



Issue 23 – 2 March 2023

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The future of adult social care

Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability Plan

As part of the national social care reforms, Leicestershire County Council has completed a Fair Cost of Care exercise for its care home and home care markets, and a [summary of the findings](#) was published on 1 February.

The Council’s resulting Market Sustainability Plan (MSP) will be published at the end of the month, once approved by councillors. The [final MSP](#), subject to approval, is now available on the council website as part of Scrutiny papers along with an [explanatory report](#).

Annual inflationary fee uplifts for 2023/24

The annual inflationary uplifts for the managed services of Home Care for Leicestershire, residential and nursing care, supported living, and community life choices will be published via letters emailed to providers this week.

Guidance and good practice

Spring COVID-19 booster eligibility

[Eligible cohorts for the spring COVID-19 booster programme](#) have just been announced as:

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in the Green Book

It is anticipated that vaccination in care homes will begin in early April, and the national booking service will also open at that time.

Although health and social care workers, including those working in care homes, are not eligible for a spring booster, the 'evergreen' offer for those who have not received either a first or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is still available.

Community health services directory for care homes

A community health services directory for care homes is available on the [Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust](#) website.

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. In [Provider News 21](#) we advised that the government has 4 listed PPE categories and given an estimated month when they expect this PPE to run out.

Last week, the [out-of-stock dates by PPE category](#) was updated with current estimates.

Photo ID at polling stations

Many care home residents, and those who receive home care, vote by post or proxy. However, if you support anyone to vote at polling stations, please make sure they bring photo ID for the local elections on 4 May. The deadline to register to vote is 11:59pm, Monday 17 April 2023.

Anyone without a form of accepted photo ID can apply for a free [Voter Authority Certificate](#). They must do this by 5pm Tuesday 25 April.

[Download and print a guide for staff and volunteers](#) working with older people.

International recruitment in adult social care

The Government recently announced £15 million to support international recruitment in the adult social care sector for 2023-2024.

The Government have requested that the support be led at a regional level. It has been agreed that Lincolnshire will be lead local authority that will work with other councils in the partnership, care alliances and providers. Once the international recruitment needs and priorities of providers in the area have been assessed all providers in the area will have access to any shared solutions.

If you have used this recruitment route since February 2022, either as an employer or an employee, the Department of Health and Social Care international recruitment team would like to hear from you on ASCInternationalRecruitment@dhsc.gov.uk

[Inspired to Care](#) will be supporting this initiative and are currently looking to set up a networking group to support providers facing issues with international recruitment. This group will be hosted by Inspired to Care but will be run by and for providers. If you are interested in joining please email the team on inspiredtocare@leics.gov.uk.

You may find the following links useful:

- Skills for Care – [Midlands Nominated Individual Network meeting](#), 27 March, with an update from and questions with Patricia Suarez, Adult Social Care international recruitment, DHSC
- Skills for Care - [international recruitment](#)
- Better Hiring Institute – [onboarding Ukrainian nationals](#)

Leicestershire County Council updates

Leicestershire County Council budget

Last week, Councillors agreed the [authority's budget](#) for the next four years, which features significant investment in support for vulnerable people. However, the Council's financial position remains very challenging.

Review of the Leicestershire County Council care home contract

The Council's 'core contract for residential accommodation, social care and health services' was finalised in June 2019, to run for a four-year period. It provides the basis for the expectations of the standard of the services provided for people who are funded by the Council.

Although it is possible for the contract to be extended, it will be reviewed to reflect change from the last 4 years, good practice expected, and intentions for the future amongst other matters.

The Council is keen to secure provider input into developing the new core contract, and will be inviting EMCARE and individual providers to participate. We will be in

touch through a future Provider News with details of how you can be involved, but in the meantime, please email enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk if you are interested. We are looking for representatives from older adult and working age adult services.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards – care homes

Where a person living in a care home is under a DoLS authorisation and you have identified any changes in their circumstances, if you are concerned that they may be objecting and an appeal is not being instigated by the representative, or if there are any unmet conditions, please request a Part 8 Review. This can be done by completing the first half of the Form 10, making reference to the changes to the person's circumstances and the impact on them, and sending this to the supervisory body via e-mail to dols.team@leics.gov.uk using Egress or via fax to 0116 305 5555.

Where a DoLS is about to expire, please submit a Form 2 to the Supervisory Body. This can be done via the above methods, by sharing it with the Best Interests Assessor (BIA) when they visit or by using the [online submission form](#).

Providers are extremely busy however it is critical that reviews are instigated to ensure that the person's rights are being upheld and to ensure that the DoLS remains valid and lawful. There might not always be staff available to speak to the BIAs when they visit, however please consider this when BIAs are arranging visits, as it is part of their role to consult with the managing authority and therefore it is important to gain your views and to have access to relevant records and care plans. The length of BIA visits is variable as it is dependent on the person's presentation, engagement, communication ability and other various factors and on some occasions, BIAs may need to visit multiple times.

