

# Leicestershire Adult Social Care Provider News



## Issue 68 – 20 December 2024

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## **Leicestershire County Council updates**

### **Season's Greetings from the Director of Adult Social Care**

As we approach the end of another challenging year, I would like to extend my appreciation for your flexibility and resilience to continue to provide support to those who need it most. Your determination, and your dedication to the people you care for does not go unnoticed and we are extremely grateful for all your efforts.

Although services will continue to run over the festive period and many staff will be working, we sincerely hope that you and your teams will have some time to rest and recharge, even if it is short. Kind regards and warmest wishes for the festive season and New Year. Jon Wilson Director of Adults and Communities.

### **Guidance and good practice**

#### **Top Tips for Accessing the NHS over Christmas**

The NHS in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) has published advice about how to use [NHS services over the Christmas and New Year period](#), including their five top tips that everyone should know to get the right care as quickly as possible over the festive period.

NHS 111, urgent care services, pharmacies and neighbourhood mental health cafes are among the local options for people when GP practices are closed on Christmas Day (Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December), Boxing Day (Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December) and New Year's Day (Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January).

### **Learning and development**

#### **Safeguarding Matters Briefing**

You can access the recent Safeguarding Matters Virtually Live Briefing 11.12.2024 recording and PowerPoint Presentation on the [Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Board web pages](#). This is a free to access recording.

### **Publications**

#### **Adults & Communities Engagement Panel Newsletter**

The second edition of the Adults and Communities Engagement Panel newsletter, co-produced with two of our members, Matthew and Bhavin is now available.

Take some time to read about the work the panel have been involved with, and please share with your networks and individuals who may be interested in helping us to shape how we work in the future. Our next edition will be early spring March/April.

If you come across anything you think might be of interest to people please send to [a&c-strategy@leics.gov.uk](mailto:a&c-strategy@leics.gov.uk).

The December issue and our previous edition from July can found on the [Leicestershire Communities website](#).

## Health and wellbeing

### Reminder - When and how to use face masks

Care workers and visitors to care homes do not routinely need to wear a face mask in care settings or when providing care in people's own homes.

However, Type IIR fluid-repellent surgical masks should be worn:

- if the person being cared for has [symptoms of ARI](#)
- when cleaning the room of a person with symptoms of ARI
- if there is an outbreak of ARI in a care home and the local risk assessment favours the introduction of universal masking as one of the outbreak control measures
- if the person being cared for would prefer staff or visitors to wear a mask while providing them with care or visiting

Full details: [Government Infection, Prevention and Control web pages](#).

### Spring 2025 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

NHS England have confirmed details of the COVID-19 vaccination programme for 2025. They are in the process of planning a spring campaign, with the following cohorts expected to be eligible for a seasonal vaccine:

- Adults aged 75 years and over
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- Individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed

The spring campaign will run from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and end on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025. A minimum of 3 months is still required between doses of the vaccine.

NHS England have asked that priority be given to older adult care homes and eligible housebound patients.

## Reminders

### Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 13 January 2025. 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 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 \(LSCDG\)](#)