



Department
of Health &
Social Care

David Pearson CBE
Head of the Social
Care Taskforce,
C/o Department of
Health and Social
Care,
39 Victoria Street,
London,
SW1H 0EU

To:

James Bullion, ADASS
Simon Williams, LGA
Rosie Seymour, BCST
Dennis Holmes, NHS
Jeanelle De Gruchy ADPH
Kate Terroni, CQC
Lisa Lenton, CPA

Cc:

Stuart Miller, DHSC
Jane Cummings, DHSC
Martin Samuels, DASS, Leicester City

29 July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Managing Community Outbreaks: Actions for Social Care

As you know we are learning nationally and locally about the best response and management of situations where there are higher rates of transmission in communities. This includes what the appropriate response is in social care services.

We are undertaking some work with Test and Trace and the Contain programme nationally to align advice. In view of this we have suggested that there is a simulation exercise and that we invite colleagues to take part in this.

In the meantime, from the work undertaken in Leicester the following advice about actions has been formulated. All the measures below were taken in Leicester to good effect. I am very grateful to Martin Samuels whose actions have led to the formulation of this advice. I am writing to you with two thoughts in mind. Firstly, that it would be helpful if you could make this available to your Members/Teams and secondly to seek your input to its continuing development.

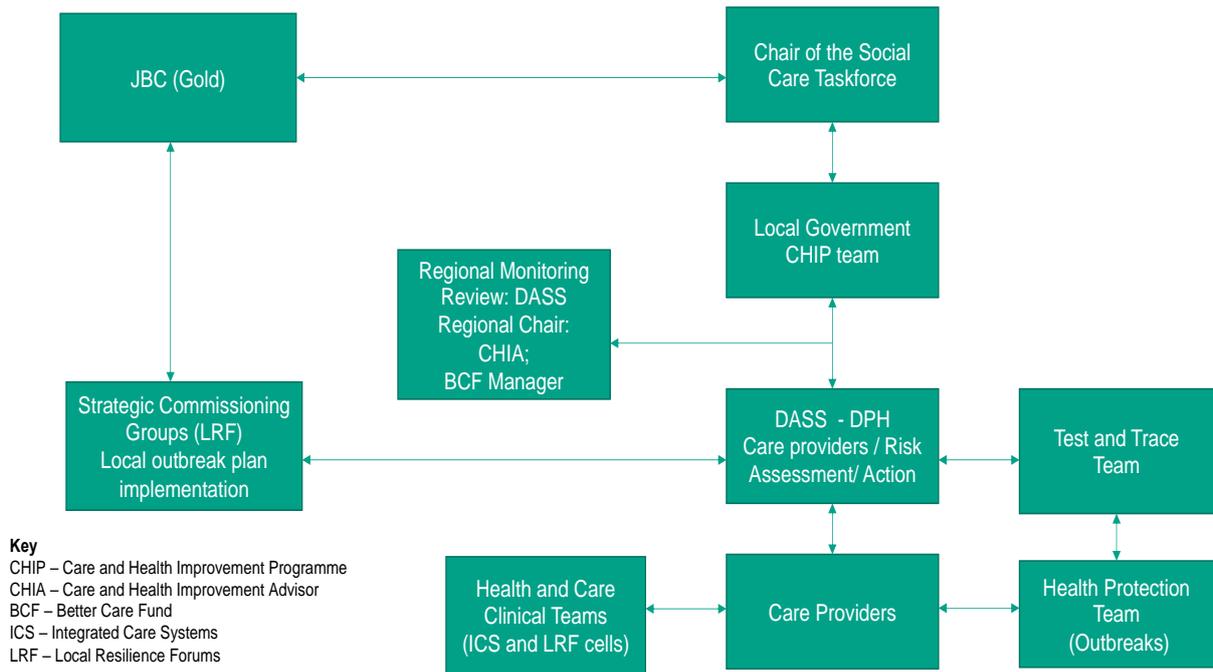
It is recognised that there is further learning to take place nationally and locally and, to join up information on testing and we are working with colleagues responsible for testing and information

I suggest that these actions are triggered when the Joint Biosecurity Centre Local Action Committee (Gold) chaired by the Secretary of State determines that an area needs support. In practice these decisions are taken in concert with local areas. DASS's may already be aware of an escalating concern and determine locally that some of these actions need to be taken.

The diagram below outlines the organisations involved in managing community outbreaks and social care. This diagram will develop further as local Contain teams are now being deployed. As you know this supports the agreed arrangement involving your teams. At the same time, they will be able to feedback about national support or actions required.

- **DASS:** Inform all care providers of the heightened risk from increased community transmission
- **DASS:** Advise of the need to follow the guidance on Infection, Prevention and Control and social distancing, including between staff in communal areas providing links to the relevant guidance
- **DASS /DPH /CCG /CQC:** Review quantitative and qualitative data on risk and the areas of highest transmission i.e. those that have experienced one or more outbreaks and/or have not recovered. Including infection levels, deaths (COVID and other causes) and other quality concerns
- **DASS:** Ensure frequent/regular calls to care homes on questions of infection control, risk assessments, outbreaks, staffing (isolating, sickness and capacity, PPE supply, test results)
- **CCG/DASS:** Assure clinical lead arrangements in Primary Care support for care homes and residents
- **DASS/DPH:** Consider reprioritising testing to high priority areas and review visiting policies
- **DASS/Providers:** Reviewing high risk factors, e.g. reducing staff movement (including reviewing other employment); paying full pay for sickness absence; social distancing outside work
- **DASS/CCG/CQC:** Risk summits, audit and review of higher risk settings

Managing Community Outbreaks and Social Care 1



Key
 CHIP – Care and Health Improvement Programme
 CHIA – Care and Health Improvement Advisor
 BCF – Better Care Fund
 ICS – Integrated Care Systems
 LRF – Local Resilience Forums

Yours sincerely,

David Pearson

David Pearson
 Chair of Social Care Sector COVID -19 Support Taskforce
 David.Pearson@dhsc.gov.uk