

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**13 October 2020**

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**Questions from Chris Caswill**

**Agenda Item 6 – Covid 19 Update**

**To Cllr Philip Whitehead – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications**

**Question 1:**

In para 28 of the Report, referring to Care Homes, it is good to read that care home staff now have access to weekly testing. Could you confirm that this is now available in all care homes across the county?

**Response:**

All care home staff are tested weekly and residents every 28 days-this is available to all care homes.

**Question 2:**

The report also states that " there does not appear to be any correlation with hospital discharges due to the stringent testing arrangements adopted across the county for admissions into care homes", which is also good news. Could you confirm that the 'stringent testing arrangements' ensure that no patients are discharged from Wiltshire and Swindon hospitals without testing for COVID, and that any care home being asked to accept a patient who has been tested positive is being given the opportunity to refuse, and ample time to prepare in the event of acceptance.

**Response:**

No patient can be discharged from any hospital into a Wiltshire care home without having had a negative COVID swab within the last 48 hours. No COVID positive patient in a hospital can be discharged into a care home and the care homes has every authority, supported by the Council and CCG, to decline

**Question 3:**

There is no reference to scrutiny arrangements. Given the additional workload being proposed for the single scrutiny committee, can arrangements for the restoration of the Health Scrutiny Committee now be put in place as a matter of urgency?

**Response:**

Overview and Scrutiny (OS) Management Committee leads the OS function and the arrangements for delivering OS during COVID-19. Health Select Committee met informally in September to consider the latest COVID-19 update to Cabinet and to discuss its work priorities once formal meetings resumed. During October, OS engagement on the COVID-19 situation and recovery will continue to be undertaken by OS Management Committee's Wiltshire COVID-19 Response Task Group. However, from November, formal, public meetings of the Children's, Environment and Health Select Committees will resume (as agreed by OS Management Committee on 29 September). The next public meeting of Health Select Committee is scheduled for [10 November](#) and the meeting agenda will be published on 2 November.