

Covid Crisis Report 18
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We will report more fully on these issues as soon as we can, meanwhile the helpline continues to be very busy.

There are serious shortages of care staff due to staff being of sick with the virus. We are being told that this is seriously impacting on resident's care.

Today we learn that the Government are going to discharge residents into care homes. This raises a number of very serious issues.

Elderly people being discharged from hospital who have had Covid are likely to be very frail and need extra care as a result, but they are being discharged into an environment which due to staff shortages is already struggling to provide basic care.

Families are telling us that these discharges are taking place without any choice of care home at all. People are being placed in any home with a vacancy and told they can move to another home in due time if they are not happy with the home. But we know that families have to fight tooth and nail to get people out of a home.

Just because someone has already had Covid it is still possible to be infected again. Families and care staff are raising concerns about the possibility that hospital patients being discharged from hospital untested having been reinfected.

The Government also refer to discharging people into hotel rooms, this means rushed discharge of people who need care into what the Government call "Step Down" settings. Placing sick people into hotel rooms with a daily visit from a healthcare professional for a few minutes at best, is **not** "Step Down" care, it's **no** Care.

We are also been told that a very small percentage of the 410,000 care home residents have been given the vaccine. This is completely at odds with the Government vaccine data.

What should have happened many months ago is that all care home staff should have been given training on administering the vaccine to the residents and each other.

All health and social care staff should have been vaccinated first because without these staff there is no care.

Dedicated compassionate staff who raised concerns have lost their jobs on an unprecedented scale.

Sick people are not been sent to hospital and over stretched staff in care homes that are struggling with serious staff shortages are telling us that they do not even have the staff numbers needed to look after well residents. The Government then throws into this critical situation, hospital discharges of very frail people who may or may not have Covid.

We are also aware of profits and bonus payments being paid to CEOs and shareholders of a number of care companies.

This Government have failed to learn any lessons, are making decisions that continue to have catastrophic consequences and whilst Parliament are more interested in point scoring, people are suffering and dying needlessly.