

Leicestershire Adult Social Care Provider News



Issue 3 – 7 July 2022

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The future of adult social care

Home care Fair Cost of Care survey – new deadline 22 July

We wrote to home care providers on 10 June to explain that as part of the home care market review, and in order to complete the government's Fair Cost of Care return, Care Analytics will be undertaking a survey of local home care providers and analysing the results. A template was issued, which included guidance on how to complete it, where to send completed templates (contact@careanalytics.co.uk), and the deadline which was Friday 8 July. To date we have received only a small number of surveys and we thank those providers for sending those to us.

To complete the cost of care exercise we need many more providers to submit surveys. These surveys are critical to determining the current cost of care in Leicestershire and will inform our market sustainability plan and the fees paid in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

We are therefore extending the deadline for submission to Friday 22 July.

We understand the pressures being experienced across the market in delivering support to vulnerable adults, and we would very much appreciate your time in completing the survey within the extended deadline.

If you have any questions, or require the template to be resent, please contact dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk.

Next steps to progress the digital skills framework

The Digital Skills Framework covers seven key themes for effective digital working and can help people working in adult social care to develop their digital skills. It is linked to case studies and training that is currently available to the sector.

[View the Digital Skills Framework.](#)

NHS-TD and Skills for Care are holding a series of workshops for employers and local authorities to develop the framework further and are looking for employers who are at all stages of their digital journey, from those that are just starting to use technology to those that use technology such as hand-held devices every day. They want to engage staff who are involved in learning and development of staff, Nominated Individuals, Registered Managers, Deputy Managers, senior staff and Digital Champions.

At the workshop you will be introduced to the framework and then asked a series of questions about the specific skills and capabilities you feel should be included for each key theme.

Workshops will take place on the following dates in July, you will not need to attend all the sessions, however if you have multiple staff who would like to be involved, please indicate which dates these staff will attend.

- Tuesday 12 July – 14:00 – 16:00
- Thursday 14 July – 10:00 – 12:00
- Thursday 21 July – 10:00 – 12:00

If you would like to be involved, please email digital@skillsforcare.org.uk stating which workshop date you would like to attend and provide:

- Name:
- Job role:
- Organisation name:
- Type of care delivered as registered with CQC (if applicable):
- What type of technology do you currently use? i.e. hand held mobile devices for care planning, email, echo fall systems, oximeter monitoring
- Preferred workshop date:
- Are you happy for details to be stored? Yes/No

Guidance and good practice

Testing update

Staff testing

The advice for regular asymptomatic testing of staff in adult social care has been removed. Staff should no longer conduct regular asymptomatic testing.

If staff develop symptoms, they should continue to follow existing advice.

Anyone who has symptoms of a respiratory infection and has a high temperature, or anyone who has symptoms of a respiratory infection and does not feel well enough to work is advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. A lateral flow test should be taken as soon as possible (this will be day 0). They should not go to work, and if at work, should leave as soon as possible. If the result of this test is positive, the staff member should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Social care staff with COVID-19 should not attend work until they have had 2 consecutive negative lateral flow test results, provided they feel well enough and do not have a high temperature. The first lateral flow test should be taken from 5 days after the day – test (the day of symptom onset).

If the LFD test result is negative, another test should be taken 48 hours later, with the staff member staying away from work during this time. If the second lateral flow test is also negative, they can return to work when well enough to do so. If positive, the advice above should be followed.

If the staff member cares for people who are at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell with COVID-19 (seek clinical advice as necessary), careful assessment should be undertaken, and consideration given to redeployment until 10 days after their symptoms started.

Regarding rapid response testing - following a positive case within the care home, staff should perform daily LFD testing for 5 days before work (on working days only). This is not extended if further positives are found in these 5 days.

Visitor testing

Visitors, even if providing personal care, should no longer test before visiting. NHS, CQC staff and other visiting professionals should also no longer be required to test on entering a care home.

Resident testing

Resident testing remains unchanged. Residents are only expected to be tested if symptomatic, as part of outbreak testing, or if they are new admissions to the home.

Symptomatic people receiving care should be advised to keep away from others until 48 hours after their symptoms have resolved. Further actions may still be needed to limit transmission including using appropriate PPE when working with people who are unwell.

Overseas recruitment bite size guide

The LGA has launched a [bite size guide](#) to overseas recruitment, developed at the request of providers in the South East, which sets out the benefits and walks employers through the resources needed, legal requirements, cost, how long it takes and how to ensure success. It also draws on real life examples from providers.

For further information email amanda.whittaker-brown@local.gov.uk

Next steps for COVID-19 vaccination

Thank you to care home providers for your cooperation in the delivery of the care home spring COVID-19 booster campaign, which came to an official end nationally on 30 June to allow enough time between doses ahead of autumn boosters.

However, we are keen to ensure that people living in a care home eligible for a spring booster have the opportunity to receive it, where they have not been able to for any reason. Local NHS colleagues have offered a roving vaccination team for another few days to visit care homes to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations.

If you know of anyone living or working in your care home who is eligible for a first, second or spring booster dose and wishes to receive it, please email HealthProtection@leics.gov.uk with your name, care home name, and numbers of residents and workers needing a dose by 18.00 on Monday 11 July. Please note that no visits are possible after 15 July to avoid difficulties in the delivery of the autumn booster programme.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have outlined plans for an autumn booster programme to augment population immunity and protection against severe COVID-

19 disease, hospitalisation and death over the winter. Further information is expected over the next few weeks.

Care home IPC update

There has been an update for care homes in the [COVID-19 supplement to IPC resource](#). Visitors are encouraged to wear face **masks** rather than coverings.

There have been two more minor changes:

- Correction to first paragraph, continuous positive airway pressure ventilation (CPAP) removed as an example of an AGP in the community, clarified suctioning and tracheostomy procedures in the first paragraph.
- Updated 'IPC considerations for people receiving care' to reflect that people with cognitive conditions such as dementia may present with atypical symptoms.

Council updates

Medium Term Financial Strategy

At the Council's Cabinet meeting of 24 June, the county council leader Nick Rushton, set out the council's [worsening financial position](#).

The Cabinet has therefore asked for further work to be undertaken urgently to reduce capital expenditure and to identify other savings in addition to those set out in February in the council's four-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Pressures include recent national and global events, a steep rise in inflation, a surge in the cost of providing social care for adults and children, and ongoing increases in the National Living Wage (which mean finding millions of extra pounds in salary costs). In addition, the Council's funding status – we remain the lowest funded county council in the country – continues to be something on which we press our local MPs, and the Government, to get a fairer deal.

Previously the council calculated there would be an £8 million gap between what we need to spend and our income next year, but these pressures have widened that to around £20 million. By 2025/26 the budget gap is predicted to increase from £40 million to £70 million unless further action is taken.

An update on the extra savings is to be outlined to the council's Cabinet in September.

Changes to professional referral process

The council is changing the way that professionals, including providers, register information onto our case management system.

Previously professionals and providers used a Firmstep form for all referrals, which sent an email into an inbox. From July, many of the common referrals will be new

portal forms which will put all the information provided directly into our system; this should speed up response times and reduce the need for further information to be provided.

Over the next few months, more of our professional referrals will be moved to the new portal forms.

The link to this page is still <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/care-referrals/professional-referral>

Professionals and providers will need to register onto the portal as professionals and set a password which will be required for all subsequent log-ins.

Learning and development opportunities

IPC webinar series

The County and Rutland Local Authority IPC team are providing a series of short IPC Basics' webinars - short refreshers aimed at staff working in adult social care who have an interest in IPC, e.g. IPC Champions, housekeeping staff etc

All are welcome and you can attend as many sessions as you wish. The following have been arranged:

- Wednesday 20 July 2022, 2-3pm - IPC Basics 2 - Clostridioides difficile. Care of an individual who has been diagnosed with this diarrhoea-causing infection
- Wednesday 17 August 2022, 2-3pm - IPC Basics 3 - Cleaning and Decontamination. How to reduce the risk of infection spreading and keep the environment clean in care settings.

To access the webinars, delegates must have a Learning hub account with the Leicestershire Social Care Development Group (LSCDG).

They should log in to their own account and search LSCDG Infection Prevention & Control Basics.

[Access the learning hub here](#). If you have an account, please [follow these instructions](#).

Any course queries and invites for the webinar should be emailed to infection@leics.gov.uk. Please note that LSCDG do not send out the webinar invites.

Dental care – training for care homes

This oral health toolkit includes [training materials, templates and links to publications](#). It's a live document, with further resources added as they become available.

