

Leicestershire Adult Social Care Provider News



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Contents

Get involved in Black History Month	2
The future of adult social care.....	2
Budget pressures: Leicestershire County Council.....	2
Guidance and good practice	3
Winter safety packs	3
Information and advice on keeping homes warm this winter.....	3
Update on COVID-19 outbreaks in care homes	3
COVID-19 and flu vaccinations communications toolkit for care workers	4
Specialist learning disability COVID-19 vaccination clinic.....	4
COVID-19 PPE guide for unpaid carers and for people who work in adult social care services and settings.....	4
Where to find up-to-date guidance on how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in adult social care settings.....	5
Clostridioides difficile management pathway update	5
Five moments of hygiene poster.....	5
Update on national cleanliness standards.....	5
Health and Care Act 2022: adult social care provider information provisions	5
Learning and development opportunities.....	6
Free falls prevention, mobility and strengthening webinar	6
Learning disability health training	6
Leicestershire County Council updates	6
Provider portal access requests	6
Still time to take part in digital health pilot	6
Update on the Workforce Development Fund	7
Consultations and research	7
Downs Syndrome Act: give your views	7
Ethnicity and difference in health and care.....	7
Health and wellbeing.....	8

World Mental Health Day	8
Discount schemes available for social care workers	8
Future editions	9
We want to hear from you!.....	9
Next edition	9

Get involved in Black History Month

Black History Month takes place throughout October and this year’s theme is ‘Time for Change: Action Not Words’.

Editor of BlackHistoryMonth.org, Catherine Ross, explains the theme for this year by saying, “It’s time to reset your mindset and support us with actions, not words. Join with us, see something, say something, don’t be a passive bystander. Not just at the weekend in the club or playing sports, but on the street, in shops, at work.” [Read the full quote.](#)

[Learn more about Black History Month and download resources.](#)

The future of adult social care

Budget pressures: Leicestershire County Council

You are probably aware of the growing financial challenges facing not just the county council, but all local government.

Given the unprecedented situation, we have been raising awareness and understanding over the last few weeks, and you have probably seen media coverage.

As part of this, a focus group took place last week; we are arranging webinars with stakeholders and we have also published a new webpage helping to answer key questions and setting out the drivers and latest figures. Another way to have your say is by commenting on proposals which are due to be published in December as part of our consultation process.

On the [new web page](#) you can sign up for the consultation which means you will receive an update when it goes live.

The Government’s recent announcements have made little difference to our expected financial position and have reinforced the belief that local government is unlikely to receive additional financial support to support with higher inflation.

Guidance and good practice

Winter safety packs

Cadent have developed winter safety packs that contain information to help people stay gas safe over the winter including preparing the home for winter, how to join the priority services register and what to do in the event of smelling gas.

Cadent have offered to send out packs to providers for onward distribution to people who use services. It is important that you take advantage of this offer, especially as many people may be struggling with rising costs this winter and may not be aware of the support available to them.

You can request packs by sending an email to Box.CustomerSafeguarding@cadentgas.com stating your name, organisation, delivery address and quantity of packs you require.

Information and advice on keeping homes warm this winter

Support and advice about cost of living, warm homes, and the First Contact Plus offer can be found online. Further information can be found through the following links:

- [Leicestershire County Council](#) has dedicated advice pages setting out the support available in response to cost of living rises.
- [First Contact Plus](#) is an online tool which helps adults in Leicestershire find information about a range of services all in one place.

With energy prices set to significantly rise this winter, the cost of keeping warm may be a cause for concern for many. The [Warm Homes Service](#) provides advice and connects residents with broader support for improving home energy efficiency.

Update on COVID-19 outbreaks in care homes

COVID-19 rates across the country are increasing, and we are seeing a growing number of outbreaks reported by care homes. Thankfully, the success of the vaccination roll-out is protecting residents and staff and reducing the risk of serious illness. An outbreak is defined as two or more cases linked in time or place. If one or more positive cases (staff or residents) are found in a care home, daily rapid LFD testing should start for five consecutive days for all staff working on those days.

Care homes should continue to be vigilant and protect residents and staff from COVID-19 transmission, by following [IPC guidance](#).

The support offered by UKHSA to care homes with non-complex outbreaks will change as we move to the next phase of living with COVID-19. We are therefore asking that care homes also notify the Leicestershire County Council Health Protection Team about any new outbreaks. The team will continue to support care homes with COVID-19 outbreaks and advise on testing regimes.

Please copy notifications of outbreaks to healthprotection@leics.gov.uk.

COVID-19 and flu vaccinations communications toolkit for care workers

The NHS has produced a [COVID-19 and flu vaccinations communications toolkit](#) to support care workers to get vaccinated ahead of this winter. You should share this information through your usual communication channels to promote understanding of the NHS's vaccination offer for care workers.

