

Summary notes of the informal (non-public) discussion meeting of Health Select Committee

15 September 2020

1. Members suggested that given the challenges being experienced with COVID-19 testing capacity, and the limited test result data available as a result, it may be sensible for organisations to be assessing test *request* data to help monitor potential infection trends.
2. Attendees emphasised the need for clarity on when members of the public should be seeking a COVID-19 test. It was reported that the council is using all its communication routes to encourage people to only apply for a COVID-19 test when they need one.
3. It was reported that rates of COVID-19 infection have reduced in Swindon, helped by the prevention measures that have been put in place.
4. In cases of carer breakdown, members were aware of some care homes requiring negative test results before admitting new residents. There have also been reports of some care home providers restricting practitioner access to residents to minimise infection rates.
5. All patients being discharged from hospitals to care homes are swab tested and the council and the current discharge process does not facilitate discharge without that being done.
6. Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has a Care home liaison service that is working closely with Wiltshire care homes to manage patients with dementia and delirium. The possibility of residents receiving family visits depends on the provider and there remains some resistance from some homes. The council is looking at each individual's needs and offering support on that basis.