

For more information on the Council's current position, in respect of Covid 19 please use this website: [CLICK HERE](#)
Please ensure any information you consult is from a reliable source, including the NHS, or Public Health England.

Tuesday 22 February 2022

PROVIDER BULLETIN

COVID 19 DUTY DESK

Due to the low number of calls received, moving forward from this Wednesday, 23 February, we will no longer have a duty desk. We ask all providers, if they have any issues to contact us via our [email](#). The inbox will be regularly monitored.

JCVI ADVISES A SPRING COVID-19 VACCINE DOSE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised an additional booster dose this spring for the most vulnerable individuals in the population to maintain their protection against severe COVID-19.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

FREE TRAINING RE STOMP - STOPPING OVER MEDICATION OF PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES.

We are running 2 training sessions on Microsoft teams for service providers and professionals working with people with learning disabilities about STOMP. This will include looking at what STOMP is, specific medications and side effects, alternatives to medications and how to support people who are having medications reduced. If you support people with learning disabilities who are prescribed psychotropic medications and would like to know more – please email victoria.donnelly@bdct.nhs.uk to book on. The sessions are on - Thursday 21st April 9.30 – 11.30 and then Thursday 22nd September 9.30 – 11.30. Please reply with the email address you would like the teams invite sending to & specifying which date you want to attend. Please note - these sessions are not for people with learning disabilities or family carers – we will be offering sessions these sessions separately.



**BOOST YOUR
IMMUNITY
THIS WINTER**

WITH YOUR FLU VACCINE
+ COVID-19 BOOSTER

Don't delay, get your free vaccines now.

NHS

Vaccination – Homecare Association Update

The one-week [consultation](#) on Government plans to revoke regulations implementing vaccination as a condition of deployment has now closed.

In [our response](#), we repeated our strong support for vaccination and welcomed the proposed U-turn. From the outset, we raised concerns about the risks to older and disabled people of losing access to homecare as a result of this policy, with its adverse impact on workforce capacity. We continue to work closely with DHSC to promote the uptake of vaccines and boosters.

New concerns have arisen about whether vaccination as a “professional duty” will be included in the [Code of Practice on the prevention and control of infections](#) which the Care Quality Commission takes into account at inspection. This could leave providers in a difficult position if staff remain unvaccinated, as employers would have no legitimate means to require them to be vaccinated. We have highlighted the potential risks of this in our consultation submission and in meetings with DHSC officials. We are anticipating a second consultation on the Code of Practice in the near future.

It is possible that vaccination against COVID-19 and influenza may be required as a condition of professional registration by bodies like the Nursing and Midwifery Council, effectively bringing in VCOD by the backdoor for registrants.

Currently, there is no professional register for careworkers in England, unlike their counterparts in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We are inclined to argue that the government cannot have its cake and eat it. If they are unwilling to give care work professional recognition in the form of professional registration, accompanied by adequate funding to enable workforce development and fair remuneration, how can they reasonably talk about “professional duty”?

Encouragingly, vaccination uptake figures were up slightly this week in homecare. As of 20 February 2022, they stand at 89.4% for first dose, 84.2% for second dose and 42.3% for booster vaccination. Fourth doses of vaccine will soon be available for people over 75 and others at higher risk from COVID-19. With the help of members, we have produced [three videos](#) for you with helpful tips on how to encourage staff to be vaccinated.



WE'VE BEEN BOOSTED
JOIN US - LET'S GET PROTECTED

[NHS.UK/COVIDVACCINATION](https://www.nhs.uk/COVIDVACCINATION)



Living with COVID-19 has now been published and is available online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>

The Government's response has four principles:

1. **Living with COVID-19:** removing domestic restrictions while encouraging safer behaviours through public health advice, in common with longstanding ways of managing most other respiratory illnesses;
2. **Protecting people most vulnerable to COVID-19:** vaccination guided by Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice, supporting the NHS and social care and deploying targeted testing.
3. **Maintaining resilience:** ongoing surveillance, contingency planning and the ability to reintroduce key capabilities such as mass vaccination and testing in an emergency; and
4. **Securing innovations and opportunities** from the COVID-19 response, including investment in life sciences.

Testing

- **From 21 February**, the Government is removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.
- **From 1 April**, the Government will no longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.
- **From 1 April**, there will be some limited ongoing free testing:
 - Limited symptomatic testing available for a small number of at-risk groups - the Government will set out further details on which groups will be eligible.
 - Free symptomatic testing will remain available to social care staff

Isolation

- The legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive COVID-19 test will end on **24 February**.
- Positive cases will be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days and continue following this advice until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.
- Household close contacts are advised to work from home if possible, avoid contact with high risk individuals and limit close contact with other people. Non-household contacts are advised to follow more general advice on ventilation, wearing masks and hygiene.
- **From 24 March**, the COVID-19 provisions within Statutory Sick Pay and Employment and Support Allowance regulations will end. People with COVID-19 may still be eligible, subject to the normal conditions of entitlement.