Specialist learning disability COVID-19 vaccination clinic

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's next specialist learning disability COVID-19 vaccination clinic is being held on Friday 28 October and all eligible adults and young people aged 12 and over who need a vaccination are invited to book.

Taking place at Loughborough Hospital (Hospital Way, LE11 5JY) from 8am - 8pm, the clinic will offer all those attending, a calm and friendly environment that meets their needs. It is open to anyone with a learning disability in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, aged 12 and over, who need a first, second or booster COVID-19 vaccination.

The clinics, which have been nominated for numerous awards, are designed for people who need a more supportive environment than an ordinary clinic can provide, with a calmer atmosphere, longer appointment times and vaccinators specialising in learning disability support and care.

All appointments need to be booked in advance to ensure the session can be managed to best suit patients' needs.

You can [book an appointment online](#) or call 07917 734725. Please note that calls will be answered Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm only. Outside of these hours there is a voicemail service to leave a message. Those booking are asked to specify in the additional comments box or over the phone if you need for us to make any specialist adaptations, such as needing a private or quiet space.

COVID-19 PPE guide for unpaid carers and for people who work in adult social care services and settings

On 11 October DHSC published guidance outlining PPE advice for unpaid carers who do not live with the person they care for. Other unpaid carers may choose to use the guide.

Guidance should be used in conjunction with local policies where they exist such as in care homes and day centres. It shows:

- which PPE to wear depending on how you are caring for someone
- how to use your PPE safely to help protect yourself and the people you care for

DHSC has also published guidance which outlines PPE advice for people who work in adult social care services and settings as well as guidance on the use of PPE for non-aerosol generating procedures in adult social care settings. The guidance can be found at:

- [Gov.uk - Covid-19 PPE guide for unpaid carers](#)
- [Gov.uk - Covid-19 PPE guide for adult social care services and settings](#)
- [Gov.uk – PPE guide for non-aerosol generating procedures](#)

Where to find up-to-date guidance on how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in adult social care settings

On the Government website, you can find the most [up-to-date guidance on how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in adult social care settings](#) in England.

Clostridioides difficile management pathway update

The clinical pathway for the management of clostridioides (clostridium) difficile in the community has been updated. To find out more visit [clostridioides difficile management pathway](#).

Five Moments of Hygiene poster

The IPC team have identified that some care workers are unsure when hand hygiene should be performed. This [poster](#) explains how hand hygiene should be performed in five steps.

Update on national cleanliness standards

The [national cleanliness standards](#) of healthcare were published by NHS England/Improvement in 2021, and at the time they indicated their expectation was that care homes with health funded residents would be required to fully implement these standards including the audits that are detailed in the document.

There have been discussions held with local authorities, IPS, CQC and DHSC as there were concerns that, due to a variety of factors, homes may find these standards challenging. DHSC has agreed that they are recommending that care homes adopt the national cleanliness standards as they are deemed best practice.

However, if a provider already has robust cleaning/auditing systems and processes in place that align with these best practice standards, then they can continue with their current processes.

The local authority community IPC team use the national cleanliness standards as their benchmark when completing an IPC audit in care homes.

If you have any questions or would like a copy of the IPC audit tool, please contact the team on 0116 305 5121 or infection@leics.gov.uk.

Health and Care Act 2022: adult social care provider information provisions

The [guidance for adult social care providers](#) to comply with information provisions under section 99 and section 100 of the Health and Care Act 2022 has been updated, including new questions.

Learning and development opportunities

Free falls prevention, mobility and strengthening webinar

As part of the Connecting Together care home webinar series, the East Midlands Patient Safety Collaborative are offering a free falls prevention, mobility and strengthening webinar on Thursday 3 November, 1pm – 2.30pm.

[Visit the EMAHSN website for more information and to book.](#)

Learning disability health training

The LPT are offering a three-hour training session for care home providers and support workers that will cover the role of social care staff in relation to the health needs of people with learning disabilities, as well as the expectations of an LD annual health check, supporting access to cancer and non-cancer screening programmes, STOMP, and the role of specialist learning disability health services – how to contact and when. This interactive session will take place on MS Teams on Wednesday 9 November, 10am – 1pm.

Email lpt.pcln@nhs.net to book.

Leicestershire County Council updates

Provider portal access requests

The provider portal access request form is now available as an e-form which can be accessed [here](#).

The provider portal makes it easy for providers to review care package line items along with actual service delivery data. This means that any issues can be spotted quickly, and payments should be more accurate. You will have access to financial reports including the commissioned versus actual report which compares the commissioned (CPLI) quantity to the actual quantity, with differences shown in terms of quantity and cost.

