



Issue 40 – 10 November 2023

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The future of adult social care

Digital Social Care Record programme funding

Match funding is available to enable providers to procure a digital records system in a project being managed by LPT.

It is important that Leicestershire providers apply for and use the local funding allocation, especially as there is no guarantee of further funding currently for 2024/25.

CQC has indicated that it will become increasingly difficult to attain or maintain a Good or Outstanding rating without a digital social care record.

A grant can be applied for on a ‘per site’ level. If you have multiple sites, each site can be eligible for a grant.

The grant is limited to solutions from the NHSE assured solutions list and can only be used to cover software licencing (for the first year only), associated hardware and software implementation costs. Please review the solutions available on the [NHSE assured supplier list](#) to support you in choosing a solution. You can use the [assured supplier tool](#) to filter products to meet your organisation's needs.

To access the grant providers must have achieved [DSPT](#) 'standards met' status.

There is a funding deadline - grant funding applications must be submitted to lpt.lhisdscradmin@nhs.net by 15 December 2023. To discuss grant applications or help to start your application please contact the team at lpt.lhisdscradmin@nhs.net

This is a real opportunity to ensure that providers receive the support they need to procure a digital records system, and enable them to have secure remote access to essential information.

Guidance and good practice

Winter preparedness and COVID-19 testing

Symptomatic testing for residents eligible for COVID-19 treatments and outbreak testing will continue throughout the winter period as detailed in the [IPC guidance](#).

From 6 November 2023, NHS has taken over the responsibility for providing care homes with LFD tests for symptomatic testing (for those residents who are [eligible for COVID-19 treatments](#)). You will no longer be able to order LFD tests for this purpose from the organisation ordering portal, and will instead need to source these from your [local community pharmacy](#). We will share more details as they are announced.

For outbreak testing, UKHSA will continue to provide LFD tests and you should continue to order these from the [organisation ordering portal](#).

If you have any urgent questions regarding testing within your setting, please contact 119.

Measles

There has been recent coverage in the media of measles infection rates. The national vaccination and immunisation catch-up campaign for 2023-24 will focus on children and young adults.

Two doses of MMR vaccination are required for optimal protection. If staff wish to check their vaccination status, their GP can check their records.

View information on the [symptoms of measles](#).

Leicestershire County Council updates

Supply of Lateral Flow Test kits (LFTs) available free

As part of the COVID-19 response, Leicestershire County Council was provided with Lateral Flow Test kits for residents to use in their own home and to support mass community testing should this be required.

These have been in store for use in case of a need to rapidly stand up widespread community testing. As this is now deemed unlikely, and with a looming expiry date of the end of January 2024, we would like to offer these to providers and partners who have contact with individuals or cohorts of people who were deemed clinically extremely vulnerable to help support your winter planning and business continuity.

We can therefore offer them free of charge to adult social care providers registered with CQC who support clinically extremely vulnerable people.

We can provide the LFTs by a full box load which contains 59 small box kits with 7 test in each test kit - 413 tests per large box.

If you have a need and are interested in collecting these from County Hall, Glenfield, LE3 8RA, please email PHPool@leics.gov.uk with how many you would be looking to take, and we can arrange collection. Ideally we would aim to supply these to you before late December but please enquire if you still require them after this date.

Positive Behaviour Support Leads network

Leicestershire County Council aims to develop a network of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) leads within services and organisations.

The PBS Leads network will:

- Help embed PBS values
- Improve quality of life outcomes for people who receive care and support
- Build resilience and improve staff confidence
- Support to meet expectations of the Council's contractual requirements
- Be a link between the service and the Council's PBS Team who can provide specialist support

Why join the network?

- Regular network meetings with leads from other services - to collaborate and explore best practice, and update on themes, trends and developments
- Support to embed the values and practices of PBS within their service
- Improve recording and systems in place to support PBS in your service
- Sharing templates and new resources
- Developing staff confidence in identifying and addressing any areas which require strengthening
- Recognising and celebrating good practice

- Linking to the Council's PBS officers
- Access to generic advice and guidance

A PBS lead will have the following qualities:

- Passion and confidence in PBS
- Person-centred approach
- Creative approach to supporting individuals who display behaviours of concern and improving quality of life
- Positive attitude and supportive of others
- Ability to coach other staff and inspire change
- Ability to influence practice within the service, such as reviewing systems and processes
- Given time to be able to embed changes and attend network meetings

The network will meet on a regular basis with identified guest speakers.

We will send information to relevant organisations with a date for the first meeting. If you have any queries or questions, please contact us at positivebehavioursupportteam@leics.gov.uk.

