



Hampshire  
County Council

# Care Home update

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July 2020

# Context - timeline

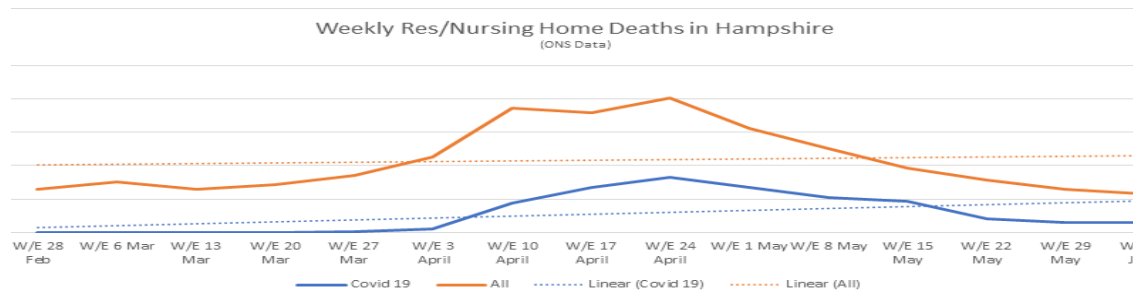
- Preparations in response to Covid-19 commenced in late February 2020
- WHO declared a pandemic on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Department of Health and Social Care initiated NHS surge planning on 17<sup>th</sup> March
- HIOW Local Resilience Forum declared a major incident on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Government passed Coronavirus Act 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Department of Health and Social Care published the Social Care support plan on 16<sup>th</sup> April, with four key elements;
  - Prevent the Spread of Infection
  - Supporting the workforce
  - Supporting independence
  - Supporting Local Authorities and providers of care

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# Progress of Covid-19 within Hampshire's care homes

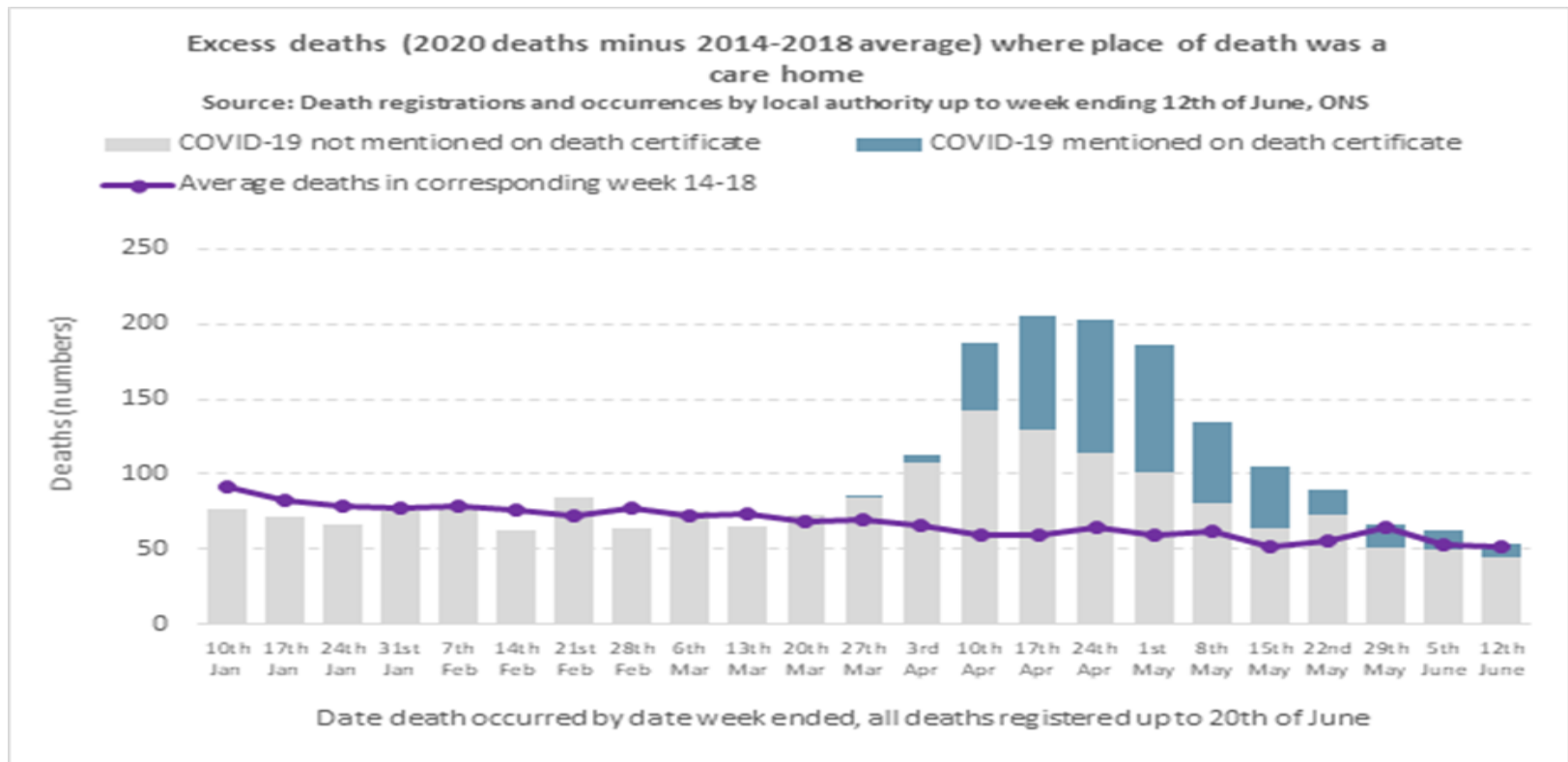
- Between 28/2/2020 and 12/6/2020 there have been 1,672 deaths in all care home settings in Hampshire
- 449 deaths (27%) have Covid-19 identified as the cause of death
- As at 15/6/2020 41% of care homes (203) have had a Covid-19 or suspected Covid-19 outbreak

