



Issue 17 – 5 January 2023

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Happy new year

We wish you and your teams a happy and healthy 2023, and hope that you found some time for relaxation over the last couple of weeks.

Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, [Deborah Sturdy](#), and Chief Social Worker for Adults, [Lyn Romeo](#), have reflected on a busy, challenging and often surprising 2022 for the care sector and given their best wishes for the year ahead. Click their names to read messages of thanks to all care colleagues in England.

The future of adult social care

Social care reform and fees

Following the publication of the Autumn Statement in mid-November, the council has recently received further guidance from the DHSC in relation to the cost of care work undertaken during 2022. As a result, we will be sharing further details with care homes and home care providers at the forum meetings on Monday 9 January. To ensure that you have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion, we strongly encourage attendance – [see dial in details](#).

The cost of care breakdown (Annex A) and the associated cost of care report (Annex B) will be finalised and submitted to the DHSC for publication by 1 February 2023. It is important we incorporate providers’ views on the process and outcome this month. The report contains commentary in relation to the cost of care calculation, profit assumptions and the effectiveness of the exercise.

The Market Sustainability Plan (Annex C) is currently due for submission in February, but we understand that the submission date may be moved to 31 March 2023. However, this document includes commentary about the key risks faced by providers in Leicestershire, so again, we’d welcome feedback on that before submitting it to the DHSC. As you’re aware we ran a series of workshops in December outlining the key principles of the Market Sustainability Plan and those areas that we have incorporated as strategic commissioning areas for 2023 onwards.

The cost of care work has been met with mixed levels of response from providers both locally within the County and nationally which has meant that the data from the exercises (care homes and home care) has not been reliable enough to present consistent conclusions. We will however use some of the information to inform the council's fee setting, but the unprecedented levels of inflation, together with the council's budgetary position, will be more prominent in driving the April 2023 uplift. Ongoing engagement and messages with providers will be in place throughout the first quarter of 2023.

Important decisions will be made in relation to fees in the coming months, so we hope you'll prioritise attendance at the relevant provider forum on Monday to discuss fees and market sustainability, as well as giving feedback subsequently via a provider survey which will be circulated in mid-January.

Guidance and good practice

COVID-19 guidance changes

In [Provider News 16](#) we reported that there have been changes to the national COVID-19 guidance.

A letter was issued last month which summarises the position on the risk-based approach to the wearing of face masks – [you can read it here](#). However, whilst we recognise that the national guidance no longer mandates the wearing of masks, there is a significant increase in respiratory viruses during this winter season and would recommend and encourage mask wearing in all care settings.

We know from our experience of the last few winters that the wearing of face masks, along with other controls for infection prevention such as hand hygiene and environmental cleaning, has had a significant impact on the reduction of respiratory viruses across all settings. Therefore we would encourage this best practice to continue, to protect people using services and colleagues working in these settings.

We also strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to have their COVID-19 booster and their flu vaccine - [it is not too late to be vaccinated](#).

A handy guide to the changes is presented in the table below.

Face masks

Face masks should be worn by all staff if the care setting is in COVID-19 outbreak.

<i>Task</i>	<i>PPE required</i>
Personal care or cleaning the room of someone with suspected/confirmed COVID, or another infection that is spread by droplet or aerosol route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFP2 mask; eye protection; gloves; apron • Dispose PPE once task completed

<i>Task</i>	<i>PPE required</i>
Other tasks within 2 metres of the individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFP2 mask; eye protection • Dispose PPE once task completed
Personal care e.g. emptying a commode, emptying catheter bag, handling dirty linen or cleaning tasks involving possible blood/body fluid contact on someone without suspected/confirmed COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assess need for face mask and eye protection if there is a risk of blood or body fluid splashing • Apron; gloves • Dispose PPE once task completed
Aerosol Generating Procedure on someone with suspected/confirmed COVID, or other infection that is spread by droplet or aerosol route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFP3 mask; eye protection; gloves; apron • Wear gown if there is a risk of extensive splashing • Dispose PPE once task completed
Aerosol Generating Procedure on someone without suspected/confirmed infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFP2 mask eye protection; gloves; apron • Dispose PPE once task completed
Social contact with staff, residents or visitors, care or domestic activity not involving contact with blood or body fluids e.g. tidying, giving medication, handling clean linen, writing in notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Outdoor activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
Indoor activity which is risk assessed as high risk of transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider use of facemask

Testing

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Testing regime</i>
Staff with symptoms of COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay off work/go home and do LFT • Another LFT 48 hrs later • If both negative can come back to work
Residents with symptoms of COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate; LFT and another LFT 48 hrs later • If both negative can come out of isolation
If staff or a resident tests positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/resident to do daily LFTs from day 5 and can end isolation if 2 consecutive tests taken 24 hours apart are negative or after 10 days isolating
Staff – asymptomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regular testing needed
Residents – asymptomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regular testing needed

