



Issue 15 – 14 December 2022

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Reflections on 2022 from the Director

As we approach the end of what has been another difficult year, I want to thank you all for again joining together and working tirelessly to rise to the many challenges faced by the sector.

The legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic alongside ongoing funding pressures and the cost-of-living crisis has meant that yet again you and your teams have needed to find energy, flexibility, and resilience to continue to provide support to those who need it most.

Your determination, and your dedication to the people you care for has been unwavering and we are extremely grateful for all your efforts.

We remain committed to supporting you, your workforce and to supporting our residents and know that by working together we can enter 2023 with the same determination, and strength as we have shown this year.

Although services will continue to run over the festive period and many staff will be working, we sincerely hope that you and your teams will have some time to rest and recharge, even if it is short.

Kind regards and warmest wishes for the festive season and New Year.

Jon Wilson

Director of Adults and Communities

The future of adult social care

Adult Social Care Discharge Fund

In the [last Provider News](#) we reported that the DHSC had announced the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund.

Leicestershire County Council has been allocated £2m, and can also draw benefit from some of the funding allocated to the ICB. The Council and LLR ICB must use the funding for the period to 31 March 2023, to:

- enable more people to be discharged to an appropriate setting
- prioritise those approaches that are most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds including those discharges for people with Mental Health
- boost adult social care workforce capacity through recruitment and retention activity, where that will help to reduce delayed discharges from hospital and support more people within their own homes

Schemes using the fund are currently in development, and will focus strongly on the role of home care in ensuring safe and effective discharge during the difficult winter months ahead.

[View the detail of the fund here.](#)

Guidance and good practice

Seasonal vaccination reminder

Two years have now passed since the first COVID-19 vaccination dose was delivered. However, cases of COVID-19 are rising again, and with people set to gather for Christmas and New Year celebrations, the NHS is urging anyone eligible for a booster to come forward urgently, to ensure you and your families are protected.

Those eligible for a COVID-19 booster vaccination include all health and social care staff, carers, anyone over 50 and anyone with a condition that makes them immunosuppressed.

[Book a vaccination here.](#)

A mobile vaccination unit will be present at Loughborough Market from 16-18 December and will be visiting Costco at Thurmaston from 19-21 December 2022.

A [country-wide marketing campaign](#), urging millions of eligible people to get their flu and COVID-19 booster vaccines, continues to run across television, radio and social media.

To learn more, and promote the benefits of vaccination to care colleagues, visit the [Campaign Resource Centre](#) for Q&A leaflets, posters, social media content and stickers, all free to download and share.

Booking and managing vaccinations via the NHS app

For the first time, the NHS app is not only being used to send invitations to those eligible to come forward for seasonal vaccinations, but it can now be used to book or manage COVID-19 vaccination appointments. Integration between the app and the National Booking Service means it's never been easier for app users who are eligible to get their COVID-19 vaccine this winter.

The journey is even simpler for app users as their unique NHS number is already registered within the app.

To have an NHS account, people must be aged 13 or over and registered with an NHS GP surgery in England or the Isle of Man. [Download the app](#).

Care worker Q&A about Covid-19 vaccination

[Care Workers and Covid 19 - Busting the Myths of Vaccination](#) is an interesting article where a care home worker interviews the National Clinical Director for Older People and Integrated Person Centred Care, who is also a GP, on the importance of vaccination.

What is Group A Streptococcus and iGAS?

Group A Streptococcus (GAS), commonly called 'Strep A' is a common bacterium which causes infections in the skin, soft tissues, and respiratory tract. It is responsible for infections such as tonsillitis, impetigo, cellulitis and scarlet fever which can be easily treated with antibiotics.

Many of us carry GAS in our throats and on our skin and it doesn't cause any problems. However, GAS does cause several infections some mild, some serious especially in more vulnerable individuals, such as older people and those who are immunocompromised. The most serious infection linked to GAS is invasive group A strep or iGAS, where the bacteria infect areas such as the lungs or bloodstream. In rare cases iGAS can be fatal.

How is GAS spread?

GAS is spread by close contact with an infected person and can be passed on through coughs, sneezes or from a wound.

What can you do?

- Standard Infection Prevention and Control practices should be followed in all care settings i.e. good hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, correct use of PPE etc as per [COVID-19 Supplement](#)

- On admission to your service, ensure you undertake a comprehensive assessment of the service user's care needs and record their 'norms' e.g., cognitive function, breathing, eating and drinking, continence
- If a person is being treated for an infection such as a urine, chest, or wound infection, monitor for signs of deterioration using either RESTORE2 or NEWS2 and escalate promptly if concerned. [View RESTORE2 resources](#)
- Be alert to the signs and symptoms of Sepsis. Information on recognising signs of sepsis is available via the [Sepsis Trust](#)

IPC newsletters

You may find these newsletters on IPC of interest:

- IPC and Christmas decorations in care homes: [IPC Bulletin Care Homes No 41, December 2022](#)
- Safe management of the environment and equipment for home care providers: [IPC Bulletin Domiciliary Care No 34, November 2022](#)

Telecare is switching from analogue to digital: what care providers need to know

The UK's telecommunications providers are currently transitioning their telephone services from analogue to digital networks. Most are aiming to complete the switchover by 2025.

