

# Leicestershire Adult Social Care Provider News



## Issue 26 – 20 April 2023

### Contents

Contents.....	1
The future of adult social care .....	2
Government sets out next steps to reform adult social care .....	2
Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF).....	3
Podcast now available on the LLR Care Record .....	4
Guidance and good practice .....	5
National emergency alert system test – Sunday 23 April, 15:00.....	5
Check an alert.....	5
If you're driving or riding when you get an alert.....	5
Turning off alerts .....	5
If you are anxious about the alert.....	6
Reminder: care home spring booster consents .....	6
Missed vaccinations for care home residents .....	7
Controlled drugs newsletter – spring 2023 .....	7
Alternative fuel payment scheme.....	7
Learning and development opportunities .....	7
Safeguarding Matters briefing – 7 June 2023.....	7

Data tracking .....	8
Adult social care data enforcement commenced 1 April 2023 .....	8
Reminder: Care Data Matters .....	8
ASC-WDS demo webinars for care providers.....	8
Health and wellbeing .....	8
Closure of the LLR Mental Health Wellbeing Hub .....	8
Reminder: My Truth – A Manifesto for Positive Change .....	9
Consultations and research.....	9
New care workforce pathway: call for evidence .....	9
Commemoration, celebration and awareness raising.....	10
Celebrating Social Care month .....	10
International Nurses’ Day and regional event .....	10
Industrial action .....	11
Forthcoming possible strikes .....	11
Next edition .....	11

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

### **Government sets out next steps to reform adult social care**

The People at the Heart of Care white paper, published in December 2021, set out a 10-year vision for adult social care. It was shaped by national and local government, care providers, care staff, the NHS, people who draw on care and support, their friends and family, charities and the voluntary sector. The vision puts people at its heart and revolves around 3 objectives:

- People have choice, control and support to live independent lives
- People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support
- People find adult social care fair and accessible

On 4 April the government presented detailed plans for progressing the 10-year vision setting out how government is implementing the proposals from the white paper, along with some new commitments and key milestones. The plans include:

- Improving access to care and support: There will be funding to help Local Authorities to increase their adult social care capacity, an international recruitment programme will be launched in Summer 2023 and the NHS Responders Volunteers programme expanded to include Social Care.
- Recognising skills for careers in care: Initiatives announced include the introduction of a new care workforce pathway for adult social care, a new Care Certificate qualification, a skills passport to provide a verifiable record of training and qualifications and a range of new, funded training schemes.
- Digital transformation in adult social care: The testing and scaling of new technologies to improve care quality and safety, scaling up the digital training offer and increasing uptake of digital social care records by 2025.
- Personalising care through stronger data: The introduction of person-level data collection from April 2023 and finalising by the end of 2023 the roadmap for improving how data is collected, used and shared.
- Improving transparency and accountability: CQC assurance of local authorities' adult social care delivery. Forty Local Authorities are expected to be subject to assurance by the end of March 2024.
- Supporting people to remain independent at home: Launch of a new, independently chaired Older People's Housing Taskforce. There will also be additional funding via an increase to the Disabled Facilities Grant for people to make adaptations and repairs to their homes.
- Driving innovation and improvement: The launch of a £35 million 2-year targeted fund to test and scale ways to innovate and transform local authority processes. This will provide targeted support for local authorities and establish a new innovation and improvement unit within DHSC.
- Joining up services to support people and carers: There will be a new survey of unpaid carers and a national evaluation by carers services to inform local decision-making around what to commission and how to deliver effective support services for unpaid carers.

## **Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF)**

The Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund, which follows on from the Fair Cost of Care Fund, was announced in the autumn statement in November 2022. The primary purpose of the fund is to support local authorities to make tangible improvements to adult social care services in their area, in particular to build capacity and improve market sustainability.

The government identifies 3 vital target areas of improvement, which are:

- increasing fee rates paid to adult social care providers in local areas
- increasing adult social care workforce capacity and retention
- reducing adult social care waiting times

The council has identified the need to review nursing care fees in its [Market Sustainability Plan](#) and is currently working with partners, including the Integrated Commissioning Board on implementation. There will also be engagement with providers on those plans in the forthcoming months.

Leicestershire will also deploy sustainability funding to reduce wait times and is currently considering options, particularly in relation to review.

