

WMADASS – our Covid19 regional response and support for adult social care

Using existing expertise and capacity, supplemented by much-needed funding from the DHSC nationally, WMADASS has been able, since March 2019, to provide the following support and added-value to our DASSs, their Teams and our key partners:

- Development and full use of an extensive and highly productive Covid19 communications, key guidance and best practice-sharing, and issues' escalation network (over 50 Covid19 Leads across our 14 councils and other key people), supported by a WMADASS resource directory, also making full use of the latest technology. This has also helped us to contribute significantly to urgent and important national activities and solutions.
- Further refinement and extended use of our pre-existing regional intelligence and data hub, adding in a real-time Covid19 dashboard, with specific emphasis on overseeing infection prevention and control, and responding to outbreaks and other hotspots. This dashboard draws from existing data sources – not adding to care providers' burdens - and strongly supports compliance with national Capacity Trackers. This has been shared with other ADASS regions as best practice. We have, for example, have used it to underpin our regional fortnightly Care Home Support Plan oversight process.
- We have set up a number of specific Covid19-related task groups/email networks, some meeting virtually. For example, around PPE, where we have:
 - a) A designated Lead Director for PPE supported by WMADASS Associate resources;
 - b) A PPE Leads Group with representatives for all 14 Councils;
 - c) The Group focusses on demand, supply, stock management and distribution logistics and operates mutual aid arrangements to help maintain adequate supplies across the region.

Other important region-wide Covid19 work and support progressed with our partners includes the following:

- Regional guidance and good practice in relation to infection prevention and control is shared and the allied management of staff and residents agreed between regional and local Public Health England (PHE), Directors of Public Health and DASS's and disseminated through commissioners and WM local authority Care Home and Testing Leads.
- Weekly key issues calls with Midlands Urgent Care Leads to confirm local issues, access immediate solutions and share escalation of significant items – access to PPE, inter authority mutual aid, understanding and managing the complexity of the numerous Testing regimes and their impact on providers, residents and communities.
- Joint work with WM PHE, to develop and deliver accessible summaries of information on the latest testing announcements and who to speak to at a local level for support and further development of specific FAQ's around testing – e.g. Care Home Staff concerns re testing and the impact of a positive test result.



- Escalation of access to testing to Midlands NHS England and Improvement Incident “Cell” partners to agree immediate solutions or jointly escalate nationally for resolution.
- Weekly calls with WMPHE and Midlands Care Quality Commission to ensure shared understanding of latest scientific and government guidance and agree distribution of documentation and messages to LA colleagues and Care Home Providers .
- We have a highly successful joint regional workforce “Come Back to Care” system in full operation. Again, this has been shared nationally as best practice. This supports and complements regional support of national DHSC recruitment campaign, WM Care Association support of the sector, and ongoing individual local authority campaigns.

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