

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## SELF-ISOLATION LEGAL REQUIREMENT ENDING

There is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate, however the public health advice for people with any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Due to the higher risk nature of health and social care settings, the advice for staff members working in these settings has not changed. You can read the full guidance [HERE](#).

Providers can still use the Infection Control and Testing Fund (ICTF) to pay their staff full wages whilst not working and is available until the end of March 2022. This is not impacted by the legal duty to 'self-isolate' ending.

Please note that the fact that there are no legal implications for individuals in relation to whether they follow the stay at home guidance any longer, does not mean that there are no legal implications for care providers who do not follow the management of staff guidance linked to above. Both the CQC and insurers will take a strong interest in whether providers follow government guidance as part of their consideration of providers' wider responsibilities and duty of care to their staff and the people they support.

## INCLUSION NORTH NEWS EASY READ

Inclusion North News have created an easy read document explaining the latest Covid-19 rules. You can download it with this [LINK](#)

## VERIFYPLUS

VerifyPlus is being updated with some new user friendly features. It has been requested by both care homes and homecare that VerifyPlus supports the burdens that managers and staff are facing in relation to LFD/PCR Testing data and process, and so helping them with a simple robust system easily.

The main aspects of the new features we are creating, assist with:

1. Daily Staff Testing
2. Resident Testing
3. Visitor Testing
4. Uploading of testing information to the Government Testing Portal

There will be more information shortly, however if you require any further information in the interim, please contact [info@verifyplus.co.uk](mailto:info@verifyplus.co.uk)

## NHS ENHANCED HEALTH IN CARE HOMES SURVEY

There are over 12 million people aged 65 and over in the UK and this number is growing rapidly. As people age, they are likely to experience multiple biological, psychological, and social factors that could trigger mental health problems. It is therefore vital that we make every contact count. You and your teams are uniquely placed to help ensure that we identify and recognize mental health needs in older people, so we can meet the needs of both individuals with existing mental health needs who are ageing, and individuals whose mental health is affected by the process of ageing.

We want to make sure that the MDT members of teams delivering services to older people have the right training to be able to identify, assess and support older people with mental health needs.

Please complete this brief, anonymous survey, and share it with your networks so that we can understand which areas of Older People's Mental Health colleagues feel most and least confident in: <https://forms.office.com/r/tCMbbHDe31>.

We will use the information we gain from this survey to work out if there are any gaps or training needs that we could help address. We would be grateful if you could complete the survey by Thursday 3 March. Thank you in advance for your help.

### SKILLS FOR CARE SLIDES

You can access slides with this [LINK](#) of the Skills for Care presentation which includes details of the new Skills for Care website and the National Care Forum Conference 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2022

### MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING TRAINING

The West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub have recognised that as a result of VCOD there have been some difficult and complex conversations with staff. They are offering free training making use of evidence based principles from Motivational Interviewing.

For more information about this opportunity please download their letter with this [LINK](#)

### IS LONG COVID A DISABILITY ?

Join ACAS, The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) for a discussion on long COVID and disability.

This webinar on March 1 at 11am-12pm will cover legal considerations for employers and feature a panel discussion covering:

- What is long COVID?
- How does it affect workers?
- Is long COVID a disability?
- What should employers do to support workers with long COVID?

For more information and to register your place - [click here](#).

### ALTURA LEARNING NEWSLETTER

The latest newsletter from Altura Training is available to read [HERE](#)

# FREE DIGITAL SESSIONS

## Offer open to anyone!

### BCA + Barclays (Digital Eagles)



BCA + Barclays are working together to offer 1 hour Digital Workshops throughout March. The sessions will cover Digital Foundations, Digital Platforms and Digital Entertainment, Resources + More!

Anyone can attend; Digital Leads, Registered Managers, Local Authority... The offer really is open to anyone!

### Digital Foundations Workshops

Taking it back to the foundations this session covers connecting your devices, browsers and search engines, using online forms amongst a whole host of other foundation topics to help set you up for whatever digital advances come your way. Find out what to consider when setting up organisational devices to make them as user-friendly and accessible as possible, and how to make the best use of them across your service.

#### DIGITAL FOUNDATION WORKSHOP DATES

Thursday 3rd March  
10:00 - 11:00

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO A DIGITAL FOUNDATION  
WORKSHOP](#)

If you are having any problems booking onto a workshop  
please email [admin@bradfordcareassociation.org](mailto:admin@bradfordcareassociation.org)



## Digital Platforms Workshops

### DIGITAL PLATFORMS WORKSHOP DATES

Tuesday 8th March  
13:30 - 14:30

Thursday 10th March  
10:00 - 11:00

Find out how to make best use of a range of digital platforms to communicate with people and keep in touch with friends and family and other social activity. Find out how you can use platforms like Zoom and Teams to deliver your services remotely as well as making the most of training courses by learning all about how to get involved and interact with confidence.



[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO A DIGITAL PLATFORMS WORKSHOP](#)

## Digital Entertainment/Resources Workshops

Find out about a whole host of fun digital tools and resources linked to people's hobbies and interests and how you can use them to inspire people to take their first steps with digital. Examples will include 360 tours, Radio Streaming and a range of online games. We will also explore all the additional resources to support you after the session in growing your digital skills and confidence on our free Barclays Digital wings platform.

### DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT WORKSHOP DATES

Tuesday 15th March  
13:30 - 14:30

Thursday 17th March  
10:00 - 11:00

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO A DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT WORKSHOP](#)



If you are having any problems booking onto a workshop please email  
[admin@bradfordcareassociation.org](mailto:admin@bradfordcareassociation.org)



## FINAL CLAIMS FOR THE STATUTORY SICK PAY REBATE SCHEME

The Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme will close on 17 March 2022. You have until 24 March 2022 to submit any new claims for absence periods up to 17 March 2022, or to amend claims you have already submitted. You will no longer be able to claim back Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for your employees' coronavirus-related absences or self-isolation that occur after 17 March 2022.

From 25 March, we will return to the normal SSP rules, which means you can revert to paying SSP from the fourth qualifying day your employee is off work regardless of the reason for their sickness absence. For more information on SSP rules, search for 'Statutory Sick Pay (SSP): employer guide' on GOV.UK. For more information on eligibility and how to make your final claims, search 'check if you can claim back Statutory Sick Pay' on GOV.UK.

## WARNING ABOUT SCAMS

If someone contacts you saying they're from HMRC and wants you to transfer money urgently or give personal information, never let yourself be rushed. There are many different types of scam. Some threaten you with immediate arrest for tax evasion, others offer a tax rebate. Do not panic. We will never phone threatening you with arrest, only criminals do that. Take your time and check 'HMRC's advice about scams' on GOV.UK before you do anything. You can also phone us directly, but make sure you use our contact details on GOV.UK. The National Cyber Security Centre has a helpful guide on how to stay secure online and protect yourself or your business against cyber crime, which you can find at [cyberaware.gov.uk](https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk).

## SKILLSHOUSE AND MANAGERS' WHATSAPP GROUP RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

As the Bradford Managers WhatsApp group has over 130 Care Managers in it, Bradford Care Association and SkillsHouse are trying a new idea to support recruitment. As recruits come through SkillsHouse and have completed the knowledge part of the Care Certificate, a brief overview of their previous employment experience, the job role that they are looking for, e.g. care worker or cleaner, and the location that they are able to work in / travel to, e.g. BD4 or BD20, will be shared with the WhatsApp Group.

Managers who have relevant vacancies in that location can then email Alex Carrington at SkillsHouse for further information about the possible recruit. Email address is:

[Alexandra.Carrington@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:Alexandra.Carrington@bradford.gov.uk)

If you are not yet on the WhatsApp group and would like to join, please send your name, care service name and mobile phone number to Meg at [Admin@bradfordcareassociation.org](mailto:Admin@bradfordcareassociation.org)

Remember that you can also list all your vacancies via Connect to Support, by contacting the COVID team.

## MENOPAUSE AWARENESS SESSIONS

The West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership are beginning menopause awareness sessions on International Women's Day (8 March). For more information please use this [LINK](#) to download the flyer.



## TRIVIAL BENEFITS

A great idea to reward staff and help them to feel valued (supporting retention)

You don't have to pay tax on a benefit for your employee, if all of the following apply:

- it cost you £50 or less to provide
- it isn't cash or a cash voucher
- it isn't a reward for their work or performance (rather it's for Easter, Christmas, their Birthday, etc)
- it isn't in the terms of their contract

This is known as a 'trivial benefit'. You don't need to pay tax or National Insurance or let HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) know.

