

Leicestershire Adult Social Care Provider News



Issue 67 – 09 December 2024

Contents

Guidance and good practice	2
Increase in the outbreaks of Scabies – reporting guidance	2
Storage of Controlled Drugs	2
Leicestershire County Council updates	2
Gifts to Leicestershire County Council Staff	2
Additional Funding for Whzan Blue Boxes.....	3
Learning and Development	3
Free Webinar for International Recruitment Support	3
Mental Capacity Act Provider Forums	3
Health and wellbeing	4
Covid Antiviral Communications	4
Message in a Bottle	5
Reminders.....	5
Safeguarding Matters Live – 11 th December	5
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) draft Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2024-2029.	5
Next edition.....	6
Useful links	6

Guidance and good practice

Increase in the outbreaks of Scabies – reporting guidance

Outbreaks of scabies are most likely to occur where people live in close proximity, and in settings where individuals receive personal or health care or staff working in these settings. The elderly, young (children and young adults) and immunocompromised are particularly vulnerable to scabies. Those residing in settings such as care homes and prisons are especially susceptible to outbreaks.

An outbreak is defined as 2 or more epidemiologically linked cases of scabies within an 8-week period. This can include staff members. If an outbreak is suspected care homes should contact the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA); Tel. 0344 2254524, option 1. (Contactable 24/7), for information and guidance on the management and treatment. There is a link below to the latest Government guidelines.

[Gov.uk - management of scabies outbreaks in care homes and closed settings](#)

The Local Authority Infection Prevention and Control team will be able to provide IPC advice around the outbreak and can be contacted Monday to Friday 09:00-17:00. Please notify the Infection Prevention and Control Service at the start of the outbreak on 0116 305 5121 or infection@leics.gov.uk.

Storage of Controlled Drugs

The Controlled Drugs Liaison Officer has issued the following guidance around the safe storage of controlled drugs (CD) within care homes.

1. All CD cabinets must not have any text/images on the front of them to indicate that controlled drugs are stored inside.
2. All CD cabinet keys to be kept separate and on their own from other keys
3. Nothing except controlled drugs to be stored inside the CD cabinet (the CD registers are exempt from this if there is room).
4. Expired CD's that are set to be destroyed to be kept in their original packaging until they are to be destroyed in one sitting. The denaturing kit **MUST** be kept **INSIDE** the CD cabinet once it has CD's inside if with water added to start and complete the denaturing process.
5. Once 24 hours has passed, after the CD's have been denatured, they must be disposed of via the clinical waste/pharmacy collection.

Leicestershire County Council updates

Gifts to Leicestershire County Council Staff

At this time of year some of you have previously 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.

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.

Additional Funding for Whzan Blue Boxes

You may recall that Tara Marshall attended the Provider Forum in May 2024 to talk about the benefits of implementing the Whzan Blue Box in Leicestershire care homes. The roll-out was put on hold over the summer whilst funding was obtained for a wider roll-out but I'm pleased to inform you that funding has now been released to provide an additional 40 Whzan Blue Boxes as part of the Connected Care Programme and the Whzan Blue Box is being rolled out to residential and supported living homes across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland, with funding secured until 2028.

If you would like to view a short film of Whzan in use, click this [link](#). This innovative equipment empowers care homes to better monitor residents' well-being by detecting early signs of deterioration. It records vital observations, weight, and secure photographs, and integrates seamlessly with GP systems and most digital care records, eliminating the need for duplicate data entry. The Whzan Blue Box has been proven to reduce hospital admissions through early intervention, enabling residents to remain in their preferred care setting for as long as possible.

To join the programme, please contact Tara at tara@thesehandsconsulting.co.uk or Colleen Smith at colleen.smith@leics.gov.uk and we will arrange for you to get started. Training will be provided, and you will be supported throughout the implementation. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Learning and Development

Free Webinar for International Recruitment Support

The East Midlands International Recruitment Support team are pleased to announce a webinar, covering their new initiative, a comprehensive Integration Toolkit for International Recruitment!

Care providers and international workers are all invited to attend for free. The webinar will be on Microsoft Teams, and will be recorded, so if you can't make the date below you will be able to watch it back at a later date on their website.

