



Issue 18 – 12 January 2023

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Guidance and good practice

Mask wearing and free PPE scheme

As detailed in [Provider News 17](#), guidance was released in December 2022 to give providers more autonomy over universal face mask use. This enables providers to conduct risk assessments to make decisions about the use of face masks across adult social care.

Care workers and visitors to care homes do not routinely need to wear a face mask at all times in care settings, however there are a number of circumstances where it is recommended that care workers and visitors to care settings wear masks to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19. These are:

- if the person being cared for is known or suspected to have COVID-19 (recommended Type IIR fluid-repellent surgical mask)
- if the member of staff or visitor is aware that they are a household or overnight contact of someone who has had a positive test result for COVID-19
- if the care setting is in an outbreak – see section on outbreak management for further information

If a resident is particularly vulnerable to severe outcomes from COVID-19 (for example, [potentially eligible for COVID-19 therapeutics](#)), mask wearing may be considered on an individual basis in accordance with their preferences.

Risk assessments should be undertaken to inform the use of PPE, including face masks and eye protection, when carrying out personal care/cleaning activities and there is a risk of blood or body fluid splashing.

Detailed guidance can be found in the [COVID-19 supplement to the IPC resource](#) for adult social care.

The Government has extended the provision of free PPE for all health, social care and public sector workers until their stocks have depleted, or until the end of March 2024 (whichever is sooner). Further details can be found at [GOV.UK](#). Providers are

asked to only order PPE based on current demand, and order limits will continue to be applied and order volumes will be monitored.

Learning disability vaccination clinic details

Please promote the next LLR COVID-19 vaccination clinics for people with a learning disability, who need a first, second or booster vaccination, which are on:

- Tuesday 17 January 2023, 10.15–17.45
- Friday 17 February 2023, 10.15–17.45

The venue is Loughborough Hospital Vaccination Centre, Hospital Way, Loughborough LE11 5JY, and the clinics are open to all ages from 5-years-old to adults.

To book call 07917 734 725 or:

- [Bookings for a person aged 12 years old and over](#)
- [Bookings for a child aged 5-11 years old](#)

The clinic is run by specially trained nurses who are very friendly and experienced. Adaptations can be made.

Influenza outbreaks in care homes

Recently, there have been a number of influenza or influenza-like infection outbreaks in care homes.

Across LLR there is a specific pathway for UKHSA to follow once they have been notified by a care home of residents or staff with flu-like symptoms.

In such situations, UKHSA will risk assess whether an outbreak is likely along with the need for swabbing and/or antiviral medication. If these are required, UKHSA will arrange for DHU to attend the care home within 24 hours to assess the residents affected, swab and prescribe antivirals if recommended.

UKHSA can be contacted via Tel. 0344 225 4524, option 1 and they are contactable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Leicestershire County Council updates

Discharge Fund – enhanced home care solutions

Overview

To assist hospital discharges the Council intends to provide people with enhanced home care packages so that they can be assessed in their own home. This may include 24-hour wrap around care, or an increased number of ‘welfare check’ calls with the addition of night-time calls.

We also want to enable people being discharged from a mental health bed to have an intensive reablement period - for example, 6 weeks of additional calls to build their confidence in line with their ability prior to the hospital stay. We will shortly be offering training to all Home Care for Leicestershire framework providers regarding mental health support.

These solutions will not suit everyone, and staff discharging patients are being encouraged to think creatively about a support plan that will enable the person to go home, rather than stay in hospital or move to a short-term residential care bed. The key message we are giving to the person in need of support and their family is 'we are using an extended and extensive support package to enable them to go home.'

Criteria

There is no minimum or maximum number of days the increased support can be commissioned for, but the intention is to step the provision down as soon as it is safe to do so.

The requests will be emailed to providers within the same email as the hospital await care list as with other discharges to ensure a speedy response. They will be highlighted to show that they are part of the Discharge Fund plans and to clarify that this will be a short-term arrangement.

The level of support will be reviewed after 7 days to ensure the person's outcomes are being met and the scheme remains appropriate.

Please contact Katie (Lead Commissioner for Home Care and Hospital Discharge) if you have any queries regarding this process: katie.joondan@leics.gov.uk

Learning and development

Skills for Care and Health Education England workforce planning training

Skills for Care and Health Education England are hosting a free, face-to-face workshop on effective workforce planning for adult social care providers in LLR.

It will:

- help you understand market trends in your area and how commissioners are shaping the local market
- help you assess where you are now with workforce planning
- give you the tools you need to develop an effective staff plan for your service.

Further details and booking details are to follow but for now, please hold the date of Wednesday 8 March at Leicestershire County Hall. Limited places will be available.

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

Data tracking

Health and Care Act 2022: adult social care information provisions

[Guidance](#) for adult social care providers on how to comply with the information provisions of the Health and Care Act 2022, and how they will be enforced, is now available.

Health and wellbeing

LLR system health and wellbeing offers

Upcoming system health and wellbeing offers available for all staff working across the LLR health and social care system are available to [view and book](#).

In addition, [recorded sessions are available to watch online](#) and the [Wellbeing Wednesday playlist](#) is available on demand.

Should you have any queries, please contact Llrhw.leadconnectcarefestival@nhs.net.

Events

‘My Truth: a manifesto for positive change’ workshop

In [Provider News 17](#) we publicised forthcoming ‘My Truth: A Manifesto for Positive Change’ workshops for health and social care staff from ethnically diverse

backgrounds to have their voice heard in a safe space, and outline the change they want to see in their organisation and across the LLR system.

As a result of pressures across the health and social care system, the workshops have now been postponed until spring and we will bring you further information when the new dates are available.

Awards

East Midlands Patient Safety Collaborative care home awards

'Connecting Together' celebrates care to be proud of which makes a difference to care home residents and staff. If you know of a care home, worker, manager or support team member who go that extra mile, nominate them to recognise, acknowledge and show appreciation for their achievements and the fantastic contribution they make to driving quality improvements in care homes.

The categories are:

- Carer of the Year
- Care Home Manager of the Year
- Support Team of the Year
- Best Improvement Project
- Best for Wellbeing
- Care Home of the Year

Entries opened on Wednesday 4 January 2023 and the deadline for entries is Thursday 9 February 2023. The winner will be announced at the Connecting Together Care Home Celebration event on Thursday 2 March 2023 ([register now](#)).

Please [submit a nomination](#).

Next edition

We expect to publish the next issue of Provider News during week commencing 23 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.