<https://www.gov.uk/expenses-and-benefits-trivial-benefits>

Please note that staff do have to pay tax on any benefits that don't meet all these above criteria, and staff will have to pay relevant taxes on any increase in salary or in relation to a bonus that is paid to them (which is viewed as an increase in salary).

Therefore, if you increase a staff salary, this may also have an adverse impact if they are in receipt of benefits, i.e. Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit, Universal Credit.

If you're not sure whether a benefit counts as a 'trivial benefit' you can call the HMRC employer helpline on 0300 200 3200. The phone line opening hours are: Monday to Friday: 8am to 6pm, but is closed on weekends and bank holidays. You may also want to talk to your own Accountant about the above suggestion for rewarding your staff.

Here are a couple of links to organisations that can help you purchase 'Trivial Benefits' for your staff:

<https://www.one4allrewards.co.uk/taxfree.html>

<https://blackhawknetwork.com/uk-en/resources/using-gift-cards-non-taxable-trivial-benefit>

## CHANGE TO CONSENT FORMS FOR CHC

This communication has been cascaded from NHSE regarding changes to the NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) Consent Form. The consent form has recently been updated with a sentence advising patients that information will be included within the NHS CHC Patient Level Data Set (PLDS) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. The rationale for updating this is to ensure appropriate reference is made to how people's data will be used in the PLDS in line with UK GDPR (2018). We are providing the updated form now, several weeks ahead of go live of the PLDS to provide the system with notice of this change.

You can download the new document with this [LINK](#). Please use it asap for the consent form and no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 for any referrals into CHC.

This new document is unrelated to the ADAM project.

For staff who use the IDCR - NHS Continuing Healthcare Consent Form within SystemOne, this will be amended in line with this update.

## SOCIAL CARE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION WILL BE HELD ON 22 MARCH 2022.

The past 2 years have been a difficult time for the entire adult social care workforce, and so the Social Care Day of Remembrance and Reflection has been planned dedicated to those working across the adult social care sector. Sadly, 922 social care workers lost their lives between March 2020 and May 2021.

21 partners representing the adult social care sector have worked together to create this adult social care workforce day of remembrance and reflection, including web-based Memorial and Thank You Walls giving people a safe space to remember the people we have sadly lost during pandemic. It is also designed to offer people much needed time to reflect on the vital work the social care sector has done to keep people safe and well, as well as to say a well done and thank you to colleagues who worked hard to help keep the people they support safe during the pandemic.

Despite the huge pressures during the pandemic everyone working across social care continues to show incredible skill and tenacity in supporting those who draw on social care across the UK.

You can share a tribute or thank you to anyone working across social care including those in frontline care roles, managerial roles, administrative roles, maintenance roles, and more, at <https://www.thecareworkerscharity.org.uk/covid-19-tribute/>

The Care Workers Charity will also be encouraging care providers, care workers and everyone who wants to show their support for the social care sector to get involved on the day by arranging activities to provide an opportunity for remembrance and reflection.

### COVID-19 SUPPORT TEAM WEEKLY VLOG

The latest instalment of the weekly vlog is available view [HERE](#). Alternatively just click on the video on the right!



# DATA FOR THE SOCIAL CARE SECTOR IN BRADFORD

DATA	LATEST	CHANGE
Deaths	0	-6
Infections	174	-39
Outbreaks	32	-5
Occupancy	80%	0%
Tracker completed	88%	-5%

## HOME SUPPORT PLACEMENTS (last 7 days)

Total Placements	Locality Providers	Other Providers
28	9	19

## CARE HOME PLACEMENTS (previous 7 days)

OPR2	OPN	Deferred
5	7	1

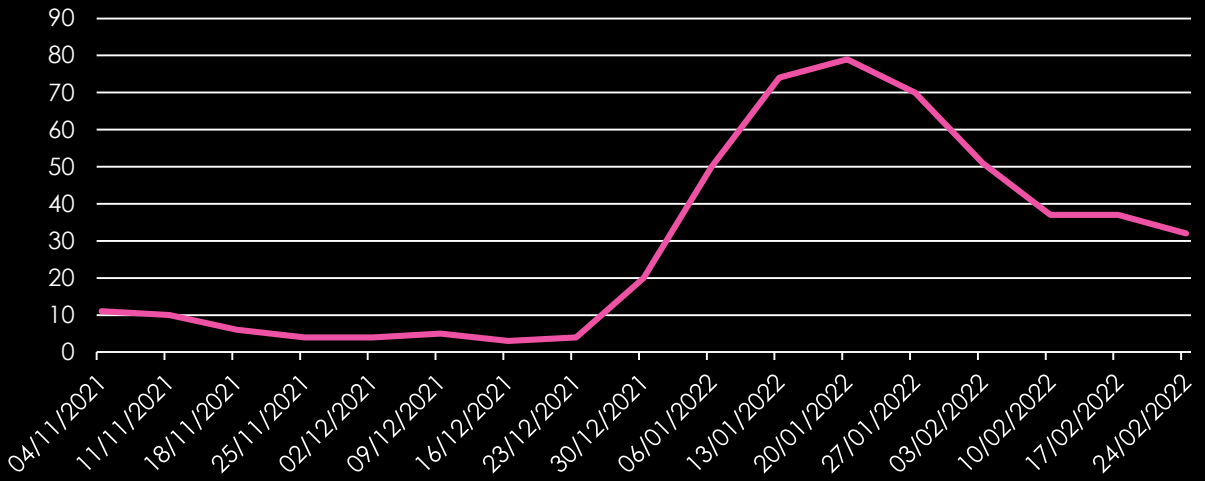
## CARE HOME VACANCY DETAILS (last 7 days, both Residential and Nursing)

Care Home Occupancy Percentage	Number of Homes	Percentage of total homes
Under 25%	2	2%
26% to 40%	6	5%
41% to 60%	16	14%
61% to 80%	24	21%
81% to 90%	30	26%
Above 91%	38	33%
<b>Total Homes &amp; Mean %</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>78%</b>

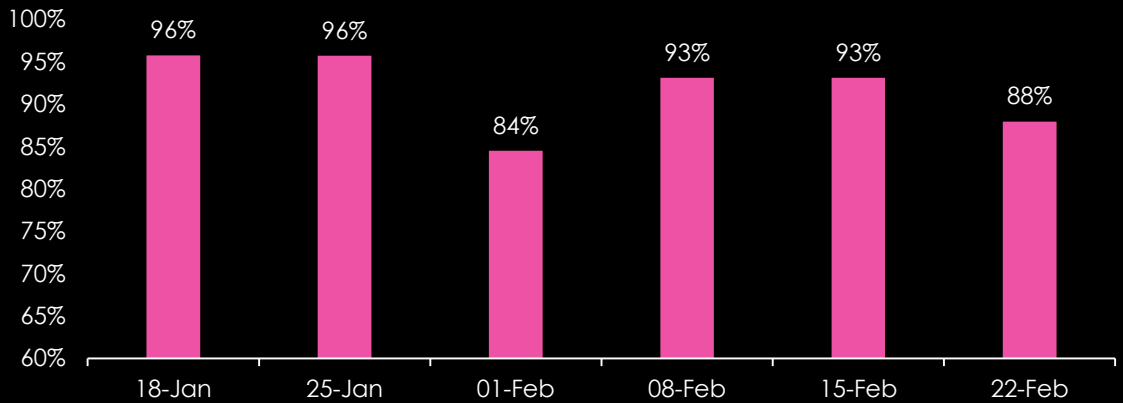
Vacancy Type	Declared Vacancies	Declared Total Beds	Declared Vacancies Closed	Occupied Beds	Occupied Beds Percent	Lost Capacity Percent
General Residential	120	801	71	610	76.15%	8.86%
General Nursing	101	591	18	472	79.86%	3.05%
Dementia Residential	99	627	56	472	75.28%	8.93%
Dementia Nursing	44	353	23	286	81.02%	6.52%
Mental Health Residential	28	140	3	109	77.86%	2.14%
Mental Health Nursing	24	158	13	121	76.58%	8.23%
Learning Disability Residential	21	186	10	155	83.33%	5.38%
YPD - Young Physically Disabled	15	23	0	8	34.78%	0.00%
Learning Disability Nursing	3	12	0	9	75.00%	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>2891</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>2242</b>		



## Bradford Care Homes with a Covid-19 Outbreak



## Bradford Care Home Completed Tracker in last 7 days



## Number of Covid-19 Infections

