

# Leicestershire Adult Social Care Provider News



## Issue 30 – 13 June 2023

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

### **Understanding integration**

Some useful resources are available on the Skills for Care website to promote understanding of [integrated health and social care](#), and the changes that are taking place to enable organisations to better coordinate and provide joined-up services for people who draw on care and support:

- a description and video explaining what is meant by integration, the changes underway through the establishment of integrated care systems (ICSs), and how adult social care providers are encouraged to be involved
- blogs and articles discussing integration, why it's important and how it's working well in different parts of the country
- a list of key guidance and resources to support you with understanding integration and making it a reality.

For a quick way to familiarise yourself with integration and its benefits, read Skills for Care's two short articles:

- [What does integration in health and social care mean?](#) (5-minute read)
- [What are the benefits of integrated health and care?](#) (5-minute read)

## **Guidance and good practice**

### **Mental Capacity Act guidance**

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 affects the way that registered care, treatment and support providers make decisions on behalf of people who do not have the capacity to make some decisions for themselves. Following the presentation on the MCA at a recent provider forum, some resources are available here for your reference:

- [CQC MCA guidance for providers](#)
- [Social Care Institute for Excellence MCA resources](#)

### **Missed vaccinations and end of the spring campaign**

#### **‘Evergreen’ COVID-19 vaccination offer ends 30 June 2023**

The COVID vaccination programme has been very successful in saving thousands of lives across the country and has helped reduce the pressure on the NHS during the last few challenging years.

It is vital that we continue to protect the most vulnerable through our COVID vaccination programmes. We want to encourage anyone who has not taken up the offer to join the other 42 million people who have already come forward for their COVID vaccine doses.

The ‘evergreen’ offer closes on 30 June 2023. This will be the final opportunity to have a first or second dose before the current programme finishes.

You can get your vaccination and booster dose through the [National Booking Service](#) or [walk-in service at a drop-in clinic](#).

For more information, please see visit the [Leicestershire County Council Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine website](#).

#### **Care home providers – protect residents**

The spring booster programme is due to end on 30 June. For any care home resident who has missed having a COVID vaccination or booster dose, and would like to have it, this is the last chance to take up the offer. Please contact the Health Protection team [healthprotection@leics.gov.uk](mailto:healthprotection@leics.gov.uk) by close of business on 14 June and we can arrange a vaccination revisit to the care home.

## Hot weather

### Heat-Health Alert service

The Heat-Health Alert (HHA) service forewarns of periods of high temperatures, which may affect the health of the public.

It is aimed at health and social care professionals and anyone with a role in reducing the harm that extended periods of hot weather can have on health. The service covers England only. [Sign up for hot weather and cold weather alerts.](#)

It is provided by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in partnership with the Met Office from June to September, and is designed to help health and social care professionals manage through periods of extreme temperature. Should conditions for an alert be reached outside of this period, an extraordinary alert will be issued, and stakeholders are advised to take the usual public health actions as recommended in the [Adverse Weather and Health Plan](#).

### Staying safe during the heat

There are a few very simple things we can all do stay safe when we experience high temperatures. This includes looking out for people who may struggle to keep themselves cool and hydrated.

Staying cool indoors is important, taking action like closing curtains in rooms that face the sun but also remembering that it may be cooler outdoors than indoors.

And if you're out and about, try to keep out of the sun and avoid physical exertion in the hottest part of the day.

There's lots more information online to help people stay safe during hot weather. Visit the UKHSA and NHS websites on [how to beat the heat](#) and on [heat exhaustion and heatstroke](#).

## Data Security and Protection Toolkit deadline

If you have an NHS Mail account, have access to any NHS digital records, have SystemOne access or your contract is with the NHS, it is important to republish the [Data Security and Protection Toolkit](#) in the current year so it is up to date. The deadline is 30 June 2023.

EMCARE is delivering a [free programme](#) to support all local care providers registered with CQC across LLR, including workshops and one-to-one sessions.

For more details please contact the DSPT Project Coordinator & Support, Better Security Better Care programme, [admin@emcare.org.uk](mailto:admin@emcare.org.uk), 07369 200247 / 0116 482 6669.

## **Sharps resources for care homes**

The Community Infection Prevention Control Service (CIPCS) report from their IPC audits to care homes that sharps disposal units are not always being assembled and used in line with best practice.

The Royal College of Nursing have produced guidance and resources on the [safe management of sharps](#). Care home managers with responsibility for managing health and safety in their care setting may find this guidance useful. There is also a YouTube video for managers to share with their staff team showing [how to correctly assemble and close a sharps disposal unit](#).

## **Leicestershire County Council updates**

### **Residential contract review**

We are reviewing the contract for accommodation-based services with an aim for this to be completed by 1 January 2024, and are asking for views from people who use the service, family members and carers, and providers. We have events planned so people can come along and give us their perspective.

