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The future of adult social care

Cap on care costs

Over the next three years, the government plans to invest £5.4 billion in reforms to adult social care, building on the measures in the Health and Care Act, which includes £3.6 billion to reform the social care charging system.

DHSC has released updated operational guidance on implementing the cap on care costs, along with the government's response to the consultation on the draft guidance. The guidance is intended to support local authorities in preparing to implement the reforms from October 2023.

As a result of these changes, care costs will be capped at £86,000, and a more generous means test will be introduced, raising the upper capital limit from £23,350 to £100,000, and the lower capital limit from £14,250 to £20,000.

The Government's consultation received 161 responses, indicating broad support of the policy principles and the aims of the reforms. Feedback suggested that sections of the guidance needed further development for clarity and usability, and they have been working with local authorities and the adult social care sector to clarify and expand the guidance.

The guidance updates the existing care and support statutory guidance (CASS) and covers:

- Cap on care costs (including daily living costs; what counts towards the cap; the metering process; requesting that the local authority meets self-funders' needs and cross-border issues).
- Independent personal budgets (including the principles of establishing an independent personal budget; verification of the purchase of care; dispute resolution; and moving from an independent personal budget to a personal budget).
- Care accounts (including what should be included in a care account; care account statements; retention of care accounts; and portability of care accounts).

[Read the government response to the consultation](#) on 'implementing the cap on care costs' operational guidance.

Fair Cost of Care (FCOC) and Market Sustainability

As previously advised, the closing date for the home care (FCOC) survey has been extended to close of business on Friday 22 July to give more time for providers to submit a response. We have been strongly encouraging submissions as obtaining information from as many providers as possible is key to determining the cost of care in Leicestershire and fees for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Thank you to all providers who have submitted survey information – it is greatly valued and will ensure that this exercise is as accurate as possible.

The care home survey was carried out in February and since that time Care Analytics have been analysing the results and drafting the FCOC report for that sector. Care Analytics are also carrying out this work for most other Councils in the region, which will allow a wider understanding of the cost of care to be developed. The Council expects to receive the report during the summer.

Those documents will be presented to Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet in early autumn. Based on the contents of the reports, we will then work with providers to finalise a Market Sustainability Plan for Leicestershire.

For more information please see the [Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care](#) guidance at gov.uk or the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) produced by the Local Government Association.

Guidance and good practice

Making Every Contact Count

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) is an approach to improving the health of the population that everyone can use, using the many conversations we have to encourage and help people to make healthier lifestyle choices. You do not need to be an expert in health to have a simple chat which could make a significant and lasting difference for someone in preventing further ill health and improving their health and wellbeing.

MECC is about using your day-to-day contact with individuals as an opportunity to encourage and deliver key health messages to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing and provide those opportunities to signpost to local services that could help.

Leicestershire County Council's Public Health team would like to hear from with home care provider staff around MECC approaches that could be used to support wellbeing where appropriate.

Please [answer this short survey](#) with your views which can be used to embed MECC within your daily practice.

More information about making every contact count can be found on [our website](#) or contact Melissa Maiden at melissa.maiden@leics.gov.uk for more information.

No change to personal protective equipment (PPE) or testing guidance

The guidance for PPE and COVID-19 testing in adult social care settings remains unchanged. The [COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care](#) should be consulted for PPE and testing requirements.

DHSC future data collection including new mandatory requirements

DHSC is working on a long-term approach to data collection from care providers that will replace the mandatory Capacity Tracker dataset from 31 July 2022, which is part of a longer-term approach being developed and co-produced with care providers and other stakeholders.

The aim is to engage closely with all stakeholders to identify and agree key data needs and look at the opportunities to streamline current data collections so that data can be captured once and shared with all that need it including providers, local authorities, CQC and national government.

DHSC held workshops in April and June to identify data needs, data concerns, data collected, and data provided to different organisations. If you were unable to attend one of these workshops or did attend and have further feedback, you can complete the [data survey for care providers](#). The deadline to submit your views is Friday 22 July 2022.

The new guidance for adult social care providers to comply with information provisions under the Health and Care Act 2022 will come into effect from Sunday 31 July 2022.

Learn what this means for adult social care providers by reading the new [statutory guidance for Health and Care Act 2022: adult social care provider information provisions](#).

Priority groups for autumn COVID-19 vaccination

The JCVI released a statement this week advising the government on COVID-19 booster doses for more vulnerable adults this autumn. Read the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\) updated statement on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for autumn 2022](#) to understand what this means for adult social care settings.

Leicestershire County Council updates

LSCDG successful in winning tender

LSCDG have been successful in winning the tender to become a lead partner across LLR to distribute the [Workforce Development Fund](#) for 2022-2023.

If you would like to find out more email lscdg@leics.gov.uk.

Fax communication with the Customer Service Centre

Over the past year, Leicestershire County Council has been reviewing its contact channels into its Customer Service Centre. This is to ensure we are able to provide as efficient as service as possible to both members of the public and professionals alike.

The latest of these changes relates to the fax servers that some providers use to send through incident reports. We have taken the decision to close these fax servers down and they will be de-commissioned on the week commencing 25 July 2022.

Instead, providers will have two options for submitting an incident report:

1. The first, is via our online portal which will ask a series of questions about the incident and allow you to upload any associated documentation. [The link to this form is available on our professional resources website.](#)
2. The second, is via the telephone – for incidents of a more serious and high-risk nature – on 0116 305 0004.

We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Learning and development opportunities

LSCDG training courses

View [forthcoming training](#) available through LSCDG.

Events

EMCARE annual conference 2022

EMCARE is holding its annual conference on Wednesday 21 September, 8.30-16.30 at Leicester Racecourse, Oadby. [See more information about the event](#) and [click here to book.](#)

There is an 'early bird' discount for those booking before 14 August.

Next edition

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 1 August 2022.