

Information for adult social care providers



Issue 74 – 18 February 2021

Dear Colleagues

We hope you will find the COVID-19 updates below useful.

BAME vaccination engagement conversation events

A series of online events for BAME staff in the region has been organised by NHS England and NHS Improvement and the Chief Nursing Officer's BAME Strategic Advisory Group.

Attendees are invited to share their lived experiences around the vaccination programme to date and the sessions are open to all health and social care colleagues working in the Midlands region, as well as BAME Workforce Allies, Chaplains, BAME Staff Networks, EDI Leads, Freedom to Speak Up guardians (FTSU), Staff Sides representatives and health and wellbeing champions.

The events will take place on the following dates, with booking links available for each event set out below:

- Tuesday 23 February 2021, 17.30 to 19.00
<https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/events/bame-vaccination-engagement-event>
- Wednesday 24 February 2021, 14.00-15.30
<https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/events/bame-vaccination-conversation>
- Saturday 27 February 2021, 13.00-14.30
<https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/events/bame-vaccination-conversation-601bc7a2d0537>

Drop-in regional vaccine seminar for frontline social care staff

Following the success of its webinars in the last two weeks, East Midlands ADASS is running a further virtual 'drop-in' session on Friday 19 February between 14.00-15.00 to answer questions about the vaccine.

Staff do not have to register – they can simply use the link below. Please encourage your workers to dial in.

Are you worried or concerned about having your COVID-19 vaccination? Are there questions you'd like answered? Have you heard or read things on social media that you just don't know if it is true or not? Come and ask the experts.

- ADASS, Public Health England and NHS England are working with the Care Sector in the East Midlands to run sessions for front line social care staff to ask any questions or queries.
- The session will be hosted by staff – Public Health Consultants, Doctors and Nurses all of whom are involved in the vaccination programme.
- They will answer your questions as best they can, there is no such thing as a wrong question.
- You do not need to book on to the session.
- You do not have to tell your manager you are joining.
- We will not keep a record of who has attended.
- We will however use the things you ask us and tell us to produce more information for other staff as if you have a thought or a question it is likely other people may have the same question or query.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

New Leicestershire hospital vaccination hub goes live

Fielding Palmer Hospital, Lutterworth is now offering vaccination appointments for frontline health and care staff.

The full list of hospital hub sites where staff can book a vaccination is available via the SwiftQueue appointment booking link – if you do not have the link please contact socialcare-vaccination-enquiry@leics.gov.uk

GP vaccination locations

We are always looking out for ways to make vaccination more convenient for your staff and your business. A list of all GP-led sites in Leicestershire where staff can currently be vaccinated is available at <http://3xmatc1p0cnc3crfv93ovogp-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Covid-Vaccine-Centres-LLR-15.1.2021.pdf> – you may find this useful in identifying the best place for your appointments.

Useful vaccination information for staff

Having the vaccination is one of our best defences against coronavirus, and our way out of the pandemic and current restrictions.

A useful leaflet for social care staff is available on the gov.uk website in a number of languages – [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff leaflet](#).

The leaflet answers a variety of questions including why it is important to get your vaccination, whether the vaccine will have side effects, and is the vaccine safe for women of childbearing age, those who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Local NHS colleagues have also produced [videos about the vaccine](#) in a range of languages.

Thank you for all you have been doing to encourage vaccine uptake in your staff – if you need further support or information please email socialcare-vaccination-enquiry@leics.gov.uk

Workforce Capacity Fund

The purpose of the Workforce Capacity Fund is to strengthen adult social care staff capacity to ensure that safe and continuous care is achieved to deliver the following outcomes:

- maintain care provision and continuity of care for recipients where pressing workforce shortages may put this at risk
- support providers to restrict staff movement between care homes and other care settings in all but exceptional circumstances, which is critical for managing the risk of outbreaks and infection in care homes
- support safe and timely hospital discharges to a range of care environments including domiciliary care, to prevent or address delays as a result of workforce shortages
- enable care providers to care for new service users where need arises

Leicestershire will receive £1.2m and based on information from the Skills for Care workforce data set, will distribute 35% of the fund to care homes and 45% to community providers.

