

Charity calls for full inquiry

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disabilities or cognitive problems of all ages. I think there should be an inquiry.

"The way the situation for care homes has been handled needs a retrospective view, particularly because winter is coming, which is always a difficult time for this group of people."

The survey of 128 nurses and care-home managers also showed that, during March and April, a fifth reported receiving residents from hospital who had tested positive for Covid-19.

Nearly half said they had been sent residents from hospital before they had been tested, and a third said they had

not always had access to appropriate personal protective equipment. Many said they felt "abandoned".

Dr Crystal Oldman, QNI chief executive, said: "The picture presented is of an extremely stressful and anxious period for professionals working to care for and protect residents. More needs to be done to understand the effect of Covid-19 on the workforce and residents in care homes.

"Urgent attention must be paid to the sector if the workforce is to withstand the additional demands of the pandemic, particularly in planning, guidance and employment practices."

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