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Testing regime</i>
Visitors carrying out personal care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No regular testing needed
Outbreak management (2 or more linked positive cases within 14 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL staff and residents LFT and PCR on day 1 One LFT & PCR on day 4 -7 After first week no further testing unless individuals become symptomatic If 10 days with no positive results or symptomatic individuals, outbreak recovery testing can be undertaken
Outbreak recovery testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No earlier than 10 days after the last staff/resident positive test or staff/resident symptoms PCR for all staff/residents who have not tested positive within 90 days If all negative – restrictions can be lifted If positive cases, Health Protection Team may advise to continue with restrictions until no more positive cases

Admission to care homes

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Guidance</i>
Admission from other care home or community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCR within 72 hours of admission LFT on day of admission No isolation if negative If positive – isolate and follow testing rules for positive resident
Admission from hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCR within 48 hours (except 90-day rule – do LFT) If positive – can be admitted if home can care for person safely, isolated for 10 days and testing as above for resident with COVID
Admission from hospital from an area in active outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate on admission for 10 days LFT from day 5 and if 2 consecutive tests can come out of isolation

Stay well this winter

[Find out how to stay well this winter](#), with advice on keeping warm and [healthy](#) and being prepared for the cold weather.

A [Council booklet](#) has lots of information about keeping warm and well, at home and out and about, as well as protecting homes and vehicles this winter.

Leicestershire County Council updates

Adult social care provider conference calls in 2023

Please join us on our regular conference calls for adult social care providers. The dates, times and dial in details for 2023's sessions for home care, care homes, community life choices and supported living can all be found [here](#).

The calls give providers an opportunity to hear about strategy, good practice, any guidance changes, and financial information, as well as giving valuable feedback to the Council from the sector, and a chance for providers to ask questions of and make comments to Council managers and officers.

Learning and development

'Lead to succeed' and 'well-led' training programmes

LSCDG is running two fully funded pilot courses at Leicestershire's County Hall:

- [Lead To Succeed \(5 day course, Jan and Feb\) – for aspiring leaders, and deputies](#)
- [Well-Led \(4 day course, March\) - for managers](#)

Both programmes are fully funded and providers can claim £500 per learner for each course on successful completion via [Skills for Care's Workforce Development Fund](#). In order to claim the funding you must have updated your adult social care workforce data set and returned your members declaration form by 28 February 2023 to lscdg@leics.gov.uk (you can only complete the membership declaration form once you have created and updated the ASC-WDS account).

Nominations need to be sent to nazir.hussein@leics.gov.uk by the end of the day on 10 January 2023.

A briefing session has been arranged for 10 January 2023 via MS Teams at 11:00-12:00, to explain both programmes and answer any queries - please [use this link to join the meeting](#) on the day.

MRSA refresher webinar

A refresher webinar on MRSA in adult social care settings is being held on Wednesday 18 January 2023, 14.00-15.00.

To access the webinar, delegates must have a [Learning Hub](#) account with the Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG). They should log in to their own account and search LSCDG Infection Prevention & Control Basics.

If you do have an account, then please [see the instructions](#).

Please email queries about the webinar to infection@leics.gov.uk

Opportunities

Winter retention payment for Home Care for Leicestershire workers – initial scheme deadline approaching

[Provider News 16](#) announced that Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council have developed a scheme for workers of home care providers who are contracted to the authorities under the Home Care for Leicestershire framework or Leicester City Council Domiciliary Care framework.

Eligible organisations have been emailed the scheme documents including the application form – please remember that to participate you must initially submit a provisional template containing an estimate of the number of staff that are likely to qualify for the retention payment by 18.00 on 16 January 2023. To ensure fairness for employers submitting information in time, late submissions will strictly not be accepted.

If you have any questions, or require more information, please contact Dave Pruden, Lead Commissioner, at dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk

Events

‘My Truth: a manifesto for positive change’ workshop

‘My Truth: A Manifesto for Positive Change’ has been created in partnership with the Arts and Heritage team at UHL and is designed for health and social care staff from ethnically diverse backgrounds to have their voice heard in a safe space. In these uplifting and affirmative workshops, colleagues will have the chance to help to create a poetry manifesto that will outline the change they want to see in their organisation and across the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland system to make it a more inclusive place to work and inspire the artwork that will accompany the words. The workshops are also designed to provide a creative outlet to alleviate stress and therefore have an indirect impact on wellbeing.

[Bookings are now open](#) for the workshops this month, and spaces are limited to 20 per session. We encourage you to share the workshop details with your staff.

Next edition

The next issue of Provider News will be published during week commencing 16 January 2023. 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.