As part of the switchover, an action plan has been created, outlining how the Department of Health and Social Care is working with stakeholders, including those providing or using telecare services in the care sector.

If the care service you provide includes access to telecare devices, have you discussed the switchover with your service provider or equipment supplier? Does your telephone provider know you have service users using telecare devices linked to their telephones? These and other issues are discussed in the action plan.

[Read the plan in full.](#)

Leicestershire County Council updates

Incident reporting webinar

Learning & Development and the LSCDG are hosting an interactive webinar to explore incident reporting for contracted providers. It will take place on Tuesday 17 January, 14.00-15.30, on Microsoft Teams.

We will cover reportable incidents, reporting procedures, and provide tools to help your decision making.

To book a place, please email madeleine.mcneil@leics.gov.uk. Invites will be sent out prior to the session.

The session will be recorded and made accessible on the LSCDG website after the event for reference, or for anyone who isn't able to attend.

Learning and development opportunities

Deaf awareness training

Hearing loss affects 12 million people across the UK. Frontline colleagues are invited to book a place on this training to learn how to improve the experience of services for people who are D/deaf and hard of hearing.

What is the training about?

- Raise awareness of the access issues that affect D/deaf people in health and social care settings
- Disadvantages facing the D/deaf and hard of hearing community, and how to address these, with particular reference to health inequalities and promoting health literacy
- How to meet the needs of D/deaf and hard of hearing patients, improve health outcomes, and improve patient experience
- Practical tips on communicating with D/deaf people with a range of hearing loss, from moderately hard of hearing to profoundly D/deaf British Sign Language users
- How to book and use BSL interpreters
- The legal obligations of all staff detailed in the Accessible Information Standard.

This training is for frontline colleagues across LLR health and social care, who have contact with people who are D/deaf or hard of hearing.

The interactive in-person training is taking place:

Date and time	Location
Thursday 9 February 10.00-13.00	County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8RA
Tuesday 28 February 10.00-13.00	Leicester Royal Infirmary, Infirmary Square, Leicester, LE1 5WW
Thursday 9 March 13.00-16.00	Leicester Royal Infirmary, Infirmary Square, Leicester, LE1 5WW
Tuesday 21 March 13.00-16.00	Melton Hospital, Thorpe Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 1SJ
Thursday 30 March 10.00-13.00	Evington Centre, Gwendolen Road, Leicester, LE5 4QG

Places are limited and will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. Please email LPT.EDI@nhs.net to book your place.

Making Every Contact Count: healthy conversation skills training

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) is a behavioural approach which enables individuals to use a different approach to working with people to address health and wellbeing. It's about altering the way we interact with people to improve the self-efficacy of individuals to help them identify ways to improve their health and wellbeing.

The system health and wellbeing team are delivering free, interactive, and in-person training for teams working across the LLR Integrated Care System. This practical skills development training is for front line workers who interact with the public and have an opportunity to support health and wellbeing.

Three open training courses are taking place between January and July 2023 (dates below and venues TBC). Spaces are limited and are first come, first served. You have the option to just attend the first session of a course and receive certification of MECC: Healthy Conversation Skills Lite.

- [Thursday 19 January & Thursday 26 January 13:00-16:00](#)
- [Wednesday 26 April & Wednesday 3 May 9:00-12:00](#)
- [Tuesday 4 July & Tuesday 11 July 13:00-16:00](#)

If you would like to coordinate a bespoke training session for your team (max 16 per cohort), please complete the [expression of interest form](#) and a member of the team will come back to you to discuss your requirements.

If you have any questions about the above or would like to discuss, please contact:

- Bryany Cornish bryany.cornish1@nhs.net
- Mariam Khalifa mariam.khalifa2@nhs.net

Financial sustainability

Bulk Energy Contract for care providers

Care England has worked with Box Power to create a sector-wide tender for gas and electricity. The idea is that by combining sector buying power, Box Power (a registered charity) can achieve better arrangements for care providers for 2023 than they can alone, which in turn reduces costs to the sector.

Any provider interested in this can find more information and express their interest by following this link: [Care England's action to establish the largest Gas and Electricity Tender for Care Providers - Care England](#)

Data tracking

Capacity Tracker update

DHSC has provided an update on the Adult Social Care Provider Information Provisions that require submission of data monthly through the Capacity Tracker.

The [Adult Social Care Information \(Enforcement\) Regulations 2022](#) were made law on 10 November 2022 after being debated in both Houses of Parliament and commenced in December 2022.

The guidance on the enforcement process will be published in the week commencing 19 December. This guidance will let you know how DHSC will enforce the information provisions as outlined in the [guidance on data collection](#) first published in July.

It is understood that financial penalties will normally be a last resort, and most of the enforcement process will focus on support to help you meet the requirements of the Information Provisions.

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 26 December 2022. If you are interested in contributing by writing about a topic of your choice, perhaps something that is particularly important to you, please contact us at enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk.