



Provider Bulletin

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Skills For Care Workforce Wellbeing

The Skills for Care Workforce Wellbeing update for November 2020 is attached and contains links to a range of resources which providers may find helpful. You can also follow this link:

<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Home.aspx>

Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care

Professor Deborah Sturdy OBE has been appointed to the role of Chief Nurse for adult social care to provide clinical leadership during winter. Further details are available via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chief-nurse-for-adult-social-care-to-provide-clinical-leadership-during-winter>

Covid-19 Testing in Extra Care & Supported Living Settings

Guidance has been issued regarding repeat Covid-19 testing in extra care and supported living settings. Providers will need to register for tests to be issued. Further information is available via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-service-for-extra-care-and-supported-living-settings>

Importance of Ventilation to Reduce Spread of Covid-19

A short film has been released by the Government, which shows how coronavirus lingers in enclosed spaces, and how to keep your home ventilated. To view the film click on the following link [New film shows importance of ventilation to reduce spread of COVID-19](#)

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccines continue to be rolled out, with supplies of vaccines being delivered to GP and pharmacies regularly. If there are limited supplies providers and staff are advised to continue to try to obtain one as priority is being given to health and social care staff. Flu vaccinations are available from GPs and pharmacies.

A recent review of the Capacity Tracker showed that to date only 42% of care home staff have had the vaccine. Only 12% of agency/bank staff or volunteers have had the vaccine and 81% of residents have had the vaccine. Given that there needs to be a gap between the flu vaccination and any new Covid-19 vaccination, we would urge providers to encourage their staff to access flu vaccinations as soon as possible.

Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund Round 2

As you may be aware there has been a delay in distributing funding to domiciliary care providers. This delay has, in part, been because of a different approach being taken throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region than originally anticipated. As a result HAS will, be allocating funding to providers registered within North Yorkshire. This is following confirmation that the other local authorities in the region are taking this approach. Therefore, Grant Agreements will be issued to providers who have submitted authorised signatory information.

If you have not supplied this information, please contact socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk. For providers registered outside North Yorkshire you should receive funding from your host local authority. We apologise for the delay in progressing this. Providers are reminded that they must complete the Capacity Tracker/

[Discharge in to Care Homes: Designated Settings](#)

[Healthwatch NY - Post-COVID Care Home Research Project](#)

[Coronavirus Data as of 12th December 2020](#)

Any comments you have about these Bulletins (good or bad!) are welcome. Please contact the Q&MI Team: socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk

Community Support Provider Survey at least weekly to be able to access the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund Round 2. If providers fail to complete the tracker/survey at least weekly, their funding will be withheld and may be reclaimed, as this is a funding condition set by central Government. The information gathered through these tools is analysed at a local, regional and national level and informs a range of decisions and actions, which affect the adult social care market locally.

Also, HAS issues surveys to collate data for a return to the DHSC, which evidences how funding is being used and to confirm that any expenditure is in line with the grant conditions. Returns received for the first return were exceptionally low. Please ensure you complete these surveys, which are detailed in the Grant Agreement, so that that DHSC can receive the additional assurance they require.

Performing CPR with Symptomatic Individuals

The Department for Health and Social Care has published [guidance](#) for performing CPR on individuals with confirmed or symptomatic COVID-19. The guidance was originally produced for first responders but will also be relevant to care providers.

Information has also been shared by Resuscitation Council UK <https://www.resus.org.uk/covid-19-resources/covid-19-resources-general-public/resuscitation-council-uk-statement-covid-19>

Government Guidance on Christmas

The Government has issued revised guidance in relation to Christmas bubbles, following its announcement on Saturday that the published arrangements would be changed. The link to the guidance is:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period#visiting-relatives-in-care-homes>

Business Continuity Plans

When reviewing Business Continuity Plans providers will need to consider their plans in relation to evacuation of services. Providers may have arrangements in place to relocate to another care setting, however, this need to be considered in light of the current pandemic and the risks of moving people to and from settings, which may have current Covid positive cases and the risks relating to infection prevention and control. Business Continuity Planning will be covered at an upcoming NYCareConnected weekly webinar and a colleague from the Local Resilience Forum will be joining the discussion to provide advice.

Managing the Covid-19 Pandemic in Care Homes for Older People

We have previously shared this guidance document, however, The British Geriatric Society has amended the guidance and the link below will take you to the updated version:

<https://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/covid-19-managing-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-care-homes>

Lateral Flow Devices

Guidance on Lateral Flow Device testing for visiting in care homes is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-lateral-flow-testing-of-visitors-in-care-homes>

Domiciliary Care Providers - Any Spare Capacity Over Christmas

Can you please update your local brokerage team with any spare capacity you may have within your rotas over the Christmas period. The expectation is that when planning your rotas you have included sufficient capacity to cover illness/self-isolation of staff and availability for new admissions/packages of care.

Compensatory Payments

We are aware that many Local Authorities have now ceased their financial support, and as part of our last 4 weekly review, we have agreed our ongoing plans. We will be continuing the financial support for Domiciliary Care Providers until **the end of January 2021** with 2.5% compensatory payments being made, day services will continue to be paid on planned activity until **the end of January 2021** and this will continue to be reviewed.

Community Equipment in North Yorkshire

You may be aware that as reported in the North Yorkshire Integrated Community Equipment Store (NYICES) December newsletter and at the December prescriber forum the impact of EU Exit and COVID-19 is having a significant and sustained impact on the global supply chain of materials and products. This global supply challenge has caused supply issues with community equipment stocks for both health and social care throughout the UK and has had some impact on the NYICES service.

TDI, the raw chemical ingredient used in the manufacture of foam and also tubular steel are the two main supply issues but the supply chain is now being compounded by EU Exit uncertainty and the equipment being stuck in containers at key ports throughout the world.

What this means nationally is that there is a shortage of certain items used in community equipment services and locally we have already seen an impact on some key products. Whilst we have managed to obtain similar/alternative products and it hasn't been such an issue although we need to ensure we can keep supplying equipment to those in need in York and North Yorkshire. We need your help, any community equipment items not in use that are labelled as Medequip we are requesting that you help the cause by picking up the phone or emailing Medequip on the contact details below to arrange for the collection of the items no longer in use, these can then be decontaminated and recycled within the community. To return these please contact Medequip on 01423 226240 or north.yorks@medequip-uk.com

Webinars

We have started to host weekly webinars, with the most recent covering Lateral Flow Devices and Vaccinations. The next webinar will be held on Wednesday 23rd December. Joining instructions are below:

Lateral Flow Devices & Vaccinations Webinar

Wed, Dec 23, 2020 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (GMT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/261503077>

You can also dial in using your phone.

(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

United Kingdom: +44 20 3713 5028

- One-touch: <tel:+442037135028,,261503077#>

Access Code: 261-503-077

Christmas & New Year Admissions/New Packages of Care

Availability of staff to discuss and agree new placements/packages of care continues to be required 7 days per week between 8am and 8pm. We have endeavoured to contact out of hours contact details for key staff so that hospital discharges can be progressed. If the out of hours contact in your organisation has changed in recent weeks please provide updated details to socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk

LRF Satellite Hubs Within North Yorkshire

Please be aware that the LRF satellite hubs within North Yorkshire will be closed on the following days:

Friday 25th December 2020

Saturday 26th December 2020

Friday 1st January 2021

The deadline for any requests for emergency testing capacity are required by 23rd December for delivery on 24th December. This relates to the emergency testing capacity within North Yorkshire **only** and is not linked to the national testing sites, which continue to operate. The satellite hubs will re-open on 2nd January 2021.

Safe Visiting Fund

North Yorkshire County Council has been allocated capital funding to support safe and secure Care Home visiting as part of the overall Adult Social Care Infection Prevention Control Fund received from the Department of Health and Social Care, this is in addition to the allocations to care homes in "Round 1" and "Round 2" funding.

This funding will be made available to all registered Residential and Nursing homes, as well as Extra Care schemes, via a submission process, individual settings may apply for up to £5,000. The Grant will be distributed on a first come, first served basis and applications will be assessed by NYCC and ICG colleagues to allow for the appropriate allocation of funding.

Examples that appropriately utilise the provision of the Grant includes, but is not limited to:

- COVID-secure visiting areas such as pods or floor to ceiling screens
- Creation of temporary outdoor spaces and measures taken to heat sufficiently
- Supporting virtual visits, encouraging the use of video calls
- Appropriate posters and signposting to mark entrances and exits reducing unnecessary face to face contact with other residents in the Care Home
- Necessary additional cleaning equipment and/ or processes in place
- Enabling measures to be implemented that adhere to the National or Local guidance on Care Home visiting.

Further information and application forms have been emailed to all eligible providers. Submissions are open until **31/01/2021**, all allocated funding needs to be spent by **30/03/2021**.

Christmas Working Hours - Quality & Market Improvement Team (inc Brokerage Teams)

Please be aware that the Quality and Market Improvement Team (including Brokerage Teams) will be closed on the following days:

Friday 25th December 2020

Saturday 26th December 2020

Friday 1st January 2021

For out of hours emergencies during this time, the Emergency Duty Team can be contacted on 01609 780780.

During the Christmas period, if your enquiry is urgent, you can contact the Quality and Market Improvement Team via email: socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk

DHSC Wellbeing for Social Care Staff

DHSC have updated the wellbeing guidance for those working in social care. This includes tips, advice and toolkits that employers and managers can use to help build the resilience of their team and address any concerns their staff may have. In addition, a section provides guidance on how all those working in social care can manage their personal mental health in the current circumstances.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-health-and-wellbeing-of-the-adult-social-care-workforce/health-and-wellbeing-of-the-adult-social-care-workforce>

Capacity Tracker Changes (Care Home Only)

The following updates have been made to the capacity tracker. If you receive an error message saying that your capacities entered do not match, this is telling you that your figures entered do not match (for instance you have entered more residents as having had flu vaccines than you currently have at the home). However, it is just an alert and your information is still saving.

- COVID vaccination questions have been added
- Workforce – now capturing headcount rather than FTE
- Costs and Vacancies – now capturing Resident numbers
- Flu Immunisations - The question relating to experiencing delays or issues with flu immunisations has been split out to identify if there are issues being experienced by residents or staff or both.

All Care Homes to Receive Free Winter Supply of Vitamin D

The Government recently announced that 2.7 million vulnerable individuals in England will be offered a free winter supply of vitamin D. All care homes will automatically receive a provision for their residents, while individuals on the clinically extremely vulnerable list will receive a letter inviting them to opt in for a supply to be delivered directly to their homes. Deliveries will be free of charge, starting in January, and will provide four months' worth of supplements to last people through the winter months. Read more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/at-risk-groups-to-receive-free-winter-supply-of-vitamin-d>

The Government has also published guidance on who should take the supplements and how to take them safely. Read the guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vitamin-d-supplements-how-to-take-them-safely/vitamin-d-supplements-how-to-take-them-safely>

Hairdressers - Guidance for Visiting a Care Setting

This current guidance has been updated and is attached with this bulletin.

COVID-19 Vaccination: Care Home & Healthcare Settings Posters

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-care-home-and-healthcare-settings-posters>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Care Home Support Package

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-care-homes/coronavirus-covid-19-care-home-support-package>

Discharge Into Care Homes: Designated Settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-settings-for-people-discharged-to-a-care-home/discharge-into-care-homes-designated-settings>

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Healthwatch NY - Post-Covid Care Home Research Project

Healthwatch North Yorkshire (HWNY) will be undertaking research into the lessons learnt by care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, to understand how the sector managed and what lessons have been learnt that can be taken forward in the future to improve care and service delivery. HWNY are looking for members of the care home community in North Yorkshire to join a working group in January 2021, to help develop the research plans and contribute to the project delivery. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Ashley Overton-Bullard at ashleyoverton.bullard@hwny.co.uk
<https://healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk/our-work/care-homes-research/>

Coronavirus Data as of 12th December 2020