Date & Time: [Friday 24th January, 2pm.](#)

Mental Capacity Act Provider Forums

The Safeguarding Adults Boards are pleased to announce that we have relaunched our free Mental Capacity Act Provider Forum for 2025. This resource was previously available to Leicester providers to support understanding and awareness of the MCA and included presentations, requirements of decision makers, code of practice,

signposting to resources, case studies and practical tasks to work through and build confidence in using MCA within the workplace.

Unfortunately, due to the pressures of COVID on providers, the forum discontinued during the pandemic due to the move from face to face to online with low numbers in attendance but we are delighted to relaunch this excellent resource to a wider audience across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

These will be held four times over the year in different venues across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, the first of which is as follows -

Date: 6th February 2025

Time: 1.00pm-4.00pm

Venue: Attenborough Hall, City Hall, Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ.

There is an expectation that at least one member of staff from a provider organisation attends at least one of these sessions and feedback into their organisation at a minimum; however, you are welcome to attend more than one session and bring more members of staff with you subject to spaces being available.

During the sessions you will:

- Understand the requirements of the Act
- When you need to complete an MCA
- Support you to complete a capacity assessment
- Discuss and share local best practice / ways of working
- Network with other providers across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

The first forum will be hosted in Leicester by Ann Forde, Quality Assurance & Compliance Manager at Leicester City Council. Ann has a wealth of experience in supporting services to meet both regulatory and contractual obligations. Ann will share assessment templates, local guides and her experiences as well as providing a question and answer session. The sessions will be supported by Carol Bysouth-Rose, Rutland County Council and Natalie Smith, Leicestershire County Council.

Book your place now [via Event Brite](#)

If you have any queries or have accessibility needs to enable you to attend our event please email LSAB-events@leicester.gov.uk

Health and wellbeing

Covid Antiviral Communications

The NHS offers treatment to people with Covid-19 who are at highest risk of becoming seriously ill. For more information on who may be eligible, available treatments and how to get those treatments go to [Treatments for Covid-19](#), and <https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/paxlovid/>

Message in a Bottle

The Lions Club's "Message in a Bottle" program is designed to assist emergency responders in providing timely and accurate medical treatment to individuals who are unable to communicate critical medical information in the event of an emergency. The program involves placing a standardised form containing essential medical details inside a plastic bottle, which is then stored in the person's fridge. A sticker is placed on the fridge to alert emergency workers to its presence.

The standardised form typically includes details such as medical conditions, allergies, current medications, emergency contacts, and a brief medical history. This information can be vital for emergency responders to provide appropriate and timely care. Many people are also using the bottle to keep DNR information close at hand.

To order the bottles please email - mdhq@lionsclubs.co.uk

Reminders

Safeguarding Matters Live – 11th December

The next Safeguarding Matters Live will take place on Wednesday 11th December 2024, 9.30am-11.30am.

The session will be looking at safeguarding and the internet, including:

- Impact of social media on children
- Prevent
- Updated Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership procedure – Self-Harm and Suicidal Behaviour
- Scams

The agenda has been compiled for staff across the multi-agency partnerships for children and adults and a whole family/think family approach.

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) draft Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2024-2029.

Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland Councils have refreshed the LLR Suicide Prevention Strategy for 2024 – 2029. Suicide is not inevitable; it can be preventable. The strategy describes how organisations (such as councils, the police and NHS) plan to work together across LLR to prevent suicide over the next 5 years.

We want to hear your views on the draft Suicide Prevention Strategy for LLR. Your views will be used to inform the final version of the strategy, and the corresponding action plan which will detail how the priorities will be achieved.

The consultation is open to everyone in Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The consultation is now live and will run until midnight on 22 December.

Complete the questionnaire at:

[Suicide prevention strategy 2024-2029](#)

A paper copy of the questionnaire is available on request by calling 0116 305 0705 or emailing phconsultations@leics.gov.uk.

Please cascade this information across relevant networks and encourage participation in the consultation.

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 23 December 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 Leicestershire County Council Provider News](#)
- [Leicestershire County Council adult social care provider conference calls](#)
- [LLR Providing Care – resources, advice, signposting](#)
- [Leicestershire and Leicester Inspired to Care – recruitment and retention support](#)
- [Leicestershire Social Care Development Group \(LSCDG\)](#)