

Ashford Covid 19 Deaths  
Covid Crisis 11  
By Eileen Chubb ©

Last night's BBC southeast news reported on the high Covid 19 death rates in Ashford Kent, whilst the overall death rates were reported, the emphasis of the report was on the NHS level of care angle.

The real story however is in the detail of the ONS figures, as of 21<sup>st</sup> July,  
Ashford Hospital Deaths **81**  
Ashford Care Home Deaths **60**

I ask why so many died in Ashford care homes?  
What do we know?

The William Harvey hospital in Ashford was certainly discharging patients back into care homes with devastating consequences, for example Pelham House,

<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2020-06-09/folkestone-care-home-struggles-to-contain-coronavirus-outbreak-after-nearly-half-of-residents-die/>

There is also clear evidence that hospital patients were being discharged into care homes with the same fatal consequences.

A review of our national Helpline Data shows that whilst Ashford was not the highest concentration of concerns per area, that a total of 3 Whistleblowers contacted us from 3 care homes in Ashford, raising the following (anonymised) concerns,

Hospital Discharges of Covid 19 patients into the care home.

The care homes inability to provide the level of care needed.

Lack of PPE and training

Lack of staff

Residents who needed hospital care suffering and dying.

My concern is that whilst the emphasis of any inquiry is targeted at the NHS, those deaths in care homes will be forgotten.

The question we ask is **not** what care was given to those who died in hospital as is currently being focused on, but what care was **denied** to those who died in care homes?

How many deaths were attributable to discharging Covid 19 patients into care homes?

How many deaths were attributable to returning patients untested to care homes?

How many deaths could be attributed to a complete lack of medical care?

We have submitted an FOI to CQC today asking for a breakdown of the Ashford Deaths by type of care home.

Our evidence shows clearly that people across this country died in care homes without any basic medical care, without oxygen, without fluids or pain relief.

If you were critically sick with Covid 19, would you be happy to be cared for in a setting where there was **no** medical staff on site, where the only medical input was accessible via a telephone. This is one of the questions we have asked Boris Johnson and we await his response.

Those living in care homes were deliberately put at needless risk by Government policy, we need these unpalatable facts reported in the media **not** with balance and distance but with the outrage these atrocity's warrant.

For every life lost there are grieving families and our thoughts are with them.

As always, we thank all those brave Whistleblowers who cared enough to report their concerns and we are saddened that so many have been forced from their jobs for caring.

We continue the fight for truth and justice and await the day when enough people have suffered and died for Government action on the protection of Whistleblowers with Edna's Law.