

Dorset Care Homes Association

Dorset Home Care Provider Associations

DCHA Chair: Anna Knight

Harbour House

DHCPA Vice Chair: Andrew Davis

Right at Home Bournemouth



Dorset Care Homes Association
Dorset Home Care Providers Association
Dorset Learning Disability Providers Association

Associations response
to Covid-19

Communications

Achievements

Statement of support
from Dorset Council,
BCP Council and Dorset
CCG

“We wanted to begin by praising the efforts of all of our care sector colleagues”

Dear Colleague,

DCHA & DHCPA Update

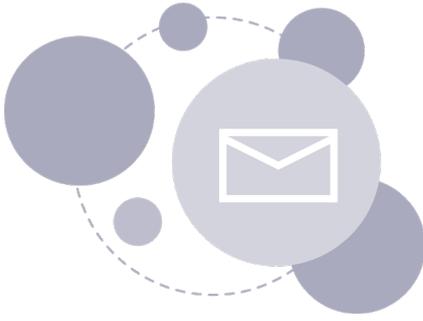
We wanted to get in contact with you as a member of Dorset Care Homes Association and/or Dorset Home Care Providers Association to update you on the vast amount of work undertaken on your behalf by your elected officers during the Covid-19 pandemic which will no doubt continue as we face the prospect of a second wave coupled with the looming changes Brexit may bring.

We wanted to begin by praising the efforts of all of our care sector colleagues who have battled with numerous policy changes, guidance, PPE, visiting and testing battles you will undoubtedly have experienced, not to mention capacity trackers and flu vaccinations.

From early March, under the direction of the Dorset Local Resilience Forum who hold responsibility for the overall response to Covid-19 in the area, a Social Care specific Sub Group was convened to look at issues affecting the sector and how best to respond to these. It became apparent very early on that there was a significant amount of collaboration needed which raised the requirement for a number of other working groups being established to respond to the challenges. These groups are listed below and we anticipate many of our commitments to these continuing into 2021 so **we encourage you to get in contact with us if you have any items you would like raised, you are experiencing difficulties or would like to find out more.**

- Covid-19 Social Care Sub Group
- Covid-19 Testing Group
- Covid-19 PPE Cell
- Covid-19 PPE Consortia
- Covid-19 Inter Provider Sub Group
- Covid-19 Infection & Prevention Control Cell
- Sector Leadership Group
- Care Association Alliance

Shared Communication Stream



You will likely have seen the collaborative 'Provider Updates' which are hosted on the Dorset Council webpage and circulated by Partners in Care. This method of communication has been a successful development devised by DCHA, DHCPA, Dorset Council, BCP Council, PIC, Dorset CCG and Public Health Dorset via the Social Care Sub Group. These updates are the latest local and national information for the adult social care sector which has seen a significant investment of time by elected officers with the aim to provide crucial information from relevant bodies thereby reducing the amount of emails you receive and bring together important updates that may have an impact on both the people you are supporting and your staff.

DCHA/DHCPA Achievements during Covid-19

- Provided over 40 days of specialist advice to key agencies to ensure Covid-19 support was directed appropriately (*All our officers do so, free of charge, for the benefit of members coupled with the challenges of managing a service*)
- Successfully lobbied BCP and Dorset Council to issue a joint robust statement in response to the Prime Minister's negative comments regarding infections in care homes
- Received official recognition from the South West Regional Strategic Coordinating Group in response to system wide access to PPE for key workers which has been identified as a case study for best practice
- Successfully supported a provider in the Bournemouth area to liaise with BCP Council in order to access funds concerning four residents which were being withheld
- Featured on the BBC programmes 'Spotlight', BBC News & The Andrew Marr show
- Established an ongoing dialogue with local MP's to highlight the challenges and successes of the adult social care sector
- Conduit to central government through participation in the Care Association Alliance
- Providing specialist advice to the Enhanced Health in Care Homes programme
- Press release message of thanks to the care home and domiciliary care sector from Cllr Lesley Dedman, BCP Council and Cllr Laura Miller, Dorset Council



"The representatives have volunteered their time and significant experience to help us all work together and support some of the most vulnerable people in the area"

Joint Statement – Dorset Council, BCP Council & Dorset CCG

"As a sector we are continuing to be challenged on a daily basis by Covid-19 and other pressures. DCHA and DHCPA representatives have been working alongside Dorset Council and BCP Council, with other partners such as Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and Dorset Public Health, to ensure that the voice and experience of the care sector is represented and contributing towards meeting these challenges. The representatives have volunteered their time and significant experience to help us all work together and support some of the most vulnerable people in the area. Dorset Council, BCP Council and Dorset CCG is committed to continuing this relationship, not just focussing on Covid-19, but so that we can all work together on the future of care and support in the area."

Dorset Council - Tony Meadows, Acting Corporate Director, Adult Social Care Commissioning
BCP Council - Phil Hornsby, Director - Adult Social Care Commissioning
Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group - Vicky Melville, Head of Nursing & Quality