

Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group Supporting our Care Homes during Covid-19 Pandemic

Introduction

The nature of the Covid 19 pandemic means that care homes in particular need extra support to help them ensure the wellbeing of the people who live there, and the staff who care for them.

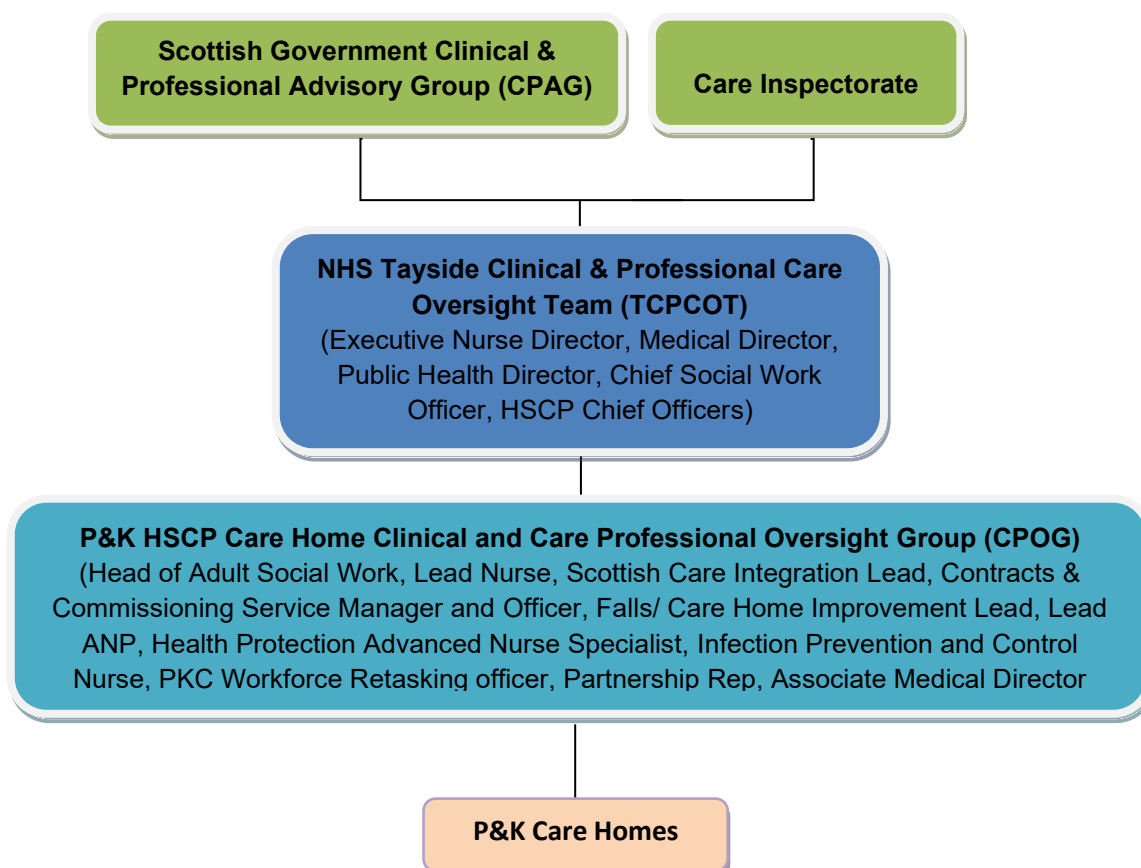
This document outlines the arrangements which P&K HSCP have put in place to provide the necessary assurance to the Tayside Clinical and Professional Care Oversight Team (TCPCOT) which is required to report weekly to the Scottish Government Care Home Clinical and Professional Advisory Group (CPAG) that appropriate clinical and care professionals are taking direct responsibility for the clinical support for each of our 40 care homes. Covid-19 is a public health crisis in our social care settings, and therefore clinical colleagues have a critical role to play in assuring the safety of people who live in care homes.

