

Responses to June 2020 Governing Body questions

Questions received via email from Mr Keith Millar:

Q: European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment principal 5 identifies that close personal contact encourages the spread of Covid-19 concerted efforts should be made to reduce the placement of people into care homes. Can Cheshire CCG provide the number of people rapidly discharged from hospital into a care home between the 17th March and the 15th April following NHS England directive? Prior to the new guidance published on the 15th April, the Department confirmed a new policy of testing all those being discharged from hospitals into care homes, which was followed by instructions to that effect from NHSE&I on 16th April.

A: A total of 235 people were discharged into a care home from Cheshire hospitals between March 17th and April 15th 2020 i.e. from the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and East Cheshire NHS Trust.

Of those 235 people, 77 were classed as rapid discharges – defining rapid as 24 hours.

On March 26th 2020 all system partners – via the Strategic Care Home group – agreed to commence testing of all patients prior to discharge into a care home.

This was in addition to the national guidance at the time, which related to social isolation. The strategic group felt that testing all patients prior to discharge from a hospital setting would help reduce the risk of infection.

Q: Between the 17th March and the 15th April can Cheshire CCG provide details of the number of people who were discharged into a care home

A) Without a test for covid19 being undertaken?

B) Pending results of a covid19 test?

C) With a negative test result?

D) With a positive test result?

A: 159 people were discharged from Cheshire hospitals into a care home between March 17th and April 15th 2020 without a test for Covid-19 being undertaken. As per Public Health England guidance at the time, to protect staff and other residents all people discharged into a care home were required to complete 14 days of social isolation.

Three people were discharged from Cheshire hospitals into a care home between March 17th and April 15th 2020 pending the results of a Covid-19 test. All were asymptomatic.

61 people were discharged from Cheshire hospitals into a care home between March 17th and April 15th 2020 with a negative Covid-19 test result.

12 people were discharged from Cheshire hospitals into a care home between March 17th and April 15th 2020 following a positive Covid-19 test result. All were discharged with the agreement of the care homes involved, with many close to 14 days post-swab.

Q: A report published by the Care Quality Commission on the 26th February 2020 identifies that commissioners and providers of services should have a Human Rights Act policy which should be reviewed annually at board level for compliance. I have previously raised this concern to West Cheshire CCG who produced a draft Human Rights Act policy but the merger of the 4 Cheshire CCGs into Cheshire CCG has delayed this process. Can the board of Cheshire CCG please confirm when they will produce and publish a Human Rights Act policy as the commissioner of services for Cheshire and identify when this will be annually reviewed at board level for compliance?

A: The report of the Quality and Safeguarding Committee / Quality and Safeguarding Update of the June 2020 Governing Body papers asked the Board to approve a proposed Human Rights Policy. As per the content of the paper, under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Clinical Commissioning Group is required to have a [Human Rights Policy](#).

Implementation of the policy will ensure that all employees, patient and public groups are protected by human rights legislation in line with our obligations under the Act. The policy sets out the human rights protected by law, together with our responsibilities to secure them. It describes the role of healthcare commissioning in protecting and fostering human rights, and defines procedures for reporting safeguarding concerns.

The next proposed review date is February 2022.