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# Excess deaths in care homes

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# Immediate actions undertaken in response to Covid-19

- Domiciliary care providers moved quickly to instigate Covid-19 safe practices, some people declined support – arrangements put in place to check welfare regularly, providers given 5% uplift on commissioned care values by HCC, paid in advance, without additional requirements from 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- Care home providers moved quickly to restrict / stop visitors, measures in place for IP&C and maintained links with families, moved to cohorting / locking down facilities, HCC increased commissioned care values by 10%, paid in advance from 1<sup>st</sup> April without additional requirements
- HCC and NHS partners established regularised arrangements in support of care sector; monitoring of outbreaks, provision of specialist support and advice, access to emergency PPE.

# Key challenges during response to Covid-19

- Speed of pandemic transmission and outbreak – characteristics of the pandemic; asymptomatic, new / novel disease, impacts of infection, transmission profile
- Availability of supply chains for PPE, type of PPE to be used, changes in PPE guidance
- Availability of testing / whole sector testing regime for residents and staff
- Lockdown and closures of communities
- Concerns for safety of key-workers; Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff

# Sector experiences of Covid-19 response

- Significant impacts upon the sector (residents, families and staff), with particular regard to emotional and psychological welfare
- Challenges to maintain safe staffing levels; advice around self-isolation / quarantining of staff, initially without routine testing being available – many providers saw 25%+ staff absence
- Challenges in securing PPE through usual supply chains and increased costs where they could – up to 20-fold increase in price
- Increase in overall costs – HCA survey identifies 18% increase
- Maintaining occupancy and income – significant reduction in occupancy, high numbers of void beds, increased costs in managing / reducing risks of transmission
- Need to underline the quality and actions of the sector – great testimony to staff and providers in supporting residents and families through most challenging time imaginable

# Care home Infection Prevention and Control measures

- Govt. announced national fund of £600m for Infection Prevention and Control and need to have a comprehensive range of measures in place in mid-May 2020
- Collaborative arrangements confirmed with NHS / CCG partners, Hampshire Care Association and supported by HealthWatch Hampshire and local CQC
- Care home support plan developed, confirmed and published by 29<sup>th</sup> May;
  - Payments made for IPC to every care home (total £7.8m)
  - Every care home has NHS clinical lead and Primary Care practice identified
  - IPC training and support offered to every care home provider
  - Every provider submitting regular detail information on measures in place

# Next steps...

- Audit of financial support and infection prevention and control measures undertaken – 26<sup>th</sup> June
- All financial support within permissible spend arrangements
- Mechanisms to allocate and make payments for 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche underway
- Learning lessons; work underway to identify best practice and areas for improvement from first wave of Covid-19 response
- Services are both simultaneously preparing to restore and recover and also plan for a second wave