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17th May 2020

Dear Colleagues

Executive Nurse Director Role During COVID 19

As an executive member of the NHS Board and the most senior nurse in the health and social care setting your leadership and expertise are pivotal to our management of the Covid19 Pandemic.

Your role in the management of infection prevention and control and the provision of nursing decision making skills and the identification of care delivery requirements are now required outwith the boundaries of the NHS Board and Health and Social Care Partnership.

I am therefore writing to advise that from 18 May 2020 to 30 November 2020 I will vary the roles and responsibilities of your appointment as an Executive Nurse Director. This variation is in line with the new requirements set out in my letter of 17 May 2020, regarding the multi professional oversight of care homes. I therefore require you to be accountable for the provision of; Nursing leadership, support and guidance within the care home and care at home sector.

Whilst retaining overall accountability you may, with appropriate professional governance arrangements, delegate roles and responsibilities to the Senior Nurse within the individual Health and Social Care Partnerships within your NHS Board area.

Specifically I would like you and your officers to support the Director of Public Health to review the information required to be submitted to them by care homes, identify specific issues and support the development and implementation of solutions to ensure residents are provided with safe high quality services. This will include reviewing care home safety huddle data to;

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- identify where specific nursing support may be required and to develop and implement solutions where required. This will include clinical input to ensure that there are effective community nursing arrangements in place to support increasingly complex nursing care requirements.
- identify where specific infection prevention and control support may be required this will include recommendations and review re cleaning to prevent transmission and appropriate use of PPE.
- Support the development and implementation of testing approaches for care home and care at home settings
- Identify and support sourcing of staffing as required by the care home and care at home setting as defined the requirements set out in DL (2020)10 and DL(2020)13

During this unprecedented time your help, support and leadership in these areas are invaluable and will contribute to our ability to ensure the most vulnerable in our communities are safe, protected and get the care and support they deserve.

JEANE FREEMAN

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