DHSC also require the council to report on a number of areas including workforce, so colleagues from the Inspired to Care team will contact providers later this month to request high-level workforce information.

For more information please see the [Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund guidance](#) or contact [dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk](mailto:dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk)

## **Podcast now available on the LLR Care Record**

An interview with leading figures from the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Care Record programme is now available as a special [podcast on Spotify](#).

The LLR Care Record is bringing together people's health and social care records across the area in one safe and secure platform accessible by those directly involved in an individual's care. The programme is being progressed by the LLR Integrated Care Board, University Hospitals of Leicester, Leicestershire Partnership Trust, the three upper tier local authorities and Loros hospice, and is working toward connecting other local partners including community pharmacies, DHU111 and care homes.

In the podcast, Evolution host Brad De Kunder-Clark speaks to Laura Godtschalk, Programme Manager, and Toby Page, Architecture Consultant, about the programme, its impact on care in the area and lessons learnt from implementation. The podcast show routinely attracts about 1,500 listeners and the show's producers have received positive feedback on the LLR Care Record programme episode.

In the 45-minute episode, first published in March 2023, Brad questions Laura and Toby about various aspects of the programme including what it aims to do, anticipated benefits, approaches to collaboration and raising awareness through communications and engagement.

Laura says: "It was very enjoyable appearing on the show and has proved a useful way of sharing learning across the health and care sector to other areas who may be at an earlier stage of setting up their shared care record programmes".

To find out more about the LLR Care Record, visit the [LLR Integrated Care Board website](#). It contains information about the programme, as well as a 'frequently asked questions' sheet, a public-facing leaflet and information on how a member of the public could choose to object to being included should they wish.

To contact the LLR Care Record Programme team, please email [lpt.llrcarerecord@nhs.net](mailto:lpt.llrcarerecord@nhs.net)

## **Guidance and good practice**

### **National emergency alert system test – Sunday 23 April, 15:00**

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system is now live and it will be tested on phones across the UK on Sunday 23 April at 15.00.

The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger. It will be used to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding.

Emergency Alerts are sent to all compatible mobile phones within an area of risk. They don't track your location, need your phone number, or collect personal data. Only the government and the emergency services will be able to send them. If you don't have a mobile phone, you'll still be kept informed through other channels.

If you get an Emergency Alert on your phone, you'll hear a loud, siren-like sound. A message on your screen will tell you about the emergency and how best to respond. If you have a vision or hearing impairment, audio and vibration attention signals will let you know you have an emergency alert.

Watch the [short explainer video](#) and the [demonstration test](#) on YouTube which explains the new system and shows what an alert might look and sound like. If you're working with vulnerable people, ensure you're familiar with the appearance and sound of alerts so that you can help identify them.

#### **Check an alert**

You'll be able to check an alert is genuine at [www.gov.uk/alerts](http://www.gov.uk/alerts) where you will find current alerts, past alerts and any service tests. This will enable you to confirm the alert before acting yourself or on behalf of others, which will help prevent any unnecessary concern and identify any messages which might not be genuine.

If you receive an alert, read the alert carefully and follow the instructions.

#### **If you're driving or riding when you get an alert**

If you're driving or riding when an alert goes off, you should find somewhere safe and legal to stop before reading the message. If there's nowhere safe and legal to stop, and nobody else is in the vehicle to read the alert, you can listen to news on live radio to find out about the emergency. The alert system does not replace other channels like radio and television.

#### **Turning off alerts**

You can opt out of receiving emergency alerts by changing your settings – visit [www.gov.uk/alerts/how-alerts-work](http://www.gov.uk/alerts/how-alerts-work) to find out how.

Some groups, including care providers, care home residents and others living or working in specialised settings, may choose to opt out to protect those who are

easily distressed or confused. However, the Government recommends everyone participates to help keep individuals and communities safe.

### **If you are anxious about the alert**

There are many reasons why people may find the alert test uncomfortable or anxiety-inducing. If you're feeling worried then charity Mind have useful information on [anxiety and panic attacks](#) on their website and have the following tips:

- Spend the day in safe company
- Plan an activity for after the alert
- Check in with your support network

### **Reminder: care home spring booster consents**

Residents in care homes for older adults are to be offered a booster dose of COVID19 vaccine this spring. COVID-19 is more serious in older people and in people with certain underlying health conditions. The following cohorts are invited for vaccinations this spring

- All residents in older aged care homes
- People aged 75 and over on 30 June 2023
- Immunocompromised individuals

The care home vaccination programme has now begun, and GP practices will contact you directly to make arrangements and confirm a date.

