

Leicestershire Adult Social Care Provider News



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The future of adult social care

Carers' Leave Act

The Carer's Leave Bill has received Royal Assent and is due to become law in 2024. This means there will be a new workplace law to support working carers including:

- New flexible working entitlement to one week's unpaid leave per year for employees who are providing and arranging care for a relative or dependent
- This is applicable from the first day of their employment
- Employees can take the unpaid leave flexibly for planned and foreseen caring commitments
- The law provides employment protection from dismissal or any detriment because employees have taken time off due to caring responsibilities

All organisations need to be prepared to deliver the changes to how they support unpaid carers in the workforce. Here are a few things to consider:

- Do you have any working carers in your organisation?
- Do your employees recognise themselves as carers?
- How can you support your working carers to balance work and caring responsibilities?
- Are you working with HR advisors to keep up to date with the legal requirements under the Carers Leave Bill?

Register with [Carers UK](#) to keep up to date with news, information, and resources.

Digital social care record funding – reminder

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

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 [NHS 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

National Chair in adult social care nursing

The [RCN \(Royal College of Nursing\) Foundation](#) has awarded funds to Salford University to host the first [Chair in Adult Social Care Nursing](#).

The Foundation has committed £700,000 over a five-year period to support and improve adult social care nursing in the UK. The new role will take a strategic lead in shaping research and education at a local, national, and international level.

Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, said: "The first RCN Foundation Chair in Adult Social Care Nursing [is] a significant moment. This is a catalyst for change, setting the standard for others to follow and helping to demonstrate the skills, experience, and values of the sector."

Carbapenem Resistant Organism (CRO) and hospital discharge

Normally there are various species of bacteria that are commonly found in the bowel such as Escherichia coli (E. Coli), Klebsiella, Proteus, Pseudomonas and Enterobacter. Collectively these bacteria are part of our 'good bacteria' and help us to digest food and do not normally cause illness.

However, under certain circumstances, these bacteria can become resistant to antibiotics and may be referred to as Carbapenem Resistant Organism (CRO), or Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE).

If CRO is transferred from the bowel to a different part of the body (e.g. skin wounds, lungs, bloodstream etc) it can cause a serious infection. Often, CRO is identified in stool and urine specimens.

CRO can be transmitted to others to via:

- Contaminated hands of staff and service users.
- Contamination in the environment
- Contaminated equipment

The majority of people with CRO are colonised, which means bacteria are present, but the individual does not have symptoms of infection and antibiotic treatment is not required unless they do have symptoms.

In care home settings, those colonised with CRO, but do not have any risk factors for transmission e.g., diarrhoea, urinary incontinence, source isolation is not necessary, and the person can be cared for safely using standard infection prevention and control precautions.

Those with an active CRO infection/diarrhoea will need to be isolated using transmission-based precautions e.g., double bagging of linen and waste etc until they no longer have symptoms of an infection.

When a person is referred to you for admission from an acute hospital and they advise the person has CRO, it is important to discuss with the hospital if it is a colonisation or an active infection and what risk factors are present (if any) to ensure they are managed safely in your setting.

For further information or advice, please contact the Community Infection Prevention & Control Service on infection@leics.gov.uk or 0116 305 5121 (Mon-Fri, 9.00-17.00)

A [free to download policy for care home settings](#) is available.

Continence information

The Leicestershire Partnership Trust Continence Service have a range of leaflets and information available about the service they offer and for people directly.

This information can be found on the [Providing Care.net website](#).

Seasonal vaccinations

With now just over a week to go until online bookings for COVID-19 and flu vaccines close, the [NHS is urging anyone still eligible for these vaccines to book an appointment](#) and get potentially lifesaving protection ahead of Christmas.

The NHS online booking system, NHS App and 119 phone service will be closed for flu and COVID vaccine bookings from 15 December, making 14 December the last day to make a booking.

It's still possible to book your vaccinations after 15 December through local NHS vaccination services, like pharmacies or walk-in sites. However, there will be fewer appointments, and you may need to travel further.

As the vaccines take up to two weeks to provide maximum protection, getting vaccinated soon will help people 'get winter strong' and help reduce the risk of severe disease in time for Christmas. Even if you were vaccinated last year, it is important to get your jabs again this season as the viruses can change year to year, and protection decreases over time. Please take advantage of this preventative measure to keep yourself, and the people you care for, well and winter strong.