Continues...

Advice for the former CEV group and people whose immune system means they are at higher risk

- The shielding programme ended on 15 September 2021 and the government wrote to everyone on the Shielded Patient List at this time informing them of this. There is no longer a centrally defined Clinically Extremely Vulnerable group or Shielded Patient List.
- There is a smaller group of people for whom vaccines may be less effective because of their immune system. There is [separate guidance](#) for this group containing additional public health advice and information on vaccinations and treatments. **This guidance will be updated in due course.**

What this means for adult social care

- While the vast majority of care recipients in adult social care are vaccinated, individuals are still at a greater risk of hospitalisation and death from COVID-19 relative to the general population, and the transmission risk remains high in vulnerable settings due to the kind of close contact care individuals receive. Therefore, **the current protections will remain in place for those in adult social care settings.**
- **As we ease restrictions in society and restrictions on freedoms in care settings, it therefore remains important to ensure that robust protections are in place in vulnerable settings to continue keeping staff and care recipients safe as we transition to living with COVID. For advice on caring for people in adult social care settings, please see the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): adult social care guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)**
- The Government will carefully review measures in adult social care settings further over the coming weeks where staff care for the most vulnerable in society. **The updated position will be set out in out in guidance by 1 April.**

LAMP TESTING

From, 14 February, Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust, transitioned from LFT testing to LAMP testing. This will replace the LFT eventually but more than likely they will be running both tests for a short period. Please make your staff aware of this change and that this is a legitimate form of testing.

OLDER PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH COMPETENCIES SURVEY – REQUEST FORM DEMENTIA AND OLDER PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

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/tCMbbHDe3I>.

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 3rd March**. Thank you in advance for your help.

LATEST EPISODE OF THE SKILLS FOR CARE PODCAST. EPISODE 4 – I'M HANDY WITH A DRILL

The Care Exchange' we speak to Becky Coles who in 2020 became the youngest CQC registered manager of a newly built respite service. Becky talks to us about what it's like to build a brand-new facility (hard hat included!), build up a team which feels like a family and develop local connections. Becky shares her career journey, from work experience aged 15 through a range of roles via apprenticeships, to becoming a registered manager. You can listen [here](#).

If you haven't tried to listen to a podcast before give it a try! You can either listen via the [Skills for Care website](#) or download it. You are likely already to have an app on your mobile phone; possibly one of these. [Podbean](#) app, [Spotify](#), [Amazon music](#), [Google podcast](#) or [iTunes](#). When you open the app you search for 'The Care Exchange' and all the episodes will appear.



The BIG Sing SOUL, which stands for 'Singing, Outreach, Unity and Love', is an extension of The BIG Sing vision and enables us to generate funding for vulnerable groups with financial freedom.

We want to capture what's been created by The BIG Sing and take it to those who can't get to a community choir, giving everyone an opportunity to sing motivating songs when they may not have considered it before and to enjoy the therapeutic qualities singing has.

Here's how we can help bring **our** vision into **your** communities:

1. SING-A-LONG – for the older people. Available for care homes and those living with Dementia. The BIG Sing SOUL Charity would like to bring you a **FREE** video with music from many genres from the 40's to the 60's with some good old favourites which groups you support will love.

- Suitable for Care Homes, Hospitals, Stroke Association, Dementia Groups and other Vulnerable adult groups in the UK
- Half hour of familiar songs like 'We'll Meet Again', Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, 'Jail House Rock' to The Supremes 'Baby Love' plus many more
- Join in with Jon our BIG Sing Director or sit back, relax and enjoy the singing
- Our music improves health and wellbeing, aids memory recall, encourages participation and brings joy and a smile.
- The video is flexible to use when you want, where you want, individually or across the whole setting in groups size of your choice and a product to keep year after year.
- The video can be viewed as many times as you wish via the internet using YouTube and can be accessed on smart TV's, laptops, tablets or smartphones.
- If you want to know more before completing your application please do not hesitate to contact me: sandra@bigsingsoul.org.uk or call 07713326851
- Click here to see more about what we do [OUR CHARITY](#)
- Click here to see a promo of the video resources [SING-A-LONG PROMO](#)
- To apply click here.: [APPLICATION BIG SINGALONG](#)

2. ONLINE REHEARSALS FOR DAYTIME CHOIRS OR VULNERABLE ADULT GROUPS – age 16+.

These resources are made up of two 40 minute videos each week with the aim of teaching songs in 3 parts (Soprano, Alto and Tenor). Led by expert tutors who take you through the songs line by line. They are readily available to send for **FREE** to groups such as care services, Stroke Associations, Hospitals, Prisons, and groups with learning/physical disabilities who already get together and cannot attend a community choir or afford to have tutors come in to entertain/teach them.

