



Issue 45 – 23 January 2024

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The future of adult social care

Care Workforce Pathway

The Department of Health and Social Care has unveiled [measures to reaffirm care work as a career](#), helping to recruit and retain talent by providing accredited qualifications, training, and funded apprenticeships.

For the first time, there will be a national care career structure (the [Care Workforce Pathway](#)), with defined roles and professional development. An accredited qualification (the [Care Certificate](#)) will be introduced to help recognise the work of 37,000 workers. Lastly, funding will be provided for apprenticeship places and digital training to embrace new technology.

Read related blogs by [Oonagh Smyth](#), CEO of Skills for Care, and [Deborah Sturdy](#), Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care.

Guidance and good practice

Search for local vaccination clinics using new website

Eligible residents in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) can now search for local vaccination clinics by using the new [LLR Vaccination Service](#) website.

The service is open to help the local population find vaccination sites offering the Covid, flu and MMR vaccines this winter.

Those eligible in LLR are encouraged to come forward and get vaccinated against Covid before the current seasonal vaccination offer ends on Wednesday 31 January 2024. After that date, people will be required to wait for the next seasonal campaign unless they develop a new health condition or start treatment that severely weakens the immune system. The flu vaccination campaign will continue until 31 March.

In LLR there are a variety of ways in which people can access vaccines. People can get their vaccines at community pharmacies, GP practices and at hospital sites across LLR including the Leicester Royal Infirmary, the Leicester General Hospital and Glenfield Hospital. They can also receive vaccines at the mobile vaccination unit (MVU) which hosts walk-in clinics across LLR and offers people the opportunity to get vaccinated in a convenient location close to their home or workplace.

[Find out more.](#)

Weekly home rounds

[React To Home Rounds](#) provides training and information, including videos, about the home round and wider multi-disciplinary team (MDT) processes in line with Enhanced Health in Care Homes Framework guidance.

It gives best practice guidance around what 'good' looks like for care home and healthcare MDT working. Finally, it offers practical resources and process on how to identify if a resident is unwell as well as an escalation framework to support access to the right service at the right time.

Cleaning and decontamination

A recording of a recent webinar on [cleaning and decontamination](#) within social care settings held by Leicestershire's Community Infection Prevention and Control service can be accessed on Youtube.

Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group newsletters

The latest newsletter from the Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group (LECG), along with previous editions, can be found on the [Leicestershire Communities website](#).

Leicestershire County Council updates

Residential and nursing care contract

The Council issued a variation to the residential care contract in December 2023 to:

- Reflect the introduction of the new nursing band
- Extend the current contract to 31 July 2024 pending consultation on the new contract

The issue replaced the version which was sent to care home providers in late November / early December 2023 and, following feedback, we restricted the amendments to Schedule 3 to the inclusion of a nursing band price and descriptor. The wording for the descriptor has primarily been drawn from the [National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded Nursing Care July 2022](#) and the [NHS-funded nursing care practice guidance July 2022](#). There will be provider engagement on the new contract within the next few weeks.

Explanatory text was sent to care home providers with the Adobe link for signature.

Thank you to providers who have already signed the variation; for those still to sign, please do so via the link from the email that your organisation received as soon as possible so that all contract paperwork can be updated.

Please contact feereview@leics.gov.uk if you have any questions, including technical queries about the Adobe sign-off process, or if you need to have the variation re-issued.

Learning and development

Multiply programme for people with a learning disability

Forever Savvy is actively involved in the [Multiply project](#), focusing on individuals with learning difficulties living in the county.

Multiply project is a government initiative aimed at upskilling the nation's numeracy.

The programme is available to other adult social care organisations, providing complimentary maths assistance for the people who they support. The programme encompasses various skills such as telling time, basic arithmetic, and practical measurements for cooking, tailored to individual needs. Using the [ASDAN Life Skills challenges](#), participants will earn certificates upon completing modules so that they have something tangible to show their progress.

If you believe this offering could benefit any of the people who you support, please contact Angie at Forever Savvy at angie@foreversavvy.co.uk. They can coordinate sessions starting in February and are committed to accommodating people's schedules by conducting sessions at their location to minimise disruption to their regular routines.