Residential support network

You may be aware that Leicestershire County, Leicester City and Rutland Councils have been working to identify themes and trends from CQC reports for care homes over the past 18 months. This work is now nearing completion and the three local authorities would like to invite you to be part of a peer network. The aim of this is to develop a programme of both formal training and other support mechanisms to provide support for providers:

- with concerns already identified
- waiting for CQC visits – to be aware of the current focus of inspections and the preparations you will need to make to help you achieve a positive rating

We have had a generous offer from Midlands Care to provide a venue for us to meet at George Hythe House in Beaumont Leys. Several local providers have already agreed to be part of a working group committed to exploring the current support offers and helping the system in LLR to develop training and support.

You are invited to the initial meeting, which will be held at George Hythe House on 1 December 2023 at 14.00.

While the first meetings will be led by the local authorities, it is intended that this will become a provider-led group facilitated by Skills for Care once we have coproduced a local support offer. Local authority officers will be in attendance at the meetings to provide any relevant updates and information you might find useful.

If you want to be involved in this work please contact caascarehomes@leicester.gov.uk with the name of the person who will be attending.

Learning and development

IPC Basics webinars

The following IPC Basics webinars are now accessible via the following YouTube links:

- [Management of Clostridioides Difficile](#)
- [The importance of oral hygiene in preventing infection](#)

The next webinar is:

- Frailty and Infection - Wednesday 22 November, 14.15-15.00

To book contact infection@leics.gov.uk or phone 0116 305 5121.

Safeguarding Matters online briefing – 6 December 2023

The next Safeguarding Matters online briefing will take place on Wednesday 6 December 2023 9.30-12.00 and is open to all staff across the multi-agency partnerships for adults and children.

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.

No need to register – [just use this link on the day.](#)

Oliver McGowan mandatory training on Learning Disability and Autism

To ensure the health and social care workforce has the right skills and knowledge to provide safe, compassionate and informed care to autistic people and people with a learning disability the [Health and Care Act 2022](#) states that all health and care staff working in provision that is registered (see [Regulated Activities Health and Social Care Act 2008](#)) with the Care Quality Commission:

- must receive training on autism and learning disability, and
- the training must be right for the job they do.

This training does not replace specialist training for professionals.

Staff need to complete either Tier 1 or Tier 2 training.

Tier 1

This for those who require a general awareness of people with a learning disability and autistic people, and they support they may need. This includes staff who may

work in a care setting but have a role which means they do not meet the public, such as finance and maintenance roles.

- Part 1: 90-minute e-learning training
- Part 2: 60 minutes interactive online training with a facilitating trainer, an autistic co-trainer, and a co-trainer with a learning disability

Tier 2

This is for health and social care staff with responsibility for providing care and support for an autistic person or a person with a learning disability. This is anyone who provides, or who may be required to provide, a service to a person with a learning disability or an autistic person.

- Part 1: 90-Minute e-learning training
- Part 2: Training day with a facilitating trainer, an autistic co-trainer, and a co-trainer with a learning disability

All staff across health and social care should be able access and complete the Part 1 e-learning training. Social care staff should email support@e-lfh.org.uk to request access. It takes up to 1.5 hours to complete.

CQC may ask providers to:

- Demonstrate they are aware all staff are required to complete the training
- Demonstrate that they are allocating staff to tier 1 or tier 2 training
- Show records of staff training

Opportunities

Defibrillator funding

Recent publicised events have highlighted the fact that cardiac arrest does not discriminate and can happen to anyone, of any age, at any time.

Cardiac arrest kills over 60,000 people, of all ages, in the UK each year. If a heart defibrillator is used within 3-5 minutes of a cardiac arrest, the chance of survival increases from 6% to 74%.

Charity London Hearts is offering you grant funding towards the cost of each defibrillator they supply, and offer free online CPR / defibrillator awareness training for each supplied.

Please contact 020 7043 2493 or lily@londonhearts.org.

To receive further information without a commitment, complete the short [online application](#).

If you do have the benefit of a defibrillator, please ensure you check that it is still under manufacturer warranty and that the pads and battery have not expired.

International recruitment funding

Following feedback from local management groups on the process for the International Recruitment Grant, the regional steering group has paused the applications.

Please keep an eye out for more updates from your care organisations, Inspired to Care, [East Midlands Care](#) and this newsletter. It is hoped that applications will be sent through to your local management group soon.

Veteran Friendly Framework

A new project has been established which will benefit the tens of thousands of Armed Forces veterans and their partners living in care homes across England.

Launched in October, The [Veteran Friendly Framework](#) (VFF) aims to tackle loneliness and isolation and deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes for over 25,000 veterans living in care homes across England. It will support the practical, emotional, and social needs for the Armed Forces community by providing care homes with resources to assess and improve their offer.

The VFF is a two-year collaboration between Armed Forces charities Royal Star & Garter, the Royal British Legion, and the NHS Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA – an NHS flagship Armed Forces programme), with funding support from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. This project, focusing on care homes, follows on from the Veteran Friendly accredited GP scheme run by the Royal College of General Practitioners and the VCHA NHS accreditation scheme.