This framework will demonstrate the processes of assessing and determining the levels of support, guidance and expertise to manage the extreme challenges presented by Covid-19. Where required support teams will be identified to provide guidance on infection prevention and control, caring for residents with Covid and end of life care. Where care homes have additional workforce requirements and internal contingency plans have been exhausted, Health and Social Care staff will be mobilised to support this.

The below outlines areas covered within this paper:

- Governance and accountability structure
- P&K HSCP Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group
- Daily Contact with Care Homes
- Support Visits to Care Homes
- Testing
- Workforce
- Personal Protective Equipment

Governance and Accountability Structure



Responsibilities

Nurse and Medical Directors

- Direct responsibility for the clinical support required for each care home in their Board area in collaboration with **Directors of Public Health**.
- Lead in providing practical expert advice and guidance on infection prevention and control.

NHS Tayside Clinical & Professional Care Oversight Team

- Daily discussion covering each home in their area and decisions on any additional direct clinical or IPC support needed (Reports on safety huddles and visits to be included in weekly DPH return to SG).
- Boards to ensure clinical resource is provided to care homes to ensure staff rotas are maintained to deliver safe and effective care.

Public Health

- Testing guidance for staff to be clarified urgently with clear routes and responsibilities set out to ensure staff are tested regardless of impact on staff rotas - including any guidance issued by HSCPs.
- Boards to take direct responsibility to ensure staff are tested.
- Boards will ensure that contact tracing is undertaken where required.
- Boards will ensure linked home testing is delivered.
- Testing requirements on all admissions.

Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland

- Joint inspections will be undertaken as required by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland working together to respond to priorities and concerns.

P&K HSCP Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group

A Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group has been established within the P&K HSCP and is jointly led by Sandra Gourlay, Lead Nurse and Diane Fraser, Head of Adult Social Work and Social Care supported by

Membership

- Diane Fraser, Head of Adult Social Work and Social Care, P&KHSCP
- Sandra Gourlay, Lead Nurse, P&KHSCP
- Zoe Robertson, Service Manager Policy and Commissioning, P&KHSCP
- Lynn Blair, Scottish Care. Independent Lead, Perth and Kinross
- Dave Henderson, Contract & Commissioning Officer, P&KHSCP
- Careen Mullen-Mckay, Lead Advanced Nurse Practitioner, P&KHSCP
- Carolyn Wilson, Falls Service / Care Home/Community Care Improvement Lead, P&KHSCP
- Fiona Easton, Programme and Improvement Manager, P&KHSCP
- Tina McMichael, Advanced Nurse Specialist (Health Protection)
- Allan Drummond / Lindsey Glover, Partnership Representatives
- Kerry Queen, Infection, Prevention and Control Nurse
- Amanda Welsh, Care Inspectorate
- Hamish Dougall, Clinical / Associate Medical Director, P&K HSCP

Role and Remit

On a day-to day basis responsible for ensuring care homes remain able to sustain services during this pandemic by meeting in a daily huddle and:

- Undertaking appropriate multi-agency risk assessments
- Providing clinical and care professional oversight.
- Identifying any issues related to infection prevention and control, care quality, staffing and testing.
- Developing and supporting implementation of solutions using an improvement methodology
- Making recommendations about the mobilisation of external staff from Perth and Kinross Council and NHS Tayside via the Health and Social Care Partnership to independent care homes. Ensuring this is provided effectively and in a timely manner to assist providers to maintain and sustain provision at appropriate levels and quality. Deployment of staff will follow the P&KHSCP process.
- Advising where care homes can access expert advice, taking account of up to date data and the latest guidance available and clinical expertise e.g. Consultant Geriatricians, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, District Nursing and GP's.
- A record of the daily huddle will be shared with the Chief Officer, Clinical Director and Chief Social Worker. Where there are significant concerns an additional group meeting will be convened.

Ongoing support to care homes is available through the usual support channels including Contract and Commissioning Team, Scottish Care Integration Lead, Falls Service/Care home Improvement Manager, Public Health and other health teams. Weekly care home ZOOM calls also provide an opportunity to discuss challenges, concerns and share good practice.