The clients should not have level 2 maths, should be over 19, and must live in the County area.

Health and wellbeing

Time to Talk day – 1 February

Time to Talk Day is the nation's biggest mental health conversation, a day for workplaces, friends, families, and communities to come together to talk and listen. This year it will take place on Thursday 1 February. To find out more about creating a supportive workplace or community and download resources go to [Time to Talk Day](#).

Free online Steps4Health programme

Did you know as little as 10 minutes of brisk walking daily can increase life expectancy by several years?

[Steps4Health](#) is a free online programme for anyone over 18 currently living in LLR, wanting to become more active or anyone living with a long-term health condition such as obesity or diabetes. Steps4Health provides a personalised physical activity programme and ongoing support to help improve your health by becoming more active.

Steps4Health aims to provide information for individuals living with long-term health conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure, as well as those wanting to increase their physical activity more generally.

Sign up for free by completing this [form](#) today.

LLR BREAK-150 activity challenge

We invite you to join the systemwide BREAK-150 team activity challenge to start your new year feeling great. Log your physical activity along with your colleagues to experience first-hand the benefits of an active lifestyle. Those of you who like an extra challenge can seek to break-150 minutes of physical activity each week.

The LLR BREAK-150 activity challenge has been created in partnership with Active Together, and we encourage you and your teams to sign up and get involved too!

The challenge will start on 29 January and end on the 29 February 2024, providing you with some much-needed motivation as you continue to reach your goals for the new year.

If you work in social care, the NHS, emergency services, local authority, or charity workforce within LLR, this is your opportunity to get involved. Physical activity has the ability to bring people together and to positively impact on our wellbeing, regardless of activity level, fitness, or ability. [Register now](#).

Blue Light Card Foundation

Established in 2022, the Blue Light Card Foundation delivers granting programmes to charities and organisations that support those within the Blue Light community, including social care, by funding projects that aim to improve physical and emotional wellbeing.

Through grants available the Foundation are interested in supporting:

- Projects that support the health and wellbeing of staff members
- Projects that assist in improvements to the places and spaces that staff members use
- Projects that enable staff members to keep well both physically and mentally
- Projects that need extra resources to meet demand
- Change in policy and practice – where the focus is not on services but on influencing improvements in relevant policy and practice

[View projects that the Foundation have funded previously, are currently funding, eligibility criteria and how to apply.](#)

Consultations and research

Proposals on visiting in care homes

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is [consulting on proposed regulations](#) to make visiting in care settings a fundamental standard. The Department of Health and Social Care has written to the sector to explain the background and next steps.

The government held a consultation in June 2023 on visiting in care homes, hospitals, and hospices. Responses included views that a new standard could have a positive impact on residents and loved ones. [Read the full consultation response.](#)

CQC has published [draft guidance](#). Members of the public, providers and other stakeholders are invited to give feedback through the [online form](#) or [easy read](#). The consultation is open until midday 20 February 2024.

GP practice survey

The LLR Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB) working in partnership with the Primary Care Networks (PCNs – groups of practices working together) will be launching a GP Practice survey for patients the week commencing Monday 22 January 2024 which will run for six weeks ending on Sunday 3 March 2024.

As a key partner when engaging within your communities, the LLR ICB are running a webinar to have a conversation with you on working together to promote the survey to understand how people feel about their experience when visiting their GP practice.

Attend a webinar at a date and time that is convenient to you by clicking on one of the links below:

- [Tuesday 30 January, 6pm – 6.45pm via MS Teams](#)
- [Wednesday 31 January, 2pm – 2.45pm via MS Teams](#)

If you have any questions please email birju.vaja1@nhs.net. The session will also be recorded and shared after the webinar has ended.

Events

East Midlands Care Conference – 6 March

A free face-to-face [East Midlands Care Conference](#) event, 9.00-16.30 at Trent Vineyard, Nottingham aims to bring together care homes, home care and health teams to celebrate the fantastic care work in the East Midlands and share valuable learning between peers.

