

Councillor John Spence
Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social
Care
Essex County Council
Via Email

Councillor Mark Ingall
Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew Johnson
Leader of the Opposition

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Dear Councillor Spence

RE: Covid-19 Infections in Care Homes

You may be aware that Harlow Council has taken the step of appointing a cross-party working group to focus on resilience and recovery of the town from this unprecedented pandemic.

Harlow faces the terrible reality of a second wave of Covid-19 infections and members are concerned that lessons are learnt from the first wave and a 'ring of steel' is created to protect vulnerable residents in care homes.

The Council are asking that Essex County Council takes urgent steps to ensure:

- All workers in care homes must have adequate and sustainable pipelines of PPE that meets NHS standards to stop any spread of the virus within the care home and quick access to regular testing as a priority group.
- That high alert Control measures are immediately put in place to avoid the virus being brought into care homes by staff, referred County adults, residents returning from hospital without testing or by the public and that outbreak measures take care homes specifically into account.
- Appropriate measures are taken to ensure that all care homes, including those which are privately run, comply with the points which are raised above and other standards which have been put in place as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

We would also seek a commitment from ECC that districts get a weekly briefing on public health measures being deployed in their local area from now on to aid in our planning.

We must not allow any preventable deaths in Harlow care homes to be repeated and as such we are committed to working collaboratively with you, as the authority responsible for the provision of adult social care, to ensure our district's care homes have the right public

health support to ensure that the vulnerable residents of care homes are as well protected as possible.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Mark Ingall
Leader of Harlow Council



Councillor Andrew Johnson
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