Health and social care workers are eligible to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine, which can be booked via the [national booking service](#), or you can find a pharmacy

offering [walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations](#). If you are unable to book an appointment online, you can call 119 free of charge.

Frontline workers in social care settings that do not have an employer-led occupational health scheme are also eligible for a free flu vaccine. [Book an appointment](#).

Leicestershire County Council updates

Changes to our charging policy for social care and support

We are asking providers to share their views on the proposed changes to the charging policy for social care and support services.

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance requires that where a local authority decides to charge for services, it must follow the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations and have regard to the statutory guidance.

Most of the new proposals are clarifications of the existing policy designed to make the policy clearer to follow, rather than changing the nature of the financial assessments.

The council is not proposing to change the principles of charging and financial assessments.

Please [complete the survey](#), which is live until midnight on 22 January 2024.

Fraud in the festive period

Like everybody else, fraudsters love Christmas time. Some risks are more prevalent at this time of year – see [‘the twelve frauds of Christmas’](#).

Are you scam-savvy? [Take this simple quiz](#).

Fraud at Christmas time is not just a risk to us in our personal lives but can affect us as work too. Fraudsters often target organisations at Christmas time, hoping to catch employees with their guard down, particularly given some organisations will be operating with skeleton staff. Fraudsters are experts in deceit. Be wary of any unusual communications, particularly if they are asking for urgent payments to be processed outside of normal procurement channels. An urgent request for payment is a fraud red flag.

Our chances of staying safe from fraud increase significantly if we just take time to think about things, to challenge the unexpected, and to remember that sometimes all is not quite what it seems.

Provider calls for 2024

Provider calls for 2024 have now been scheduled - dates and times, as well as joining details, can be viewed on the [provider teleconferences page](#) of the Leicestershire County Council professional resources website.

Up-to-date contact details for your organisation

Please ensure you keep the Council updated on changes to contact details for key people and functions in your organisation. This is important for you as well as the Council, to ensure you receive important contractual information, detail about forthcoming opportunities, the latest guidance, and so on. It is also a data protection requirement, so that, where appropriate, sensitive information is sent to the right place.

Contact details may change frequently, such as when people move roles or leave. It is your responsibility to tell the Council of these changes as soon as they arise so that we can amend our mailing lists. To do so, please email the provider enquiry line on enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk.

Gifts to Leicestershire County Council staff

At this time of year some of you have shown your appreciation for support you have had from Council officers with a gift. Whilst we appreciate the sentiment, the Council has a gift policy to avoid conflicts of interest, and staff are not able to accept gifts of any kind.

In order to avoid any embarrassment please do not make any offer of gifts, including alcohol or flowers, to a Council officer. A simple thanks is lovely and just as much appreciated.

Thank you for your understanding.

Learning and development

Loros lecture 2024: medications in the home for good end of life care

Ben Bowers leads a programme of interdisciplinary research focused on improving last-days-of-life symptom control for adults dying at home.

He will discuss the current evidence and people's experiences of having injectable medications available in their home to help manage distressing symptoms in the last days of life. He will share his experiences of first asking questions about this common practice as a community nurse through to becoming a leading clinical academic nurse, and some of the pitfalls and memorable parts of the journey.

Date: 7 March 2024

Time: 17:30 – 18:30

Venue: LOROS – Centre for Excellence

[Book here](#)

Disability Rights UK leadership academy programme

Disability Rights is running a learning opportunity called the 'Leadership Academy Programme', which includes:

- Career aspirations, setting objectives and goals
- Communication/leadership/management skills
- Self-development and confidence-building
- Applying new techniques to live projects and presentations, related to a current workplace challenge. Providing a great resource for their place of work
- One-to-one mentoring from an experienced senior leader
- Sharing experiences with other aspiring managers and learning from their success strategies
- Being a member of our Disability Alumni Network, offering exceptional networking events with inspirational keynote speakers

The 2024 course comprises 13 sessions (of 2 hours), plus a graduation ceremony in September 2024. The programme runs from February 2024 to September 2024.