There are numerous activities that providers can undertake with this funding including:

- Support with childcare costs to allow staff to take on extra hours
- Paying for extra admin support staff/recruitment support to improve care staff capacity
- Paying overtime rates to encourage staff to work extra shifts additional to usual hours (whilst taking care of staff wellbeing and avoiding staff burnout)
- Overstaffing at pinch points to lessen impact of staff absences should they arise
- Provide payment in lieu of annual leave to staff that wish for this, to increase capacity
- Running recruitment campaigns such as through Indeed or social media; that may target organisations or sectors making redundancies for potential recruits
- On-boarding and training costs
- Virtual job fairs
- Care Friends licences and other incentivised staff referral payments
- Booking agency staff (nurses and carers) for short term cover or block booking dependent on need
- Recruit temporary administrative or recruitment support
- Bonus payments to promote vaccination, staff retention and performance.

As well as those above, there are many more [initiatives listed in the DHSC guidance](#).

The council is examining the feasibility of targeting a section of the fund at vaccination to promote this critically important activity.

Providers will have to produce a report by 30 April which details the activities undertaken, the expenditure on each and the impact in terms of jobs and additional hours delivered. Expenditure must be incurred between 16 January and 31 March 2021, and providers will have to meet all the [grant conditions](#).

More information will follow in the next bulletin and by email. Please feel free to contact the Inspired to Care team to talk through implementing any of these ideas or additional ideas you may have and best practise techniques. You can contact the team on inspiredtocare@leics.gov.uk.

Care Home Testing Changes

Following a change to the guidance around using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests in the 90 days following a positive result; if someone tests positive with a PCR test, they should not be tested using PCR or LFD for 90 days, unless they develop new symptoms during this time, in which case they should be retested immediately using PCR. You can read the full announcement here:

<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/2/17/Care-home-testing-changes-to-guidance-for-PCR-LFD-and-outbreak-testing.pdf>

As a result of the change, the guidance for care home outbreak testing has been updated, as well as the provider FAQs, and updated versions can be found at the below links:

- Provider FAQs
<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/2/17/Provider-FAQs-changes-to-testing-announced-16-February-2021.pdf>
- Care Home Outbreak Testing Guidance
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961926/care-home-testing-guidance-england-v1602.pdf
- Care Home Outbreak Testing Guidance (Visual)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961927/care-home-outbreak-testing-guidance-england-visual-v1602.pdf

Next phase of the DHSC recruitment campaign

The next phase of the national adult social care recruitment campaign launched on 9 February. The campaign will inspire people with the right values to take up crucial work in social care, now and for the future. Addressing the current urgent recruitment need, the 'Care for others. Make a difference' campaign builds on last year's national recruitment effort, highlighting the rewarding, varied and flexible roles available across the sector.

You and millions of others in England will see the new campaign advertising across TV, radio and social media. The adverts will help those with the right qualities consider a career in care and motivate them to search for adult social care jobs or visit www.everydayisdifferent.com where they can apply.

For this most recent phase of the campaign in 2021, DHSC are working in partnership with several of the largest jobs boards to amplify the campaign to jobseekers and encourage more quality candidates to consider and apply for a role in adult social care.

Advertising will signpost to www.everydayisdifferent.com where applicants can go on to search for jobs via these jobs boards, as well as through the existing search function on DWP: Find a Job. Please spend some time advertising your roles on here as another free place to attract candidates. [You can do this by clicking here.](#)

In addition, DHSC will share with Leicestershire's Inspired to Care team, on a bi-weekly basis, all details of candidates that have completed the on-line enquiry form and are interested in exploring roles within our sector. If you would like visibility of these candidates, for you to contact directly, please send the Inspired to Care team an email on inspiredtocare@leics.gov.uk to be added to the distribution list.

As ever, thank you for your continuing support.

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>