Consultations and research

Survey for 2024-25 Funded Nursing Care rate

DHSC is currently setting the 2024-2025 rate for NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC). This is being informed by a one-off cost collection exercise, run via the national Capacity Tracker. The survey is not mandatory, but as many nursing care providers as possible are encouraged to complete it. The survey is expected to close around 14 November.

Funding is provided by the NHS to residential nursing care providers to support the provision of nursing care. FNC can help manage pressure on acute hospitals and supports system flow by reducing avoidable admissions of individuals with complex discharge needs. It can also relieve pressure on NHS primary care services by enabling nursing care to be delivered within the individual's residential home.

DHSC sets the national FNC rate which dictates the amount the NHS pays care homes delivering FNC. This is paid per resident, per week. DHSC is conducting a

further one-off 'cost collection exercise' to ensure that they have the most recent and accurate data available when calculating the national rate. This was last carried out in 2021.

You should see a link to the survey when you log into Capacity Tracker. If you have any questions, please contact the DHSC FNC inbox at fnc@dhsc.gov.uk.

Events

Winter Wellbeing Festival – 24 November 2023

An LLR Winter Wellbeing Festival is taking place 14 November 2023, 9.00–15.00, at the LOROS Professional Development Centre, Groby Road, Leicester, LE3 9QE. The event is open to all professionals working in health and social care, emergency services, local authority, and the voluntary and community sector.

There will be information stalls on

- Making wellbeing work for you
- Mental health support
- Physical activity with Active Together
- Financial wellbeing resources
- Development opportunities

[Book now to guarantee your place.](#)

Nominated Individual national event – 29 November 2023

Skills for Care are holding their third national event for nominated individuals, where the focus of the discussions will be digital leadership and digital transformation.

Regardless of your service's digital journey, this event will help build your change management skills and discover digital leadership models you can adopt when introducing technology, which is of particular importance given the CQC focus on driving improvement through technology.

The event will also support you to develop your own digital strategies and help you identify ways to develop the digital capabilities and skills for your workforce.

Hear from providers about their own digital journey, how they have developed their digital leadership skills, the digital skill-base of their workforce and how they have involved people they care for, identifying their needs and wants, when introducing new technological solutions.

You'll also discover more about Skills for Care's support and resources and the nominated individual networks in regional break-out discussions.

The event will take place on Wednesday 29 November 2023, 11:00-12:30, via Zoom.

This will be a very popular event so make sure you [reserve your place now](#). You can also find more information and support on the Skills for Care dedicated nominated individual [webpages](#).

If you have any questions please email, natalie.scarimbolo@skillsforcare.org.uk.

Safe to Speak Up events

As part of the LLR Active Bystander Programme, the Active Bystander Team are running two-hour Listening into Action events to understand more about how organisations and leaders can create a safe environment for staff to speak up against bullying, harassment, and discrimination:

- 17 November 2023 – 12:00-14:00 – in person event – Leicester location TBC
- 1 December 2023 – 10:00-12:00 – virtual event

[Register your interest](#).

The events will be facilitated by executive leaders from across our system and region. If you have any questions, please contact llr.academy@nhs.net

Commemoration, Celebration and Awareness Raising

Armistice Day – 11 November 2023

[The Armistice](#), an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations, began at 11am on 11 November 1918. It is remembered each year in honour of those who gave their lives in service to their country.

You may wish to observe a two-minute silence in your services on Saturday 11 November.

Transgender Awareness Week – 13-18 November

Transgender Awareness Week seeks to help raise the visibility of transgender and gender non-conforming people, address issues, and show support for the transgender community.

It takes place between 13 and 19 November, in the run-up to the Transgender Day of Remembrance on 20 November.

In previous newsletters we have introduced the [Skills for Care LGBTQ Learning Framework](#) to equip adult social care workers with the knowledge and skills for working affirmatively with LGBTQ+ people in later life.

Further resources are available:

- Stonewall [Trans Hub](#) and [Trans Q&A](#)
- [LGBT Foundation resources](#)

- Inspired to Care [presentation on gender identity](#)

International Men's Day - 19 November 2023

On 19 November, International Men's Day celebrates worldwide the positive value men bring to the world, their families, and communities. The theme for 2023 is 'Zero Male Suicide'.

Celebrate [International Men's Day](#) and get your local community involved.

Carers' Rights Day – 23 November

This year the theme for Carers Rights Day is 'Your Rights: today, tomorrow and in the future'.

Did you know unpaid carers are entitled to certain rights? Unpaid carers are entitled to help access services, help with support to look after their health and wellbeing and provide information and support for the person they are looking after, including their partner, family member or friend.

To find out more, local carers and SMEs can access support online via [EfCDigital.org](#) providing an oversight of what carers are entitled to – please contact katie.cheung@leics.gov.uk for the access code.

[Carers UK](#) provides, information, resources and news.

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 20 November 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.