If you would like further information about LAP, please visit the LAP [website](#), or contact Katrina Morris, Project Manager: katrina.morris@disabilityrightsuk.org

LLR Active Bystander programme

Do you want to work in a great culture, where everyone feels they belong, feels safe to contribute their best and be heard?

Do you want to be part of a movement for change where we all support a compassionate, civil, and respectful working culture?

The LLR Health and Wellbeing Partnership is looking for passionate people who share a vision to create a community of Active Bystanders to confidently intervene at an early stage preventing harmful behaviours from escalating in our workplaces.

A face-to-face and virtual programme that covers everything you need to know to be an Active Bystander so that you can help others by intervening to stop harmful behaviours from escalating when it is safe to do so.

See the [programme schedule, role description and application form](#) or email llr.academy@nhs.net

Opportunities

Intergenerational Linking

Would your residents enjoy building a partnership with children or young people from a local school or youth organisation?

Through carefully facilitated partnerships, of care homes and schools or youth groups that are no more than a 20-minute walk away from each other, the [Intergenerational Linking](#) project reduces loneliness and isolation. The linked groups of younger and older people share information to get to know each other such as through cards, video messages, photographs. The links are then strengthened

through a series of shared activities. Each partnership can engage in activities of their choice.

Engaging in intergenerational linking is a powerful way to improve communication and collaboration skills and build empathy whilst challenging age-based stereotypes.

The core values of the project are:

- Age is just a number - we all deserve recognition and respect and an environment that refrains from making assumptions about us based on age.
- Learning is a two-way street - we will provide opportunities where younger and older people learn from each other, connect over shared activities and benefit through collaborating with each other.

Its goals are:

- To bring generations together to connect, learn, have fun and share wisdom.
- To connect generations in a way that's reciprocal and mutually beneficial.

The project is free and available across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland. [See an example.](#)

If you have any questions or are interested in taking part please contact Ruth Sinhal, Linking Project Officer, school.linking@stphilipscentre.co.uk

Help shape skills planning in adult social care

Care providers are being invited to take part in a new Chamber of Commerce-led initiative, taking an innovative approach to bringing together businesses in the care sectors and education providers to ensure Leicestershire and Leicester can deliver the skills needed for now and the future.

Difficulties in recruiting is one of the top issues reported businesses as being a potential barrier to success. Through giving businesses a stronger voice in local skills planning, the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) is working to make skills provision more responsive to the needs of local businesses.

Businesses taking part will be asked to respond to a short daily question (received via the PanelMe app) over a fortnightly period each quarter – each day's questioning is designed to take no longer than 2 minutes to complete. The results will be uploaded alongside other datasets on the sector and presented via the new [Collective Intelligence Skills Observatory](#) for the region.

To get involved organisations are invited to [register their interest](#).

Consultations and research

Accessible research conference about relationships and sex

An accessible research conference about relationships and sex in adult social care is taking place, where academics will share their research with those who matter most and people who can make positive change happen. This will include an audience of people with learning disabilities, autistic people, social care staff, nurses, social workers, people who deliver sex and relationships education and other practitioners and other researchers.

The session will consider what research should be done next and how people can get involved.

The conference is on 21 March 2024, 11.00-16.00 at the London Irish Centre in Camden, London.

- [Low cost booking](#)
- [Free booking for people with a learning disability or autistic people who use social care](#)

Events

EMCARE CQC event – 25 January 2024

CQC would like to organise an additional event which will be offered to conference attendees and EMCARE members.

If this is of interest to you, please complete an [expression of interest](#) at your earliest convenience. Attendance is on a first come first serve basis and it will be limited availability.

It will be in on Thursday 25 January 2024 in Leicester, at a venue and time to be confirmed.

Awards

Congratulations to Care Professional of the Year Awards winners

A huge congratulations to the Care Professional of the Year Award 2023 winners announced at last week's ceremony. Everyone who won, was shortlisted or nominated should be extremely proud.

[See photos from the event.](#)

Industrial action

Junior doctor strikes are expected to take place later in December, and in January. Further information will be shared when it is available.

Reminders

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 18 December 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.

Useful links

- [Current and past editions of Provider News](#)
- [Provider conference calls](#)