Cancer awareness training

Feel confident talking to people about the ways to reduce the risk of cancer, spotting cancer early and the national cancer screening programmes, through Cancer Research UK's, cancer awareness training programme. The Talk Cancer training equips people through various training formats with the skills and knowledge to recognise opportunities to talk about cancer and health and share simple messages. This programme helps give people the power to have conversations that can save lives.

To learn more about Talk Cancer and how you can have impactful conversations head to the website: www.cruk.org/talkcancer

Future mandatory training about learning disability and autism for health and social care provider staff

From 1 July 2022, [the Health and Care Act \(see paragraph 181\)](#) requires health and social care providers registered with CQC to ensure that their staff receive training on learning disabilities and autism appropriate to their role. This new legal requirement follows [Baroness Sheila Hollins successful amendment](#) in the Lords.

The CQC will issue guidance on compliance with this requirement for providers prior to DHSC consulting on and publishing a Code of Practice for the sector. This will outline the content, delivery and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the [Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training](#), which is training the Government developed and trialled. The Government anticipates that the publication of the full Code of Practice may take at least 12 months. We understand the aspiration is for this training to be extended to further groups of staff over time.

The LGA will work with the government to identify any new financial burdens that may result from the new training requirement. For further information contact chip@local.gov.uk

Publications

Universal Principles for Advance Care Planning

Advance care planning is a voluntary process of person-centred discussion between an individual and their care providers about their preferences and priorities for their future care.

The purpose of this [document](#) is to set out six high level principles for advance care planning in England. It is for the person, those important to them, practitioners and organisations involved in supporting advance care planning conversations and honouring their outcomes.

We Are Social Care Nursing newsletter

This bi-monthly newsletter shares blogs, interviews and news from people working on the ground in nursing and other experts in the field of nursing. It's not just for those working in social care, it's also for those who work in health care to better

understand the complexity of the role of a social care nurse. [Subscribe to receive the latest issue.](#)

Consultations and research

Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) draft Joint Carers Strategy 2022 – 2025

A drop-in event will be held at Leicester City FC's King Power Stadium next week (Wednesday, 13 July, 1-3pm) as part of our consultation on the refreshed Joint Carers Strategy 2022-2025 and Leicestershire's action plan. We are seeking feedback about our priorities and our commitments in relation to those priorities. You can [have your say by taking part in the consultation online](#) until 31 July.

Skills for Care research into why staff leave

Skills for Care have commissioned research looking at the reasons behind staff turnover and churn within the sector. They want to hear directly from front line staff about their motivations for working in social care, future intentions and their perceptions on what makes a good employer. They also want to hear from those exiting their role about the reasons why, their future work plans and what needs to be done to retain them within adult social care.

Skills for Care are looking for care providers to sign up to this research, which has two elements:

1. A survey link to share with existing staff – talking about their motivations for working in care, future intentions, what makes a good employer, any reasons for leaving previous care roles (if applicable)
2. A survey link to share with staff exiting the organisation over a 6-month period (this does not replace any leavers survey or exit interview that you do), this talks about reason for leaving, future work plans and what would need to change for them to be retained in adult social care.

[Register your commitment to taking part as an employer](#) by 15 July.

All completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw for vouchers upon completion of the research study.

Awards

Chief Nursing Adult Social Care awards

The Chief Nursing Adult Social Care awards have been developed to reward the significant and outstanding contribution made by social care workers and nurses in England and their exceptional contribution to nursing and social care. The addition of the Adult Social Care workforce to these national awards for exceptional individuals demonstrates the recognition across the whole health and social care system of excellence.

1. These awards recognise the enormous range of skills, expertise, and enduring compassion that modern nursing care represent. They celebrate nurses and care workers in social care who go above and beyond their everyday roles to provide excellent care, leadership and inspiration to their colleagues and patients and those who use services.
2. Criteria for receiving gold and silver awards are outlined below. Criteria, eligibility and process have been developed to ensure that recipients are recognised by the nursing and care worker community for their excellent contribution to improving nursing and care.
3. Each award recipient will be encouraged to become a Social Care Ambassador; a role that involves taking every opportunity to raise the profile of the nursing and care profession both in the public arena and within the workplace with students and colleagues to help improve and transform the perception of the Social Care Workforce.

[Download the criteria and nomination forms for the Gold and Silver awards.](#)

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 18 July 2022.