In anticipation of these upcoming visits, all care home managers are asked to ensure that all [care home resident consent forms](#) have been signed and collated. Obtaining consent is the responsibility of the care home. This must be completed prior to vaccination teams visiting your care home. The forms on this website have been designed by a team from the Midlands and the South-East with regional colleagues, systems and vaccination teams to try and support best practice to increase safety.

- The Care Homes Checklist is designed for use by care home staff and vaccination teams and provides a checklist to support planning, the vaccination process and post-vaccine support.
- The Clinical Screening Form helps to accurately plan for the vaccination visit.
- The Care Home Consent form is an editable version of the existing nationally produced documents. It was designed to support systems based on questions received relating to vaccine consent processes, in particular where capacity is lacking or fluctuating.

There is no requirement from the region to use these specific forms. They are designed to provide an easily accessed 'best practice' document to support safe vaccination practices in addition to or in place of existing processes or guidance. View [alternative forms](#) (GOV.UK).

See [further information](#) on the spring booster campaign, or contact [healthprotection@leics.gov.uk](mailto:healthprotection@leics.gov.uk)

The booster dose is an updated dose. These updated vaccines have been shown to boost protection well, particularly against the more recent strains of COVID-19 (Omicron) than the vaccines previously offered. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have confirmed that all of these vaccines can be used and that no one should delay vaccination to receive a different vaccine.

The NHS website has more information [about vaccine ingredients](#).

## **Missed vaccinations for care home residents**

As the spring booster campaign gets underway, we understand that not all residents will have had the opportunity to receive a spring booster vaccine, for example new admissions or residents who may have been away at the time of the initial visit.

If any individuals are identified as having missed the initial vaccination visit but willing to be vaccinated, or for individuals who initially declined a vaccination but have since become vaccine confident, please notify [healthprotection@leics.gov.uk](mailto:healthprotection@leics.gov.uk).

Please include the name of the resident, and email these via Egress. You will then be advised of when another visit for vaccination will be available.

## **Controlled drugs newsletter – spring 2023**

The [Midlands edition](#) of the NHS Controlled Drugs Newsletter Spring 2023 is now available to read.

## **Alternative fuel payment scheme**

Most households in England, Scotland and Wales receive a £400 discount on their energy bills automatically. In some cases, people do not get the discount automatically. People who live in a care home and either fund or partially fund their own care are included in the alternative fuel payment scheme.

Please promote this to people living in care homes where relevant to them, and see [further information about the scheme and application portal](#).

## **Learning and development opportunities**

### **Safeguarding Matters briefing – 7 June 2023**

Following on from the success of a briefing in December 2022, a Safeguarding Matters Virtually Live briefing will take place on Wednesday 7 June 2023, 9.30-12.30. It is open to all staff across the multi-agency partnerships for children and adults.

The aim of the briefing is to share information in relation to the safeguarding of children and adults including procedure and guidance updates, resources to support practice and reflection on learning from reviews and audits. Topics will include thresholds, escalation guidance and much more.

There's no need to register, just [join the meeting on the day](#).

## **Data tracking**

### **Adult social care data enforcement commenced 1 April 2023**

Adult social care providers who do not submit their data through the Capacity Tracker each month could be issued with a financial penalty. The guidance on how to comply with the information provisions in the Health and Care Act 2022 and how they will be enforced is [available online](#). We encourage all providers to read through the guidance to ensure they are aware of what is expected and how to be compliant. If providers have any further questions or need advice, please contact the national team at [capacitytracker-guidance@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:capacitytracker-guidance@dhsc.gov.uk).

A [formal notice](#) should detail the data that needs to be submitted.

Collection windows open on the 8<sup>th</sup> of each month and close on the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month unless this falls on a weekend or bank holiday, when the final day for submission moves to the next working day. To be compliant, providers must submit their data during the collection window.

