

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Approval to cease indoor visiting arrangements in residential and nursing care homes
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Jason Frost, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services
SLT Lead:	Mark Ansell, Director for Public Health
Report Author and contact details:	Ben Campbell, Commissioning Programme Manager, 01708 431381 ben.campbell@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	The policy for the review of visiting arrangements in care homes 2020
Financial summary:	No financial implications
Relevant OSC:	Individuals
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes, as it is a Non-key Executive Decision

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Places making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connections making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Director of Public Health recommends all indoor visits to residents of residential and nursing care homes to cease. These restrictions will not include visits to the residents at end of life and professional visits for clinical care under strict Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) measures.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

3.3 Powers of Members of the Senior Leadership Team

Members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have delegated authority to act as follows within the assigned service service/portfolio of responsibilities, subject to the general provisions and limitations set out in section 3.1 of the constitution.

General powers

(a) To take any steps necessary for proper management and administration of allocated portfolios

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The London Borough of Havering is intent on doing everything practicable to reduce the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission in local care homes and prevent future outbreaks, to ensure the health and safety of both care workers and residents. This includes minimising the risk that visitors to a care home inadvertently infect residents and/ or staff with coronavirus (or vice versa).

National guidance also requires the Director of Public Health to assess the risk posed by care home visiting at any point in time and inform relevant stakeholders if they conclude that visiting should be suspended borough wide or in specific care homes.

In the recent weeks, there has been an accelerated rise in the number of cases with coronavirus in Havering and similar rise in nearby boroughs. The weekly incidence of coronavirus cases in Havering has been above 25/100,000 for the last two weeks. Local health partners have also seen rising admissions to hospital with coronavirus. In addition, a high demand in coronavirus testing meant many residents with symptoms and/ or care home staff could not access testing or receive results quickly enough to ensure early recognition of those with the infection.

After consultation with the Incident Management Team (IMT) and nearby boroughs, a decision has been taken by Havering's Director of Public Health to recommend all indoor visits to residents of residential and nursing care homes in Havering cease. These restrictions will not include visits to the residents at end of life and professional visits for clinical care under strict PPE measures

Visits to residents of residential and nursing care homes outside could continue but should be restricted to one relative only for an outside garden visit. Up to five visitors for window visits and drive-through visits with mandatory facemasks for visitors and social distancing of 2 meters.

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The Council will continue to assess the situation very closely. When safe to do so the Council will recommend that indoor visits to residents of residential and nursing care homes can continue.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

a) Do Nothing

This option was considered and rejected as it could lead to an increase in coronavirus cases in care homes.

b) Cease all care home visits both indoor and outdoor

This option was considered and rejected as the Council is aware of the huge value for both residents and family of being able to see each other and communicate. The recommended course of action set out in this decision paper strikes a balance between reducing the risk and allowing residents and their family to meet outside.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place at the IMC, members include the Council's Joint Commissioning Unit, Public Health Havering, Public protection, Public Health England and Communications. The Council has also consulted with neighbouring boroughs and care home provider representation.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: John Green

Designation: Head of the Joint Commissioning Unit

Signature:



Date: 16/09/2020

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Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The proposed advice is not statutorily binding upon care homes, however, the advice is an important element of the risk assessment which needs to be undertaken by each care home.

The Guidance states:

“Prior to visits being allowed in care homes, the director of public health in every area should disseminate their view on the suitability of visiting in the local authority area, taking into account infection rates and the wider risk environment. The decision on whether or not to allow visitors, and in what circumstances, is an operational decision and therefore ultimately for the provider and managers of each individual setting to make.”

The advice appears reasonable in the circumstances and therefore there do not appear to be any legal implications in the Director giving the proposed advice.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no financial implications associated with this decision.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

The proposal will have a positive impact on LBH staff in that the proposal will reduce the infection risk to those staff in relation to care home visits

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: ‘Protected characteristics’ are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

It is both Council policy and SLT direction/expectation that EqHIAs (Equality and Health Impact Assessments) are carried out when appropriate and in sufficient time to enable informed

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decision-making. As a basic rule, one should be undertaken whenever staff, service users, or the wider public are impacted by decisions or the intended or planned activity. An EqHIA should be completed regarding this decision.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Mark Ansell

CMT Member title: Director of Public Health

Date: 17/09/20

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Democratic Services Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____