- Here is one of our rehearsals. [DAYTIME CHOIR REHEARSAL](#)
- See the group in action here: [INTRODUCING OUR DAYTIME CHOIRS](#)

Strength-based Approaches Webinars

Do you want to find out more about how strength-based ways of working can improve outcomes for the people you support?

This is an opportunity for Adult Social Care staff across West Yorkshire to attend a 3-hour webinar training session which will explore how to work in a strength-based way and provide person-centred care to ensure better lives for individuals who require support.

Webinars will take place on Microsoft Teams and include a range of interactive activities.

What will the training cover?

- What is a strength-based approach?
- Strength-based approaches and the Law
- Better lives for people in West Yorkshire
- Person-centred care
- Community strengths
- Language and communication
- Achieving goals
- Potential barriers to this way of working



Who is eligible?

Places are open to staff working for Adult Social Care providers based in West Yorkshire. All employers must have an Adult Social Care - Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS) account to access the training. If you do not have one, you can register for one before booking onto the training using this link: [Skills for Care - Registration - Create Account](#).

How do I book a place?

There will be 32 training sessions taking place from March – September 2022 and places are limited so advanced booking is advised.

To book a place using the Eventbrite page, please click [this link](#) and follow the instructions.



If you have any questions, please contact AHOWDTrainingCalendar@leeds.gov.uk.

In partnership with



[COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients and residents in health and social care settings](#)

Page summary:

Guidance on the management of staff, patients and residents who have been exposed to COVID-19.

Change made:

Updated information on self-isolation for residents of care homes who are contacts; further information now available in Admission to care homes guidance. Updated information for staff returning from travel abroad.

Time updated:

10:00am, 14 February 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): admission and care of people in care homes](#)

Page summary:

How to protect care home residents and staff during the coronavirus outbreak.

Change made:

Updated to reflect the change in the self-isolation period from 14 days to 10 days. Provided further information on ending self-isolation before day 10. See the summary change note in the guidance for a full breakdown of all updates.

Time updated:

4:43pm, 14 February 2022

[Supported living services during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Page summary:

Guidance for providers of supported living settings.

Change made:

Updated guidance to reflect the latest self-isolation advice for residents, removed lines on vaccination as a condition of deployment.

Time updated:

3:17pm, 16 February 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for adult social care services](#)

Page summary:

Outlines the COVID-19 testing available for staff, residents and visitors for all adult social care services.

Change made:

Added updated information regarding vaccination and testing. Moved the instructions for use for SureScreen 25 rapid lateral flow tests to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-in-adult-care-homes>

Time updated:

4:05pm, 16 February 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing in extra care and supported living settings](#)

Page summary:

Guidance on asymptomatic regular testing for eligible extra care and supported living (ECSL) services.

Change made:

Removed information on previous staff testing regimes.

Time updated:

11:25am, 17 February 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for homecare workers](#)

Page summary:

Guidance on regular asymptomatic rapid lateral flow testing for staff in registered homecare agencies.

Change made:

Removed information advising staff to take a lateral flow test every day before work.

Time updated:

11:26am, 17 February 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for adult day care centre workers and service users](#)

Page summary:

Guidance on regular asymptomatic rapid lateral flow testing for staff and service users in eligible adult day care centres.

Change made:

Removed information on the requirement to take a weekly PCR test and 3 lateral flow tests a week.

Time updated:

11:32am, 17 February 2022

Continues...

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): testing in adult care homes](#)

Page summary:

Guidance on regular asymptomatic testing for staff, residents and visiting professionals in adult care homes.

Change made:

Removed information on requirement to take one PCR and 3 lateral flow tests a week.

Time updated:

11:33am, 17 February 2022

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): providing home care](#)

Page summary:

Information for those providing personal care to people living in their own home during the coronavirus outbreak.

Change made:

Added the document: 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): provision of home care (easy-read)'.
Removed the document 'Working with people in their own homes' as the guidance was outdated.

Time updated:

3:16pm, 18 February 2022

Pathways to Employment
courses in March



Self Esteem

Monday 14th March (11am - 12pm)

Assertiveness

Wednesday 16th March (1pm - 2pm)

Conflict Resolution

Thursday 17th March (1pm - 2pm)

Managing Change

Monday 21st March (11am - 12pm)

Building Resilience

Wednesday 23rd March (1pm - 2pm)

Planning for Progression

Thursday 24th March (1pm - 2pm)

Register now:
www.thecellartrust.org

