



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

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David Pearson CBE

17 June 2020

Dear David,

Chair of the Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce

I am delighted that you have taken up the role of Chair of the Taskforce and wanted to write to you setting out the accountabilities and timescales for this vital piece of work.

While statutory responsibility for care sits with local authorities, the Government's approach is to do everything we can to support them in making sure all those who need care, get it – and to support the care providers themselves to protect those in their care from Covid-19. We also want to see the social care workforce supported and protected from the risks of Covid-19 during this pandemic.

As you know from your involvement to date, the Social Care Action Plan and the Care Home Support Plan set out policies to support the social care sector in its response to Covid-19, and the implementation of both is in progress. The challenge from here on is to make sure implementation is comprehensive and successful across the country, and in parallel to establish the approach and support needed for Social Care in the months ahead when we anticipate a level of Covid-19 in communities coupled with the arrival of winter.

The remit of the taskforce is to oversee:

- The delivery of the Care Homes Support Package, with a view to ensuring that this is delivered to – and implemented by - every care home in every local authority in England;
- The delivery of the remaining actions from the Social Care Action Plan, published on 15 April.

We would also like the Taskforce to set out clear advice on what needs to be in place across all parts of the care sector in England to respond to COVID-19 over the coming months, and ahead of winter. We anticipate that this work will be completed by the end of August, with some actions being completed sooner.

Beyond that, we will want the Taskforce to maintain strong arrangements to keep under review any new national and international evidence on the impact of COVID-19 and advise on its application to the English social care system.

As Chair of the Taskforce you will formally report into the Minister of State for Care. The Minister's office will shortly be in touch to arrange regular delivery accountability meetings with you. It will also be important to establish a formal reporting system as part of these meetings as soon as possible so that we can maintain oversight of the Taskforce's progress.

As discussed, I enclose a copy of the agreed terms of reference and membership.

I want to thank you again for taking up this role and look forward to working together at this critical time.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

MATT HANCOCK

Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce - Terms of Reference

The Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce will ensure the delivery of two packages of support that the Government has put in place for the care sector, the Social Care Action Plan and the Care Home Support Package. This will ensure that concerted and determined action is taken to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the sector, both for those who rely on care and support and the social care workforce. It will support the national campaign to end transmission in the community. This taskforce will also consider the impact of COVID-19 on the care sector over the next year and advise on a plan to support it through this period. It will seek to enable people to live as safely as possible whilst maintaining contacts and activity that enhance the health and wellbeing of service users and their family carers.

Proposed Membership

- David Pearson (Chair)
- Chris Wormald (DHSC)
- Jeremy Pocklington (MHCLG)
- Jenny Harries (DCMO)
- Dr Nikita Kanani (Deputy CMO, NHS England/Improvement)
- Kate Terroni (CQC)
- Duncan Selbie (PHE)
- Simon Ridley (CO)
- Sarah Pickup (Deputy Chief Executive, LGA)
- Representation from the Care Providers Alliance
- James Bullion (President, ADASS)
- Christine McAnea (Unison).
- Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy (President Of the Association of Directors of Public Health, ADPH)
- Imelda Redmond (National Director, Healthwatch England)
- Representative with lived experience of care services
- Carers UK

Invitees (executives)

- Rosamond Roughton (DHSC)
- Catherine Frances (MHCLG)
- Ian Dodge (NHS England)
- Eamonn O'Moore (PHE)

Management Information

Roles and responsibilities

- David Pearson leads the programme, reporting into the Minister of State for Care
- DHSC is the lead department with responsibility for policy on adult social care. MHCLG is the lead department with responsibility for local government finance and accountability
- Accounting officer arrangements, nationally and locally, remain unchanged.
- The Social Care COVID-19 Executive team includes the SROs responsible for delivery of their programmes:
 - Rosamond Roughton, DHSC
 - Catherine Frances, MHCLG

- Ian Dodge, NHSE
- Eamonn O'Moore, PHE