



# updates

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RM Forum – October 18<sup>th</sup> 2022

# Current situation re. Covid 19

- R rate in the UK is currently 1.1-1.3 in the SW.
- Vaccination rate- 88.3%
- Booster / 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Vaccination -69.5%
- Cases-61,809 (per 7 rolling days )
- Deaths 631
- Admissions-8,198



# Current situation

- Hospitals putting mask wearing back into place as well as some restrictions on visitors
- Booster roll out on the go ( slow for some age groups).
- Be alert to the data
- Maintain your contingency planning- especially around staffing
- Likely post Christmas increase which is likely to be compounded by 'flu cases



# What is coming up ?

- IICSA final report 20.10.22- given the indicators and responses in specific reports already published this is likely to be damning. Safeguarding , protection of children ,culture , practice is likely to come into a sharp focus .....



## What is coming up ? Community Care September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022:

- “The DfE has pledged to issue its response to MacAlister’s review – and those of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel’s into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson, and the Competition and Markets Authority’s into the children’s social care market – before the end of the year, alongside an implementation strategy. It is unclear whether this timetable will be affected by the imminent change of prime minister.
- MacAlister’s role involves supporting the transition of the review’s work, relationships with stakeholders – including people with lived experience of children’s social care – and learning to the DfE, while working through the recommendations in detail with officials and supporting them to carry out a thorough assessment of his conclusions.
- He will also advise on the contents of the implementation strategy, support the work of the implementation board – also set up to advise the DfE on the strategy – and provide “ongoing challenge and scrutiny on delivery and implementation plans”.



## Continued:

- Ofsted reviewing the relevant areas and working with the DfE re:
  - Regulation
  - Standards
  - Role of the Regulation 44 Visitor
  - Fiscal / financial due diligence model

Ofsted very aware of the need for primary legislation change especially in respect of the Care Standards Act 2000



## What is ongoing / coming up ?

- Ongoing BBC and Guardian newspaper investigations re. the sector.
- Local government funding :unlike central government, local authorities cannot borrow to finance day-to-day spending, and so they must either run balanced budgets or draw down reserves – money built up by underspending in earlier years – to ensure that their annual spending does not exceed their annual revenue. But reserves can only be used once. Once reserves are spent, they cannot be spent again.
- At present the LA spend has been impacted by many factors- C19, adult social care , children's services , greater demand across the board , cost of living crisis- this IS going to impact children's services budgets going forward and thus the sector



# Any other updates-

- Any updates or information for sharing with colleagues?
- Thanks Chris