



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Issue 33

Dear Colleague,

As you will be aware, following yesterday's announcements parts of Leicester and Leicestershire remain in a local lockdown. Please be assured we're continuing to work closely with central government, Leicester City Council and all our LLR partners, as we have been throughout the pandemic.

We will continue to keep you informed through our regular bulletins and provider calls.

Please find below several updates which I hope you'll find useful.

Infection Control Fund (ICF) update

Care homes

The first ICF payment has now been issued to all care homes across Leicestershire.

Thank you to those who have received and returned the grant agreements issued to them. We urge those who have not yet responded to do so as soon as possible as failure to do so could result in the second payment not being made and the first payment having to be repaid to the council.

We have been advised by the Department of Health and Social Care that the second payment will be made to us next week (week commencing 20 July). Provided this is the case, we will be making our second, final payment to eligible homes in early to mid-August.

We would like to remind all care homes to complete the tracker every weekday, which is a condition of the funding. We appreciate the administrative burden of reporting data at this difficult time – however the trends and understanding which we gain from it are invaluable in tracking the virus, keeping people safe, and in knowing how best to support you as providers.

Home care, extra care and supported living

We continue to collect information from providers across the city and county about the number of self-funding and direct payment clients they are supporting in Leicestershire. To include as many providers as possible in payments for all of the

Leicestershire people who they support, we have extended the deadline and sent out follow up messages as a reminder to submit this information to us. If you have not replied to our request, please do so urgently or unfortunately we will not be able to take account of all relevant people in our calculations and payments.

We have been advised by the Department of Health and Social Care that the second payment will be made to us next week, during the week commencing 20 July. Provided this is the case, we hope to make our payment in early to mid-August.

We would like to remind all home care providers to complete the Snap survey every weekday, which is a condition of the funding.

Leicestershire County Council support in July for adult social care providers' additional Covid-19 costs

You will recall that Leicestershire County Council commissioned an organisation to examine the impact of Covid-19 on home care, residential care, and Supported Living providers' costs. The work, which examined real provider additional costs within home care, residential care and supported living, found that the majority of extra expenditure has related to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The analysis guided us in determining further financial support to you from Leicestershire County Council for May and June.

These payments are different from the £6.7m Leicestershire Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund (ICF), for which information can be found above, in previous bulletins, and in specific communications sent to your organisation, where relevant.

We will shortly be explaining how providers' exceptional costs incurred over and above the amounts paid by the authority will be considered.

Home care additional costs

The July payment will be calculated by applying £1.30 per hour to commissioned hours for the 4-week care period 29 June to 26 July. This payment was made on Monday 13 July.

Residential care additional costs

There will be a payment of £25 per service user, per week in Working Age Adults and Older Adults residential settings for July. The calculation will be based on the commissioned packages for the 4-week care period 29 June to 26 July. This payment was made on Tuesday 14 July.

Supported Living additional costs

There will be a payment of £25 per service user, per week for the 4-week care period 29 June to 26 July. This payment will be made on Friday 17 July.

Weekly provider calls

The COVID-19 provider calls for home care, residential care, supported living and community life choices have been running now since March and have been an invaluable way of hearing about providers' key issues to understand how better to tailor our support to you; for you to share information and good practice with others; providing briefings; exploring topics and ideas; giving you direct access to speak to County Council officers; and providing a regular opportunity for a question-and-answer session. It is possible to submit questions for consideration in advance, to ask them on the day, or just to listen in with no obligation to participate.

As you know, the dates, times and dial-in details for future calls are always available on our [provider teleconferences page](#). We understand that provider representatives occasionally experience difficulties in joining the calls. We hope that this will be resolved through an imminent County Council move from Skype to Microsoft Teams, and you will be given notice of the change and how best to access the calls. In the meantime, we are trialling including a hyperlink to the meeting within the agendas which are emailed to your organisation ahead of each call. Please try the link, and if it doesn't work for you, you can still join the call through the details on the website.

We are always keen to know how we can further improve the weekly calls to make them even more useful to you, so do feel free to email the [provider communication line](#) at any time with your suggestions, or simply raise them on the call.

Making information easier to find on our website

We have a lot of information to help you during the current pandemic which is available on our [website](#).

Over the past few weeks we worked hard to organise the provider focused information on the website more effectively, so you will be able to find what you are looking for easily and quickly by grouping the information into themes for better navigation.

Information which you may find useful on our website includes:

- [Advice on PPE including videos on effective donning & doffing](#)
- [Infection control measures](#)
- [Advice on accessing COVID testing](#)
- [Back editions of the provider bulletins](#)
- [Information on the Infection Control Fund and how to access it](#)
- [Our Care Home Support Plan](#)

Stay safe this summer – heatwave preparation

The national heatwave guidance has been updated, referring now to Covid-19.

As you are all aware a heat-health watch alert system operates in England from 1 June to 15 September each year. During this period, the Met Office may predict heatwaves, which are defined by forecasts of day and night-time temperatures and their duration. Alerts are then issued as follows:

Figure 2.1: Heatwave Alert levels

Level 0	Long-term planning - All year
Level 1	Heatwave and Summer preparedness programme - 1 June – 15 September
Level 2	Heatwave is forecast – Alert and readiness - 60% risk of heatwave in the next 2 to 3 days
Level 3	Heatwave Action - temperature reached in one or more Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service regions
Level 4	Major incident – Emergency response - central government will declare a Level 4 alert in the event of severe or prolonged heatwave affecting sectors other than health

We are all aware that high temperatures have significant health consequences and are associated with increased mortality and increased morbidity, and you will have seen media reports of deaths associated with a heatwave. Covid-19 amplifies these effects. These are covered in this [Public Health England slide](#).

Everybody can be affected by high temperatures, but there are certain factors that increase an individual's risk during a heatwave. These include:

- **Older age:** especially those over 75 years old, or those living on their own and who are socially isolated, or those living in a care home
- **Chronic and severe illness:** including heart or lung conditions diabetes, renal insufficiency, Parkinson's disease or severe mental illness
- **Inability to adapt behaviour to keep cool:** babies and the very young, having a disability, being bed bound, consuming too much alcohol, having Alzheimer's disease
- **Environmental factors and overexposure:** living in a top floor flat, being homeless, activities or jobs that are in hot places or outdoors and include high levels of physical exertion

There are also a range of mild to severe health impacts especially when temperatures remain high for prolonged periods ranging from heat cramps to heatstroke and respiratory and cardiovascular illness.

There are obviously other wider hazards such as air pollution, wildfires, food poisoning and drought. Whilst higher temperatures will increase the risk of overheating in houses (possibly effecting people working from their own homes or in others homes) schools, hospitals, care homes, prisons, offices, libraries and other types of buildings, leading to adverse impacts on health.

It is therefore important that organisations (particularly those involved in health and social care) work together during periods of increased heat, to ensure that we are:

- **Prepared** - raising awareness of staff, volunteers, customers, service users, and the wider public of the potential risks and consequences and providing them with information
- Have **identified** and taken particular care of at risk/vulnerable individuals (service users, staff, customers)
- Have considered the **physical environment** to reduce the impact of heat exposure (both indoors and outdoors) providing resources and best practice information

Useful guidance is available on the [Heatwaves plan for England](#) page, which contains Beat the Heat, leaflet, posters and checklists.

Further heatwave health advice is available on the [NHS Choices website](#) and on the [Met Office website](#).

Should you want to register or amendment an existing registration please contact the Met Office using Enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk providing your name, organisation and email address (.nhs or .gov or provider organisation type).

Health-related air pollution advice is available at: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/forecasting/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Jon Wilson
Director of Adults & Communities