Daily Contact with Care Homes

Contract & Commissioning Team discuss daily with care homes through call/receive daily reporting template to identify suspected and confirmed Covid-19 residents, End of Life Care and staffing concerns.

Information presented daily to P&K HSCP CCPOG. Care homes of concern are discussed and plans agreed to mobilise support or monitor.

Care Home Support Visits

Care Support visits by Nursing and Social Care. Feedback given to care home manager with recommendations for improvement and identifying support requirements.

RAG report updated.
Any serious concerns reported immediately to P&K HSCP CCPOG and onward escalation as appropriate.

Daily Contact with Care Homes

A daily telephone discussion will be made by the Contract & Commissioning Team to every care home to obtain standard information on the status of the home in terms of residents, staff and resources. The information will be collected on the 'Care Home Covid Reporting Template'. These calls will be completed by 2.30pm and shared with the P&K HSCP CCPOG with decisions on any additional direct clinical or IPC support needed shared with the Nurse Director.



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Support Visits to Care Homes

The Scottish Government have requested that every care home receive a joint visit with nursing and senior social care staff which will provide care assurance on standards of care, infection prevention and control and professional practice to assure the care provided in a care home is of the highest standard during Covid-19.

Within P&K HSCP these visits will be on a supportive basis where the visiting staff will work with the care home manager through an approved template and observe first hand the many challenges which care homes face daily. These face to face discussions will provide an opportunity to discuss any areas of concern they might have and provide clinical advice, information and guidance on how best to protect their residents from contracting Covid-19 or caring for them if they test positive. Being on site will enable the visiting staff to gain invaluable insight to better understand the practical day to day issues which care homes have to deal with and together collaborate over possible solutions. The visits will not only provide assurance of the care of the residents but also will provide reassurance to the manager and staff on the high quality level of care they are providing at this time. Where required, and in discussion with the manager a support plan will be compiled and support offered to the care home through Lynn Blair, the Scottish Care Integration Lead.

The Support Plan Template will be shared with care home managers in advance of the visit and managers will be invited to start completing the template, through self assessment, in preparation for the visit. This will enable care home managers to prepare.



Support Plan for
Care Homes during C

Structure

- The announced support visits will be carried out by two colleagues from P&K HSCP (health and senior social care staff).
- Visiting staff will bring their own PPE and wear it correctly to protect the staff and residents and themselves.
- The NHS Tayside's 'Covid-19 Care Assurance Support Visit Tool' will be shared with the care home manager well in advance of the visit – this will enable the care home manager to prepare for the visit and undertake a self assessment.
- This tool will be used during the discussions and observations of standard infection control precautions and the provision of fundamental care during COVID 19.
- Verbal feedback will be given to the nurse in charge at the end of the visit.
- A summary outcome will be shared with care home manager, P&K HSCP Care Home Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group and NHS Tayside Clinical & Professional Care Oversight Team if escalation is required.
- A second visit will be undertaken to care homes where a support plan has been agreed to ensure improvements have been met
- Where improvements are still ongoing, these will be discussed with the care home manager and if required escalated to the Clinical and Care Professional Oversight Group, NHS Tayside Clinical & Professional Care Oversight Team and Care Inspectorate.

