



**Issue 21 – 9 February 2023**

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## **The future of adult social care**

### **Proposed fee uplifts for 2023/24**

In the next few weeks Leicestershire County Council will be releasing its annual fee uplift levels for its main care and support contracts.

Whilst there is no contractual requirement for the Council to consult providers on the level of uplift, we want to assure you that the process to arrive at the uplift is very carefully considered and with regard paid to feedback from providers through engagement of various types.

The local, regional and national factors which have been used in determining the inflationary uplift for 2023/24 are:

#### *Local*

- Engagement with local provider representative bodies
- Engagement with providers through the regular conference calls including bespoke finance sessions in December 2022; letters and emails from individual organisations; feedback via the Quality and Contracts service within the Commissioning team
- Lessons learned from local provider instability or failure
- Local market risks
- Impact on people and consideration of equality implications through Equality Impact Assessment
- The Council's financial position

#### *Regional*

- Approaches taken by peer local authorities in the East Midlands
- Advice from East Midlands Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)

#### *National*

- The national context including inflationary pressures, as reflected in the basis for uplift given in the relevant contract, which depending on its content may include National Living Wage, Consumer Prices Index and Average Weekly Earnings
- Advice from Partners in Care and Health (formerly CHIP)
- Information from national provider representative organisations

Detailed calculations per contract type have been carried out by finance, commissioning and quality, and systems staff, and the recommendations are being considered prior to publication of the proposed fees for 2023/24.

We are targeting release of the uplift levels during week commencing 27 February 2023 and will further engage with providers on the March [conference calls](#). New rates will be implemented on 10 April 2023, in line with the benefit payment cycle.

## **Guidance and good practice**

### **Act now: winter COVID booster vaccinations cease on 12 February**

Eligible people in the Midlands yet to receive a seasonal booster can have theirs up to and including 12 February 2023, when the winter booster vaccination programme closes.

Information on the spring booster programme, including who will be eligible, is yet to be released.

While more than 3.3 million people have had their COVID-19 seasonal booster, there are still a number of eligible people who are yet to take up their winter vaccinations and are therefore at increased risk of serious illness. COVID-19 remains very dangerous and even life threatening for some, especially older people and younger people with long term health conditions.

Bookable appointments are still available as well as walk-in clinics offering COVID jabs in convenient community locations. People can book their latest COVID-19 dose through the [national booking system](#) or by calling 119. You can also get a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from a walk-in site without an appointment. You can find the nearest walk-in sites on the [NHS website](#).

However, the 'evergreen' offer of the primary course of a COVID vaccination (i.e. first and second doses) will continue for all cohorts, with no change to current arrangements.

### **Ombudsman's guide for care providers on good record keeping**

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman has recently published a [good practice guide](#) relating to record keeping by care home and home care providers.

Poor records can have serious consequences for the people supported by care providers. The guide shares the learning from Ombudsman investigations, highlighting some errors in real scenarios.

Where the Ombudsman finds gaps in records, it can cast doubt on the integrity of the whole of the provider's response. Good practice tips in the guide include ensuring all relevant staff are familiar with the recording system used and maintaining accurate, honest and contemporary records.

### **Free personal protective equipment scheme**

As you know, the national free PPE scheme was extended by DHSC until March 2024 or when stocks are depleted, whichever was sooner. The government has now

listed PPE categories and given an [estimated month when they expect this PPE to run out](#).

Read the [related policy paper](#).

## **Learning and development opportunities**

### **LLR LeDeR learning event – 2 March**

A virtual event is running on 2 March where you can learn more about the LeDeR programme, which is a service improvement programme for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

There will be various sessions held over the day, which you can access by clicking on the links below. You do not need to book.

Come along to find out more about LeDeR, some of the emerging themes across LLR, have an opportunity to ask questions of the LeDeR team and take that learning back into your day-to-day work with people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

- LeDeR – who are they? 9:30–10:30, [join the meeting](#)
- Intersectionality, 10:45–11:45, [join the meeting](#)
- Learning through stories, 12:30–13:30, [join the meeting](#)
- Aspiration pneumonia, 13:45–14:45, [join the meeting](#)
- Question time, 15:00–16:00, [join the meeting](#). You may forward any questions you may want to ask to: [llr.lederadmin@nhs.net](mailto:llr.lederadmin@nhs.net)

### **Skills for Care and Health Education England workforce planning training**

Limited spaces remain on the effective workforce planning in-person training for LLR adult social care providers on 8 March, 10.00-16.00 at Leicestershire County Hall, Glenfield.

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

Lunch will be provided.

Further information, including how to book, is available at [Skills for Care](#).

## **Industrial action**

Further East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) strike dates are planned, with the next one scheduled for Monday 20 February to Tuesday 21 February. Information will be updated when available onto the [EMAS news page](#).

## **Next edition**

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 13 February 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](mailto:enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk).