

# Leicestershire Adult Social Care Provider News



## Issue 47 – 22 February 2024

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## **Guidance and good practice**

### **Spring COVID-19 vaccination eligible cohorts**

The cohorts of people eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination in the 2024 spring campaign are likely to be adults of age 75 and over, residents in a care home for older adults, and immunosuppressed people over 6 months old. There will need to have been a gap of at least 3 months between their spring booster and their previous booster.

The campaign is expected to start in April and continue until the end of June. Further information, including consent forms, will be shared when available.

### **Care home vaccination programme survey**

Planning for the spring 2024 COVID-19 booster programme is underway. Public Health is asking for feedback from care home providers on what worked well or areas for improvement from the winter 2023 vaccination programme.

Care home providers are asked to please complete [this short 5-minute survey](#) by 6 March. Thank you for your input.

## **Leicestershire County Council updates**

### **Provider portal availability**

Please be aware that due to maintenance work at Leicestershire County Council, the Provider Portal will be unavailable for use between the evening of Friday 23 February and approximately 9.00am on Monday 26 February.

### **PBS provider network**

The first meeting of the PBS Provider Network has been arranged - please see details below. This is a face-to-face meeting. The network is for care home and supported living providers initially. The first meeting will be an opportunity to meet the team, discuss how the network will work, and for you to identify what you would like to get from the network and PBS team.

- Date – Wednesday 13 March 2024  
Time - 13.30-15.30  
Venue - County Hall, Glenfield, LE3 8RA

We will also send the details to those who have already expressed an interest in joining the network from our previous communications. If you would like to attend the event, please email the team at [PositiveBehaviourSupportTeam@leics.gov.uk](mailto:PositiveBehaviourSupportTeam@leics.gov.uk) by Friday 9 March.

We look forward to seeing you.

### **Leicestershire County Council home library service**

Via its [home library service](#) the Council delivers books to the homes of those unable to access their local libraries, with the help of a network of wonderful volunteers. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the service or would like to join the team as a volunteer, get in touch!

## **Learning and development**

### **Free sight loss training for social care staff**

Free [online taster sessions](#) are being run by RNIB's Health and Social Care Skills Development team. The short introductory sessions, usually around 30 minutes long, cover several topics – including sight loss among those with other conditions.

If you have any queries, please contact [HSCskillsdevelopment@rnib.org.uk](mailto:HSCskillsdevelopment@rnib.org.uk) or call 0141 739 3683.

## **Opportunities**

### **Digital Social Care Record Funding Deadline**

Please note that the window for grant applications for Digital Social Care Record funding for next financial year will close on 15 March 2024.

In order to have grants paid within this financial year the minimum requirements must have been met and submitted by close of business on the 15 March 2024:

- Fully approved grant application form
- Providers must have chosen a supplier from the [assured provider list](#)
- Provision of supporting evidence in the form of an approved supplier quotation, invoice or supplier contract.
- DSPT 'Standards Met' Accreditation or higher

Please do not miss out on this opportunity, as the availability of future funding is not known. Please see [Provider News 46](#) for more details.

If you need any assistance in completing your grant application, please contact [lp.t.lhisdscradmin@nhs.net](mailto:lp.t.lhisdscradmin@nhs.net) who are available to support.

## **Consultations and research**

### **Local Skills Improvement Plan - results from survey work now live**

Around 13 care companies took part in the Local Skills Improvement Plan survey and the [results are now live](#).

The more providers that are involved, the greater insight available to all.

Find out more about [getting involved](#).

## Care home minimum data set study

The DACHA Study (developing research resources and minimum data set for care homes' adoption and use), funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and sponsored by the University of Hertfordshire, is looking for participants to take part in some research. Individuals who have a relationship with older people's care homes in the UK, in their capacity as a care home staff member or manager, care home resident, primary care professional, commissioner/service provider, older age specialist (clinical/research), or a relative/family carer of a care home resident, are invited to participate in this 25-minute [online survey](#) by 5 March.

Over the past four years, the DACHA research team has developed a prototype for a care home minimum data set (MDS), which aims to improve the quality of information that staff collect about people living in care homes to support the care of residents. The development of the MDS drew on evidence reviews, pilot study in 45 care homes, work with representatives from health and social care, consultations, and public engagement and involvement activities. The study aims to determine how useful and relevant the DACHA minimum data set is for people working in, for or with care homes, or for people who have a direct experience of care.

## Events

### International recruitment event – 4 March

A free, in-person [‘International Recruitment - Reflections and Planning for the Future’](#) event is taking place on 4 March. It will feature guest speakers, individuals sharing their lived experiences, and complimentary lunch and refreshments:

- Date: 4 March 2024  
Time: 10:00-15.30  
Location: Hilton East Midlands Airport, DE74 2YZ

Delegates who attend will have access to free on-site parking.

Space is limited, so we encourage you to reserve your place early. If you have any queries, please contact [info@eastmidscare.co.uk](mailto:info@eastmidscare.co.uk)

## Commemoration, celebration and awareness raising

### Zero Discrimination Day – 1 March

1 March is Zero Discrimination Day, an annual worldwide event that promotes diversity and recognises that everyone counts.

Organisations like the United Nations (UN) actively promote the day with various activities to celebrate everyone's right to live a full life with dignity regardless of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, skin colour, height, weight, profession, education, and beliefs.

Many countries have laws against discrimination but it's still a problem in all layers of society in every country in the world.

The symbol for Zero Discrimination Day is the butterfly, widely used by people to share their stories and photos as a way to end discrimination and work towards positive transformation.

The UN first celebrated Zero Discrimination Day on 1 March 2014, after UNAIDS, a UN program on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on World AIDS Day.

You can make a difference:

- One small act can make a difference. Whether at an individual, local or national level, it is important to speak up in situations where there is racial injustice or any other equity problems
- The struggle for freedom - discrimination continues to be an impediment today. Real progress cannot be made until discrimination is eradicated at the grass-root level
- Awareness is essential - we have a long way to go. Until then, awareness is crucial for those who are victims of discrimination

### **International Women's Day webinars – 8 March 2024**

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICS and Integrated Care Northamptonshire have partnered to bring you fantastic 30-minute virtual webinars supporting and celebrating women within our workforce this [International Women's Day, 8 March 2024](#).

The theme this year is [Inspire Inclusion](#) and they have lined up some great 30-minute webinars. Webinars are open to all colleagues working within the LLR ICS and Northants ICN, including adult social care staff.

By registering you will be added to the mailing list to receive the full schedule of webinars taking place on Friday 8 March 2024 including the joining links allowing you access. You will also have the option to opt in to receiving other resources to support women at work, recordings of the sessions following the event and news of any future similar events. You can register by completing [this form](#).

### **Industrial action**

#### **Delivering safe services during the junior doctors strikes**

The British Medical Association has announced further junior doctors' strikes during February, which means health services are expected to be busier than normal. Junior doctors will be on strike from 7am on Saturday 24 February to 11:59pm on Wednesday 28 February.

Please take note of the following guidance which will help you to get the right health care for the people you support, as quickly as possible.

### ***Impact on emergency and care services***

The industrial action will affect emergency and care services, due to reduced staffing and services will be busier than normal. Christmas Day levels of cover will be in operation on strike days.

We know that you are already doing everything you can during this busy time to ensure good quality services and may have concerns about the impact of the upcoming industrial action when services are already busy.

In addition to the arrangements that have been put in place to make sure that care homes remain supported during this time, there are things that you too can check to ensure that only clinically essential referrals are made to 999 or 111 for the duration of the industrial action and proceeding 24 hours.

Please see below updated information, resources and services which will help support care homes and social care workers during the industrial action.

### ***How you can help***

At this time of potentially high demand on services, please review your business continuity plans to ensure that they cover:

#### *Staffing*

- The ability to update staff availability on an ongoing basis
- Mutual aid relationships with other providers and other branches within your own business
- Key local authority contacts contained within your plan

#### *People who use your service*

- Risk rating ('RAG' or red-amber-green rating) according to people's support needs – if you know someone is unwell or is more susceptible to illness which may require support from an ambulance
- Informal support available to each person – such as family, friends, and neighbours – remind them their assistance is vital so other people can continue to receive support
- Using alternatives to an ambulance. This could include the falls service where someone can come and assess a person and decide if an ambulance is needed
- Up to date GP details so this is your first port of call in the event of someone being unwell.

Alongside business continuity plans, please refer to the NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's [guidance on keeping the emergency department clear](#) by using alternative support services to help facilitate health concerns during this period.

### **Local system plans in place to support adult social care providers**

Own GP for generally unwell patients		
Urgent / Acute home visiting service	Via own GP first port of call or DHU Health Care Professional Line (HCP)	DHU HCP line 0300 323 0672
Night Nursing Service	22.00 to 08.00	DHU HCP line 0300 323 0672
Health Care Professional line	24/7 alternative to 111 to support into most appropriate local service	DHU HCP line 0300 323 0672
Crisis Response Urgent Falls Response Service (Accepting referrals from all nursing and care homes in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, plus referrals from other health and care staff in Leicestershire and Rutland locations only)	08.00-20.00 Monday to Sunday	DHU HCP line 0300 323 0672
Two-hour Crisis Response Service- Social care, Leicester City, Leicestershire County Council & Rutland Social Care (home care)	Agreement to refer directly into 24/7	City- 01162211515 County- 01163050495 Rutland- Duty line is 01572 758341 and out of hours is: 0116 2551606
Two-hour Crisis Response Service	Nursing & Therapy 08.00-22.00	0300 300 1000
Mental health Central Access Point (CAP)	24/7 Mental Health Triage	0808 800 3302

### **Discharge of patients with COVID-19 from hospital**

IPC guidance relating to the discharge of patients from hospital to a care home can be found in the [IPC in adult social care: acute respiratory infection](#) (ARI) guidance.

The hospital should still perform a LFD test within 48 hours before the planned discharge, unless the resident is already known to be COVID-19 positive during the hospital stay.

Individuals who test positive for ARI (including COVID-19) can be admitted to the care home if the home is satisfied they can be cared for safely. Those admitted with a positive test result should be supported to stay away from other residents on arrival, and should follow the guidance in the section '[If a service user tests positive for acute respiratory infection](#)'.



Please note if patients have tested positive for COVID-19 they are advised to isolate for a minimum of 5 days from the day of symptom onset, or from the day the test was taken if they are asymptomatic. After 5 days, the individual can return to normal activities if they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to do so.

COVID positive patients should avoid contact with those eligible for COVID-19 treatments for 10 days after a positive test (e.g. immunocompromised people).

The isolation, PPE requirements and testing regimes when caring for COVID-9 positive individuals should be followed as per the ARI guidance.

For additional IPC support, please contact [infection@leics.gov.uk](mailto:infection@leics.gov.uk) or 0116 305 5121.

## Reminders

### Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 4 March 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](mailto:enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk).

### Useful links

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