To ensure the right people in the organisation have access to the provider portal we will review the user accounts for each provider every 12 months. We will be starting this task shortly, so please keep an eye out for our e-mail.

If you have any problems using the form, or to tell us when a member of staff with provider portal access is leaving the organisation or no longer requires access to the system, please e-mail ASCProviderPortal@leics.gov.uk.

Still time to take part in digital health pilot

In [Provider News issue 9](#), we mentioned that health and social care partners in Leicestershire and Rutland are to pilot a digital health initiative, the Whzan Blue Box.

Whzan Blue Box measures clients' vital signs, records photos, performs multiple assessments and questionnaires, including the NEWS2 (National Early Warning Score).

A big advantage of the system is that there is no need to write anything down, all information is automatically recorded. Signs of deterioration or illness are identified earlier for a clinical response or carer support reducing the numbers of non-elective hospital admissions.

[Learn more about the system](#) and see [how it has been applied in care homes](#) in the Isle of Wight.

If you would like to take part in the pilot, please contact Colleen Smith on 0116 305 8369 or colleen.smith@leics.gov.uk.

Update on the Workforce Development Fund

Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG) have successfully obtained the Skills for Care Workforce Development Fund for 2022/2023.

For those who have already joined and have access to our partnership, we would like to thank you for your continued support. Anyone interested in applying for access to our partnership, please [visit the LSCDG website for further information](#).

Consultations and research

Downs Syndrome Act: give your views

The DHSC want your views on what should be included within the Down Syndrome Act statutory guidance and will consider those views when producing draft guidance which they intend to publish for full public consultation.

The closing date is Tuesday 8 November. You can [find out more and respond here](#).

Ethnicity and difference in health and care

Learning Disability England are currently working on a project with the Race Equality Foundation, UCLan and MMU on ethnicity and difference in health and care. The project is funded by the Race Health Observatory and is looking at how to improve health outcomes for and with people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

The [Ethnicity and Difference in Health and Care – Learning Disability England](#) provides more information about the project.

The project leads are running a face-to-face session in Preston on Tuesday 18 October, 12pm – 4pm (including lunch). The session is aimed at people with learning disabilities and family members from a minority ethnic group.

[Book a place at the session here](#) and this [general easy read information sheet](#) will provide more information. There is also an [online session on Tuesday 1 November](#) for anyone who can't come to the in person session.

Health and wellbeing

World Mental Health Day

It was World Mental Health Day on Monday 10 October, and we would like to remind you of support and resources available.

The [Every Mind Matters](#) website provides expert advice and practical tips to help you deal with stress and anxiety, improve your sleep, boost your mood and feel more in control.

Another useful free online tool is [My Turning Point](#), which provides online support to help manage drinking and drug use. These resources include advice on how to deal with stress at work, sleep difficulties, anxiety and financial difficulties.

Whatever you're going through, [Samaritans](#) are there to listen and you can call 116 123 for free.

[Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust](#) offer round-the-clock access to urgent support, signposting and referral for yourself or on behalf of someone else.

Leicestershire County Council has partnered with the NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) and the local authorities in the city and Rutland to commission four local providers to deliver the Mental Health Wellbeing and Recovery Support Service. You can find out more about [Mental health: information, advice and support | LCC](#).

The service is aimed at providing a first point of access for those who need mental health support. It is designed to be easy to access – people can contact the service direct without the need of seeing their GP – and it provides more than medical support, recognising that mental health issues are often caused by other stresses. After an initial assessment, support is tailored to what people need and to the outcomes they want to work towards.

[MHFA have create a free resource](#) 'The five 'b's for building a better workplace culture' to support care workers and settings to create inclusive mental health and wellbeing strategies.

Discount schemes available for social care workers

A free membership is available to social care workers at [The Company Shop Group](#), which offers heavily discounted food, drink, and household items. Here's how you can [create a new account](#). The Leicester Company store is located at Unit 5, Leicester Business Park, Wembley Road, Leicester, LE3 1UT and is open Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm, Saturday 8am – 6pm, and Sunday 10am – 4pm. If you have any questions, contact the store by telephone on 0116 482 2866.

The [Blue Light Card](#) is available to social care workers, which offers a discount service for the emergency services, NHS, social care sector and armed forces. There is a membership fee of £4.99 which gives two-years access to more than 15,000 discounts from large national retailers to local businesses across categories such as holidays, cars, days out, fashion, gifts, insurance, phones, and many more. Here's where you can register a [Blue Light Card](#).

Future editions

We want to hear from you!

Leicestershire Adult Social Care Provider News aims to showcase what is happening both locally and nationally. Please tell us what kind of topics you would like to see on a one-time or regular basis.

Also, we would like the content to reflect what is happening on the ground, so 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.

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 31 October 2022. Please note that this is three weeks after this edition rather than the usual interval of two weeks.