Learning and development opportunities

LGBTQ+ learning framework

A new free [learning framework](#) has been launched by Skills for Care and aims to provide a base for identifying the insights, knowledge, understanding and skills that the social care workforce need to help them work affirmatively, inclusively and effectively with individuals from gender and sexually diverse communities.

The framework, which was developed with the LGBT Foundation, can be used by social care employers, employees, training providers, regulator, commissioners, policy makers and others to build their own knowledge of LGBTQ+ issues, to support colleagues' understanding, and to create learning programmes which will allow teams to better support LGBTQ+ people in later life.

Mental health training offer for home care staff

To help Home Care staff in Leicestershire feel more confident working with people with mental ill health, and supporting their reablement and recovery in wrap-around

care, LSCDG has put together a programme of training, funded by Leicestershire County Council.

This free training can be accessed by any home care agency in Leicestershire. There is e-learning and webinars; staff can access any course that would be useful to them.

The webinars are:

- Person Centred Care – Monday 13 March 10:00 – 1:00 & 1:30 – 4:30
- Effective Communication – Tuesday 14 March 10:00 – 1:00 & 1:30 – 4:30
- Strength Based Approaches Cohort 3 Part 1 – Wednesday 15 March 1.30 – 4.30
- Managing Aggression & Challenging Behaviour – Wednesday 15 March 10:00 – 1:00
- Managing Aggression & Challenging Behaviour – Wednesday 15 March 1.30 – 4.30
- Strength Based Approaches Cohort 3 Part 2 – Thursday 16 March 1:30 – 4:30
- Person Centred Care – Thursday 16 March 10:00 – 1:00
- Effective Communication – Thursday 16 March 1:30 – 4:30
- Mental Health First Aid Awareness – Tuesday 21 March 9:00 – 1:00

Places on these courses are first come first served, and they may not be offered again, so please do not miss this opportunity. To book on a webinar, or access any of the e-learning please visit the [LSCDG Learning Hub](#). All the details about how to sign up and access the training are on the Learning Hub. You will need an [account with LSCDG](#) to access any of the training.

If you have any questions please contact Nazir.Hussein@leics.gov.uk or Madeleine.Mcneil@leics.gov.uk

Financial sustainability

Smart Solutions by ESPO

ESPO understands that providing the best care for the people you support is your top priority. However, they also know that the procurement process for necessary equipment and services can be complex and time-consuming, taking precious resources away from the care you provide. Smart Solutions are procurement agreements developed by ESPO for the care sector.

With their years of experience in procurement, they have created over 60 solutions designed by experts that cater to the needs of providers of all sizes and budgets. These agreements offer a simple and efficient route to your procurement needs, allowing you to focus on providing quality care to people you support. Their frameworks cover a wide range of products and services, from [personal protective equipment](#) to [catering supplies](#), and from [cleaning services](#) to [care equipment](#).

With Smart Solutions, you can be sure that you're getting the best value for your money, without compromising on quality. If you're looking to streamline your

procurement process and improve your efficiency, explore the [Smart Solutions offered by ESPO](#). Take the hassle out of procurement, so you can continue to provide the best support for people.

For more information please get in touch with Business Development Manager Eleanor Hendry, on e.hendry@espo.org or 07920 137983.

Eleanor will be presenting the ESPO offer and answering questions at Leicestershire County Council's forthcoming [provider teleconferences](#).

Events

My Truth – A Manifesto for Positive Change – new dates

'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 care staff from ethnically diverse backgrounds to have their voice heard in a safe space. These uplifting and affirmative workshops are open to anyone who would like to have their voice heard.

You will help to create a poetry manifesto that will outline what you want to see in your organisation and across the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) system, and inspire the artwork that will accompany the words. The workshops are also designed to provide a creative outlet to alleviate stress and are therefore have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

[Bookings are now open](#) for workshops in April, and spaces are limited to 20 per workshop. Please share with your staff networks.

Celebration, commemoration and awareness raising

50 years of advocacy for people with learning disability

Speak Out has produced a film chronicling [50 years of advocacy for people with learning disability](#).

Industrial action

Potential EMAS and junior doctor strikes

Information is awaited on the following potential industrial action:

- [EMAS](#) – 6 March
- Junior doctors – 16-18 March

Further detail will be provided when it is available.

Ongoing industrial action by National Education Union

You will be aware that the National Education Union is expected to call strike days on 15 and 16 March as part of national industrial action. Schools are considering provision for key workers' children but will not have an accurate understanding of staff availability until the day. Adult social care providers should consider now how you will provide safe staffing levels for your services, enacting your business continuity plans where necessary.

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 13 March 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.