

# Do Care Homes Have One GP or Many?

## Evidence from the Care City Cohort



### Key messages

- **Almost all care homes have multiple GP practices serving their residents.** The ten biggest care homes in April 2019 had an average of three surgeries serving their residents
- **Care homes may be best served by a single GP surgery.** There is some concern that residents within care homes are registered at multiple GP surgeries. This may be inefficient and make management of some health issues more difficult (such as infectious diseases)
- **However, most residents are registered at one “main” GP surgery.** Out of 549 residents at the ten biggest care homes in Barking & Dagenham, 475 (87%) were registered at their care home’s “main” GP surgery.

*Some variation is expected: Some residents are recent arrivals and have not yet changed GP, and some may choose to remain with their previous GP*

- **A small number of surgeries provide care for the majority of care home residents.** In April 2019, the ten biggest care homes were served by unique 22 GP surgeries. Nine surgeries acted as the “main” surgery (i.e. one surgery acted as the main surgery for two care homes)
- **We found a similar picture in April 2015.** Out of 478 residents at the biggest care homes, 431 (90%) were served by the “main” GP.

### Introduction

Partners across Barking and Dagenham have supported the creation of the Care City Cohort linked dataset. The dataset includes information from both health and council services across five settings of care (Acute Care, Mental Health, Primary Care, Community Care and Social Care).

We looked at care home residents in the borough and which GP surgeries care for them. In particular, we wanted to understand whether multiple GP surgeries are working in the same care home. There is some concern that residents within care homes are registered at multiple GP surgeries. This may be inefficient and make management of some health issues, such as infectious diseases, more difficult.



## Within care homes, most residents are registered at one “main” surgery

Care home	April 2019				April 2015			
	Residents	GP Practices	No. of patients at biggest practice	% of patients at biggest practice	Residents	GP Practices	No. of patients at biggest practice	% of patients at biggest practice
A	98	3	95	97%	108	4	89	82%
B	93	5	62	67%	95	4	92	97%
C	81	5	76	94%	73	5	66	90%
D	63	4	33	52%	-	-	-	-
E	56	3	54	96%	58	2	57	98%
F	41	1	41	100%	37	3	35	95%
G	36	2	35	97%	25	6	20	80%
H	33	1	33	100%	36	1	36	100%
I	31	2	30	97%	31	3	26	84%
J	17	2	16	94%	15	5	10	67%

Only care homes with 15 or more residents in April 2019 are included in the table.

### Methodology notes

- The ‘Care City cohort’ is a pseudonymised dataset that includes property reference numbers and GP registration details for Barking and Dagenham residents
- We matched property reference numbers with a list of care homes in Barking and Dagenham, and then cross-referenced this against the properties with ten or more residents aged 65 or over
- The resulting dataset was a list of residents at care homes in Barking and Dagenham who are also registered at GP surgeries in Barking and Dagenham CCG. This is likely to exclude some care home residents who are registered at surgeries in other CCGs.
- We defined the “main” surgery as the GP practice with the biggest number of registered residents.



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