- Friday 23 June 2023, 10.30-14.00 – Glenfield sports pavilion – event for older people
- Thursday 29 June 2023, 10.30-14.00 – Glenfield sports pavilion – event for working age adults with a learning disability
- Tuesday 4 July 2023, 9.30-13.00 – City Hall, Leicester – event for working age adults with a mental health diagnosis

Autistic people can choose between the two events for working age adults based on their preference.

- Wednesday 12 July 2023, 10.30-14.00 – County Hall, Glenfield – event for providers.

Please encourage people to attend the events and share their views. If anyone would like a booking form please contact [Linda.Styles@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.Styles@leics.gov.uk) – lunch and refreshments will be provided.

If people want to share their views but cannot attend we will be sending out questionnaires.

We will be holding events later in the year to give feedback on the changes we have made in the contract.

If you have any queries, please contact [Natalie.X.Smith@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Natalie.X.Smith@leics.gov.uk)

## **Learning and development opportunities**

### **Building skills in working with mental ill health**

#### **E-learning**

To help providers commissioned to work in Leicestershire feel more confident in working with people with mental ill health and supporting their reablement and recovery in wrap-around care, LSCDG have arranged e-learning.

There are 3 free e-learning packages - you can access any as you wish:

- Person-centred practice
- Effective communication
- Managing behaviours that challenge

To access this training, you need to submit the following details to this email:

[LSCDG@leics.gov.uk](mailto:LSCDG@leics.gov.uk)

- First name
- Surname
- Organisation name
- Unique email address (not generic that is shared with others)
- Which e-learning you want to access

You have until 13 February 2024 to complete the e-learning.

#### **Resource page**

In addition to the above LSCDG have created a resource page that includes additional e-learning with the following topics:

- Self-harm
- Reablement
- Mental health awareness
- Suicide prevention awareness – foundation skills

Details on how to sign up and access the training are on the [Learning Hub](#). You will need an account with LSCDG to access the resource page – if you don't have one already, they are [free and easy to create](#).

#### **New DBS webinar series for adult social care sector**

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Regional Outreach team is running a series of webinars for the adult social care sector. They cover a range of topics, including enhanced checks, local police processes, Adult First Checks and the Digital Identity Process.

The five webinars will be virtual on Microsoft Teams and open to anyone with responsibility for DBS processes in their care organisation. They run 19 June (1.30-3pm) to 19 July (11-12.30pm). If you are interested in attending, [register here](#).

## **LOROS training courses**

LOROS offers a wide range of training in palliative and end of life care courses. Some are aimed at social care support staff and can be booked via [their website](#).

## **Free oral hygiene course for social care staff**

An online Level 2 Certificate in Oral Care is free to health and social care staff in England.

There are five sections to complete which are:

- Principles of oral health care
- Oral hygiene equipment and support
- Principle of promoting a person-centred approach to oral hygiene
- Principles for providing oral care in a health and social care setting
- Providing oral care in care settings

[Sign up here](#).

## **Opportunities**

### **Reminder of funding opportunity: Tech for Better Care**

As explained in [Provider News 28](#), the Health Foundation has launched an exciting new [£2m programme](#) which will explore the potential for using technology to enable care at home and in the community.

The first phase is targeted at care providers for up to six projects of £30,000 each initially.

Applicants can submit their early-stage idea via [website form](#) for feedback by 22 June 2023. The final deadline for applications is 17:00 on 29 June 2023.

## **Health and wellbeing**

### **Menstruation and menopause in the workplace**

We are all aware that well-being is one of the tools that support your retention rates but how aware is your business of what employees who menstruate and experience menopause need? In some cases, menstruation and menopause can have detrimental physical and mental health impacts to those experiencing them. The lack of open discussion around these topics can make it difficult for individuals to be at their best in the workplace – and for businesses to provide adequate support.

British Standards Institution (BSI) has designed a free resource to help organisations identify practical workplace adjustments and activities that reflect good practice for supporting employees who menstruate and experience peri / menopause symptoms. Many of the recommendations can benefit all employees. [Download your free copy](#).

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

### **Pride month 1-30 June**

During Pride month, Inspired to Care team has been working to make sure those who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community know how crucial they are to the adult social care sector. A [presentation to explain gender identity](#) has been developed which has been shared through social care networks and describes how everyday language can improve the care we provide and make our colleagues feel comfortable at work.

Feel free to share the presentation with colleagues to raise awareness and promote our sector as a place that welcomes everyone.

### **Industrial action**

#### **Junior doctors' strike 14-17 June 2023**

All NHS services are expected to be under greater pressure than normal during the junior doctors' strike from 14-17 June 2023. Please follow the NHS advice during this time, to help get the right care, in the right place, as quickly as possible. Visit the ['right care, right place, right now'](#) local NHS page for more information.

See [Provider News 22](#) for information, resources and services to support adult social care providers during the industrial action.

### **Next edition**

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 26 June 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).