Staffing to Support

Health Staffing supporting the visits have included

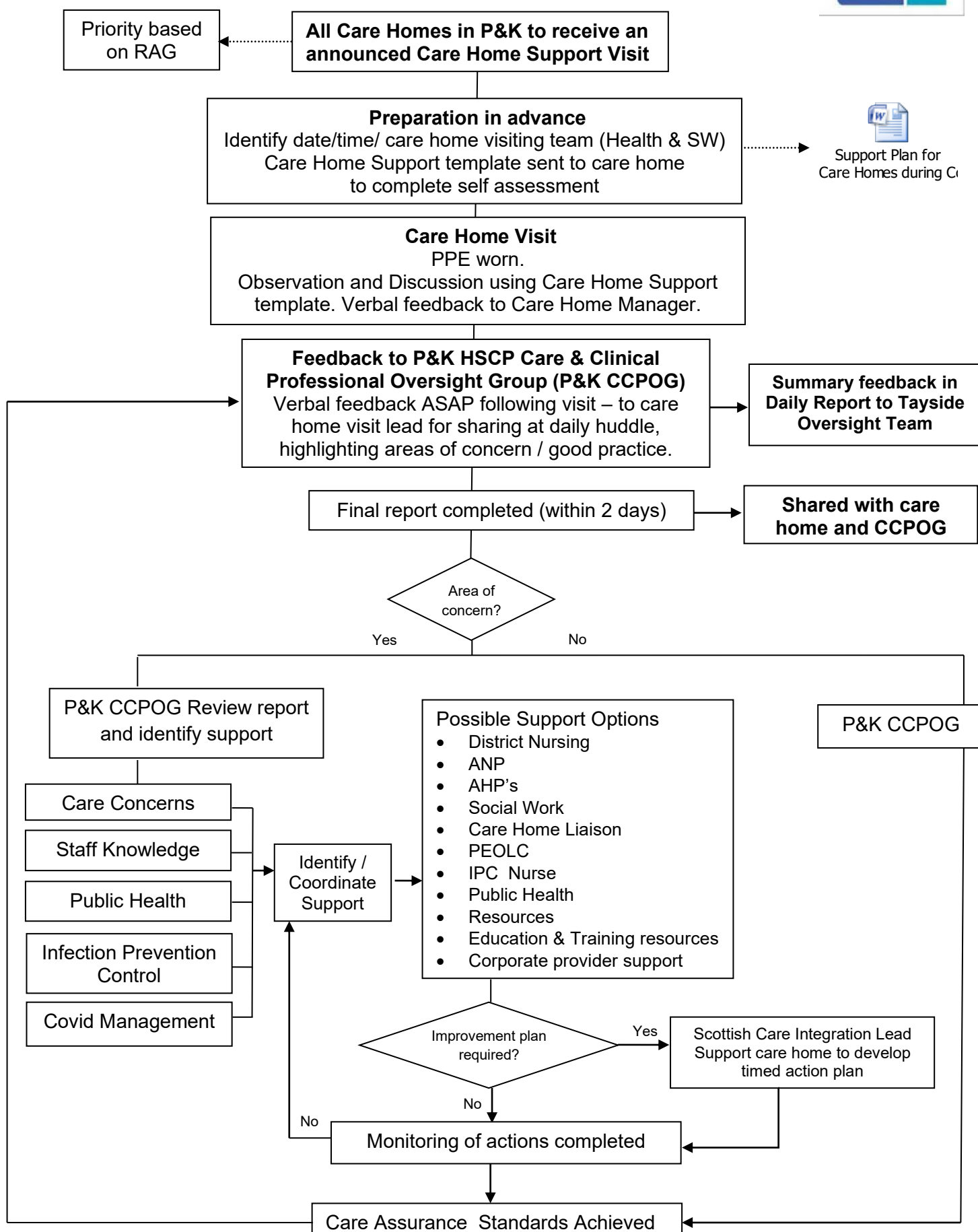
- Clinical and Professional Team Managers
- Advance Nurse Practitioners
- District Nursing
- Community Learning Disabilities Nurse
- Older People community Mental Health Team
- Senior Podiatrist
- Occupational Therapist

Social Care

- Senior Social Care staff.
- Adult Protection Coordinator
- Community Support Manager
- Community Facilitators
- Day Opportunities Co-ordinator

The following outlines the process for planning the care assurance visits and supporting mechanism for care homes including reporting.

Care Assurance Care Home Support Visits During Covid-19



Testing

From the 10th June, all staff working in care homes across Scotland are being offered testing on a weekly basis. The purpose of weekly testing is to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmissions within the care home in order to protect staff and residents. The following describes the different testing routes which are available.