#### [FAQ – Adult Social Care Provider Data Enforcement](#)

### **Reminder: Care Data Matters**

The recently published [Care Data Matters](#) draft guidance sets out the Government's roadmap for transforming adult social care data in England. If you are an adult who draws on care, an unpaid carer, or a care professional delivering or commissioning services, fill in the [survey](#) to provide your views on the information you need.

### **ASC-WDS demo webinars for care providers**

Skills for Care are running webinars for care providers who don't yet have an ASC-WDS account:

- Book for [Wednesday 7 June 2023](#), 10:00 - 10:45
- Book for [Tuesday 10 October 2023](#), 14:00 - 14:45
- Book for [Thursday 1 February 2024](#), 15:30 - 16:15

## **Health and wellbeing**

### **Closure of the LLR Mental Health Wellbeing Hub**

At the start of the pandemic, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub was set up at speed to support staff across health and social care in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. They have done a great job in supporting thousands of staff at a very difficult and emotionally challenging time.



The Hub was funded by NHS England as part of the national response to the pandemic. Unfortunately, this funding and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub's helpline and outreach activity has now ceased.

During the last two years a whole host of resources and support have been created for staff and are available on the new [LLR Health and Wellbeing Partnership website](#), allowing online signposting advice to be continued for staff across health and social care.

## **Reminder: My Truth – A Manifesto for Positive Change**

'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 the final workshop on 25 April, 17.00-19.00, and spaces are limited to 20. Please share with your staff networks.

Feedback from this week's workshops included "very thought provoking" and "I feel really uplifted".

## **Consultations and research**

### **New care workforce pathway: call for evidence**

DHSC has launched a [call for evidence to guide the development of a new care workforce pathway](#) for adult social care.

Over the coming months, DHSC will work with people who work in and draw on adult social care to co-develop a pathway setting out the skills, knowledge and behaviours care colleagues need to deliver high-quality, personalised, compassionate care and support.

In their latest joint blog, [Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care and Oonagh Smyth, Chief Executive of Skills for Care](#), explain how this will help encourage more people to take up care roles, develop valuable skills and progress through long and fulfilling careers.

The call for evidence runs for eight weeks and closes at 23:45 on 31 May 2023.

## **Commemoration, celebration and awareness raising**

### **Celebrating Social Care month**

Throughout April, Skills for Care will be #CelebratingSocialCare. A full month is being dedicated to recognising the important role of everyone who works in social care and to say well done and thank you. This month will also be celebrating the people who draw on care and support and the impact that social care has in allowing people to live their lives how they choose and do the things that they love.

You can get involved with #CelebratingSocialCare on social media by:

- shouting out your colleague, team, or manager for their great work or a recent achievement
- sharing a successful initiative that your organisation has been working on
- sharing some of the exciting activities that you've been doing lately as a team or with the people who you support
- sharing some feedback from the people who you support or their relatives about the impact your care and support has had in supporting them to do the things they love
- shouting out yourself for all your hard work
- sharing what you love most about working in social care
- shouting out the people who you support
- or saying thank you to everyone working in social care for everything they do.

Make sure to use #CelebratingSocialCare and tag @SkillsForCare on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#) so they can be shared.

You could also:

- share your shout outs and good news stories in a blog on your website or in an email or newsletter
- or run an in-person event or activity with your team or the people who you support to celebrate social care – such as a coffee morning, an awards event, or a memory board.

### **International Nurses' Day and regional event**

Skills for Care is celebrating [International Nurses' Day](#) on 12 May 2023 by recognising the hugely important role that nurses and nursing associates in social care play in the lives of people who draw on care and support.

As part of their celebrations, they're hosting a series of face-to-face events across England which are specifically for registered nurses and nursing associates. The Midlands event is taking place on 23 May in Birmingham. [Find out more and book.](#)

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with other nurses in the region, share good practice and contribute to professional discussion and debate, as well as taking the

time to recognise the contribution you make. The event will be attended by Deborah Sturdy, the Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, who is keen to hear your views.

## **Industrial action**

### **Forthcoming possible strikes**

Please be aware of the possibility of future strikes in health and education settings and plan accordingly. We may not always be able to warn you of specific dates, but previous Provider News bulletins contain information on what to consider to reduce disruption to your services and support the health and social care system.

At the time of writing, members of the National Education Union in England were planning to strike on Thursday 27 April and Tuesday 2 May.

## **Next edition**

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 1 May 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).