



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**

 Leicestershire
County Council

Issue 60 – 9 December 2020

Dear colleague,

We are writing with updates on a range of subjects, including the Covid vaccination programme for LLR – we hope that you find them informative.

Covid vaccine availability in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

In response to local questions about vaccine availability in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland the local NHS yesterday issued the below statement. We're sure you'll appreciate that this is a rapidly evolving situation and we will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

The initial list of 50 Trusts published at the weekend are just the first to go 'live' with the vaccine and further announcements are expected to be made in the near future. In line with the rest of the country we anticipate being in a position to start our local vaccination programme very soon.

We have been carrying out extensive planning in readiness to begin vaccinating once we are given the go-ahead.

While we await the go-ahead we can assure people we will be vaccinating in line with the priority groups as set out for us by the Government. The immediate priority groups are residents in a care home for older adults and their carers, all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers.

Full information will be provided as quickly as possible and those eligible for the vaccine will be contacted directly and invited to attend an appointment when they become eligible.

Alongside NHS colleagues we have been supporting plans for vaccinating social care workers in Leicestershire.

Over the weekend the Department of Health and Social Care wrote directly to care homes to update on the Covid vaccine programme and encourage preparations to begin (if they haven't already) around developing staff lists ready for vaccination roll

out. We will shortly be sending a template to all care homes and home care providers to fill in with their staff details so that as soon as we are ready to start vaccinations in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland we can invite your staff. We would be grateful if you could begin these conversations with your staff and start developing these lists now if you haven't already.

Part of the information that will be required for vaccinations is NHS number – information on how your staff can find theirs is available at www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/what-is-an-nhs-number/

We'll be in contact with more information as soon as it is available.

Christmas and New Year PPE orders

In preparation for the Christmas and New Year period please remember to ensure you order enough PPE to cover the whole of the holiday period through into the new year.

PPE should be ordered through the PPE Portal. The order limits have recently been increased to allow you to order more PPE to cover the holiday period - emails regarding this have been sent directly to those of you already registered with the portal.

European Union (EU) exit

The end of the EU exit (Brexit) transition period is not expected to have an immediate impact on staffing levels, but it is recognised that the social care workforce will face a number of challenges and additional pressures over the winter period arising from Covid, the delivery of business as usual, vaccination programmes and staff absence through self-isolating and school closures.

Data suggests that the number of EU nationals working in Leicestershire is small, but care providers have been advised to consider their workforce and to provide support to them regarding application to the EU Settlement Scheme which closes in June 2021.

Leicestershire's Registration Service will provide support to Leicestershire residents for a fee – information can be found via <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/registrars/other-ceremonies-and-services>

Infection Control Fund (ICF) – Round 2

You should have received an email yesterday (8 December) asking for your monthly reporting – this will be a cumulative expenditure report for October and Nov. This report must be submitted by 15 December. Alongside this, it's very important that all of the first instalment of your ICF2 allocation is spent by 31 December – you will need to report on this by 15 January.

We expect to make the second payment in January, subject to full expenditure of instalment one. ICF1 underspends will be deducted – we will make payment to the small number of homes and providers that have not reported for ICF1 once their reports have been submitted. We are in contact with those providers separately.

Distribution of the discretionary (20%) element of the fund will commence in January. It must support infection control and workforce resilience and will be targeted at providers, such as day services, that are not supported by the mandatory (80%) element of the fund. It will also support community providers and care homes with expenditure that does not fit clearly into the measures identified in the mandatory element of the fund. Application will be via a simple online form that we'll email to you next week - we aim to respond to requests within 14 days, and make payments at the end of January and February. If the full discretionary fund is not claimed, we plan to distribute the remainder to care homes and community providers reporting an overspend at the end of Dec 2020.

Very few providers are raising queries relating to expenditure eligibility, but one received recently from a few organisations relates to whether staff costs associated with testing visitors are covered by ICF. We can confirm that the answer is yes, as expenditure of this nature is covered under the safe visiting measure.

Skills for Care update

[An updated wellbeing offer from Skills for Care](#) is now available, outlining numerous channels of support. The document details those that are open to registered managers including manager networks, a dedicated Facebook group and recorded webinars. Individual employers and Personal Assistants are also offered tailored webinars and local signposting for wellbeing support and resources.

Yours sincerely

Jon Wilson

Director of Adults and Communities

Mike Sandys

Director of Public Health

The archive of all previous COVID-19 provider bulletins released since March 2020 can be found at <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/working-with-you-during-coronavirus>