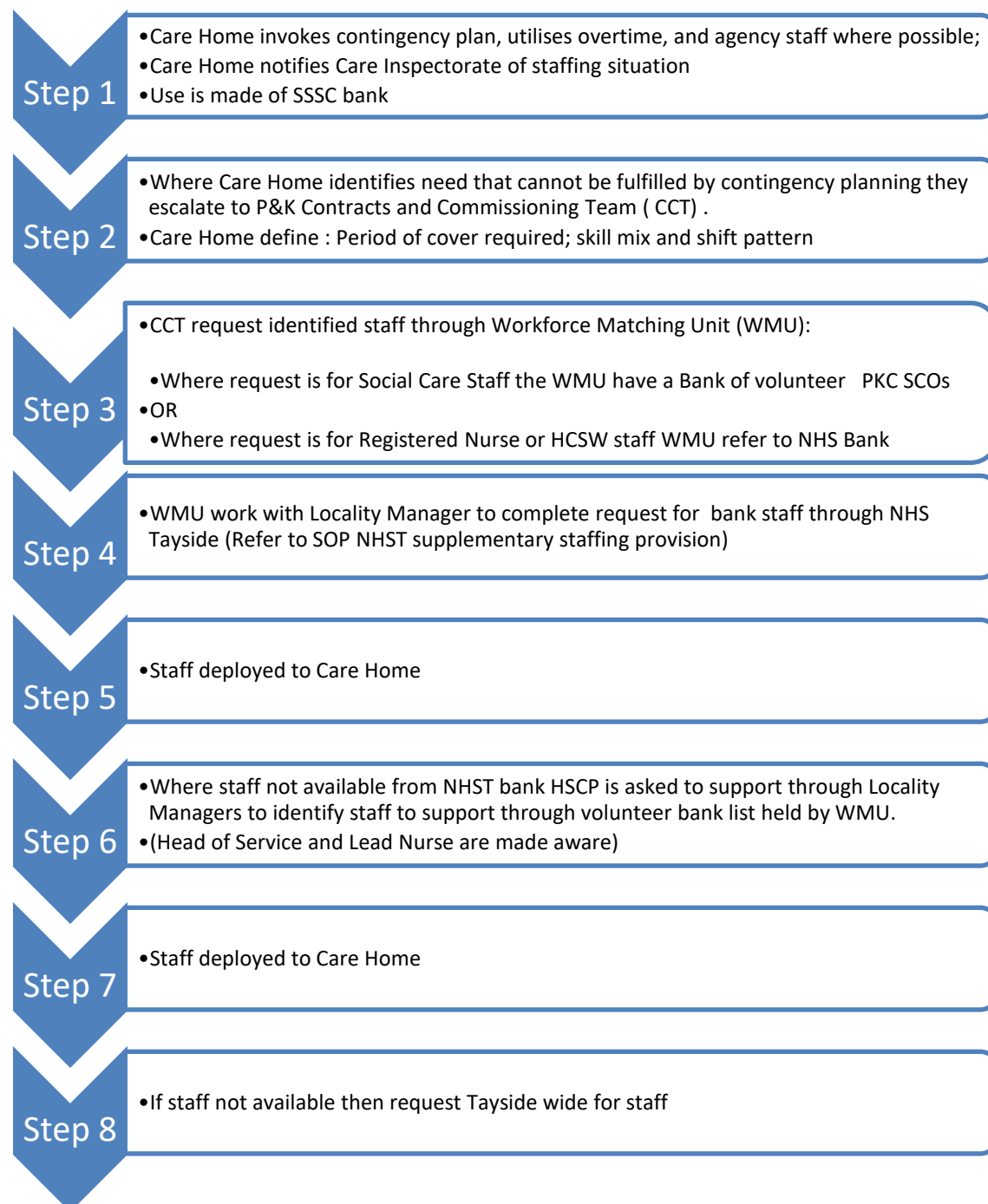
Care Home Status as determined by Health Protection Team	Staff Testing	Resident Testing
Non-Covid Affected (No new symptomatic individuals for 14 days from last possible exposure – i.e. staff and residents all currently asymptomatic)	Weekly (Surveillance) Testing – ALL staff* to be offered (not compulsory) on weekly basis via Social Care Portal: self/colleague swabbing. Staff who have previously tested positive should not be routinely swabbed. Results will be shared with the Care Home Manager.	One-off visit by NHS Tayside Community Testing Team by agreement with Health Protection. Target of at least 10-20% residents* (up to 10) to be offered tested. It is hoped that this will move across to the Social Care Portal soon, at which point weekly sample testing of least 10-20% of asymptomatic residents* can be offered.
Symptomatic individuals	If staff* or a family* member is symptomatic the Care Home Manager should refer the symptomatic person for testing via HSCP, to be carried out by NHS Tayside Community Testing Team. The Community Testing Team can test from age 1 year and older. Results will be shared with the Care Home Manager. Immediate self isolation required for symptomatic person and their household. Staff who have had a positive swab previously should be referred for testing <i>only</i> if they develop new symptoms.	Refer resident* for testing via Health Protection Team, testing carried out by NHS Tayside Community Testing Team. Immediate isolation of resident and appropriate infection prevention and control procedures in place in the Care Home.
Covid Affected Home (One or more cases among staff or residents)	On outbreak declaration - Enhanced (mass) Testing – ALL staff* offered testing via Health Protection Team, carried out by NHS Tayside Community Testing Team.	On confirmation of a positive result in a resident - Enhanced (mass) Testing – ALL residents* offered testing via Health Protection Team, carried out by NHS Tayside Community Testing Team.
	Additionally – ALL staff* in linked homes offered testing, via Health Protection Team carried out by NHS Tayside Community Testing Team.	Additionally – ALL residents* in linked homes offered testing via Health Protection Team, carried out by NHS Tayside Community Testing Team.