The day will include presentations from national keynote speakers and from local organisations. There will be an opportunity to visit our specially selected marketplace of providers and to cheer on the winners of our Care Awards 2024 (see article in the ‘awards’ section below).

The event will include free parking, lunch and refreshments.

Infection Prevention Society conference - 15 May

The Infection Prevention Society (IPS) is having its [annual one-day conference](#) ‘The Darling Bugs of May’ on 15 May 2024 at Trent Vineyard, Nottingham.

This conference is aimed at all colleagues who work in or have an interest in Infection Prevention and Control from all sectors of healthcare. There will be a cross section of sessions including a wide variety of topics within IPC practice. Contact trent.branch.ips@gmail.com for more information.

Awards

Care Awards East Midlands – nominations close 31 January

As part of the East Midlands Care Conference (see article in the ‘events’ section above) taking place on 6 March, six awards will be presented for which nominations are welcomed:

- Care home of the year
- Care home carer of the year
- Care home manager of the year
- Care home support team of the year
- Home carer of the year
- Home care provider of the year

[See further information including how to nominate.](#)

Commemoration, celebration and awareness raising

Holocaust Memorial Day – 25 January

Leicestershire County Council is organising a Holocaust Memorial Day event, held as a webinar on Thursday 25 January from 12pm to 1pm. We will hear from officers from East Midlands councils about the regional work to support those fleeing from persecution as refugees or asylum seekers. We will also hear from people in Leicestershire with lived experience and from teams that support unaccompanied child asylum seekers and people arriving from Ukraine. [Register to attend](#).

Poetry by health and social care staff from diverse communities

Last year, the LLR Academy invited health and social care staff of ethnically diverse backgrounds working within the Leicester, Leicester, and Rutland (LLR) Integrated Care System to attend creative and uplifting workshops. The conversations had at these workshops enabled poet Serenah Cole to create a poetry manifesto outlining what colleagues would like to see in 'Our Better Nation', imagining a better way forward for the experiences of ethnically diverse communities working in health and social care, and for people using services and patients. Artist Vishal Joshi also joined these workshops, working with colleagues to transform their ideas and experiences into a visual representation.

As well as supporting health inequalities within LLR, the workshops provided a creative outlet to alleviate stress and are a safe space for colleagues to take some reflective time for self-care.

The poem 'Our Better Nation', as shown below, was created by colleagues who attended the session as a collective voice on behalf of our LLR system. Alongside supporting artwork which is being created using impressions made during the session, a spoken version of the poem is also being produced.

Strong common themes which were shared during the creation of the poem included:

- Taking time to learn how to pronounce colleagues' names correctly - being confident to ask how
- Celebrating culture all year round (not just focusing on it during a special event, e.g. Black History Month)
- Seeing representation of our staff at executive level

'Our Better Nation'

The NHS is the heart of our nation.
The LLR Network is the core of our city,
and WE in all our diversity are the soul of it all.

We love our jobs.
We make a difference.
We feel like we are giving back.

But how is it that we the majority,
are still underrepresented in this city?

If you think the will of the people cannot
change a nation forever and for better.
Think again because you are standing in
Beveridge's dream of a better nation.

In our dream of a better nation
the executive corridors reflect the diversity of us all.
There are no 'hard to reach' communities
because we all have a platform to speak up
and everyone is valued for the good work they do.

In our dream of a better nation
we understand each other's cultures. We educate each other.
Wishing one another Eid Mubarak, a Prosperous Diwali,
Merry Christmas and a Happy Vaisakhi because
we understand how much these simple words can mean.

In our dream of a better nation
meaningful conversations about race are not saved
for Black History Month but happen daily.
We acknowledge historical disparities,
and our leaders are devoted to delivering equality.

In our dream of a better nation:
We are valued.
We are celebrated.
We are accepted for who we are.

A poem by By Serenah Cole and ethnically diverse workforce from the Leicester,
Leicestershire, and Rutland Integrated Care System.

Reminders

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 5
February 2024. 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](#)