
- Difference in organisational approaches sometimes resulted in mixed communications
- Pressures across the respective partners in the system can lead to introspective actions that don't support the wider system

Impacts on recovery

- The second wave has delayed the recovery from the first wave of the pandemic
- Long-term impact on providers as yet unseen – staff wellbeing, recruitment issues to the sector, voids, rates, market sustainability
- After care needs impacting upon services and placements – younger and higher needs e.g. more double handed care
- Confidence building and support to overcome impact of isolation and staying at home