* All testing is subject to an individual's consent.

OTHER NATIONAL ROUTES – See <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/arrange-a-test/>

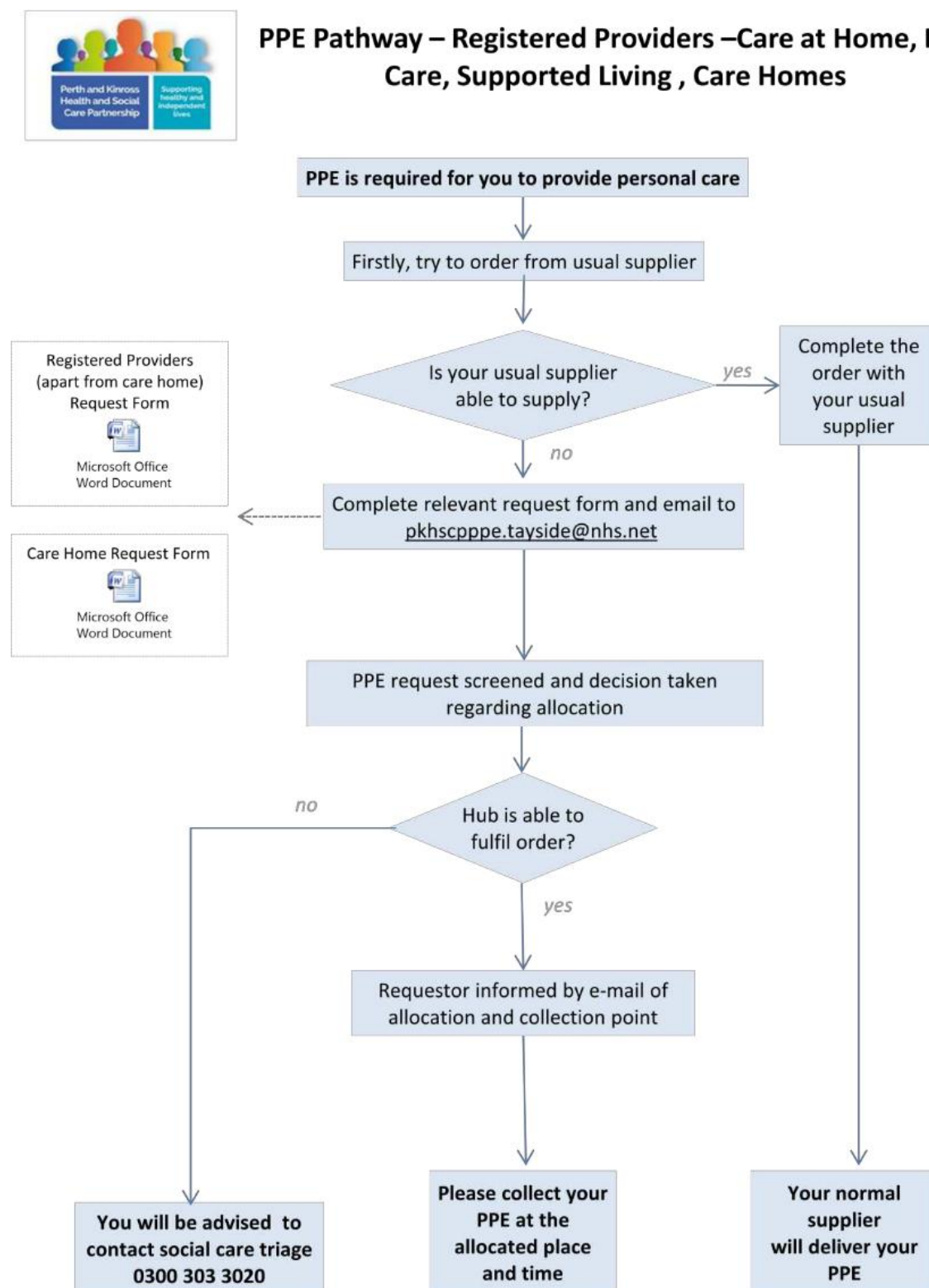
Staffing Mobilisation Plan

Conducting testing of all staff and residents as part of outbreak management may have relatively rapid consequences in terms of identifying residents who need to be isolated and care staff who need to be excluded from work. All care homes must plan for the loss of significant numbers of regular staff who may fall ill and have to be excluded; this involves working closely with local health and social care agencies to develop robust contingency arrangements to replace staff at short notice.



Personal Protective Equipment

In line with Scottish Government guidance, all care homes should source their own stocks of PPE through their usual supply route or by using alternative suppliers. When stocks are critically low and providers are unable to access PPE, there are 'emergency' PPE Hubs located in Perth, Blairgowrie and Auchterarder where up to one weeks supply of PPE can be issued. A steering group oversees the implementation of local pathways and request forms which support the control and distribution equitably of stock according to need and prioritisation. The following diagram outlines the pathways to be followed for emergency PPE



Implementation Plan

Week	Action
01/06/ 2020	Every care home contacted daily by Contract & Commissioning (C&C) Team and complete the care home reporting template
	Commence Care Home Visits to care Homes identified as RED on RAG scoring.
08/06/ 2020	Continue daily calls to care homes requiring them (e.g. Covid, Suspected Covid, Concerns).
	All other care homes to submit reporting template to C&C team daily.
	Care Home Visits to care homes identified as RED or AMBER on RAG scoring.
15/06/ 2020	Continue daily calls to care homes requiring them (e.g. Covid, Suspected Covid, Concerns).
	All other care homes to submit reporting template daily and report daily exceptions to C&C team.
	Care Home Visits to care Homes identified as AMBER on RAG scoring.
22/06/ 2020 onwards	Continue daily calls to care homes requiring them (e.g. Covid, Suspected Covid, Concerns).
	All other care homes to submit reporting template daily and report daily exceptions to C&C team.
	Care Home Visits to care Homes identified as GREEN on RAG scoring.