

Dear Care and Support Provider,

Care and Support Provider Update: 27th April 2020

Please note that we are regularly updating the Care Providers page on the Sefton Council website with information for the public domain.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/adults/adult-social-care-providers.aspx>.

After another challenging week, we want to express our thanks to you and your staff for your continued efforts and hard work during this difficult time. Please continue to let us know your key issues and support needs, either by contacting the Commissioning Support Team Commissioningandcontracts@Sefton.gov.uk or by joining the weekly Strategic Skype Calls with Leads from Sefton Council and NHS Southport and Formby and NHS South Sefton CCGs.

Swabbing & Testing Update

We are delighted that Southport was one of the first locations to benefit from a Mobile Covid-19 Testing Centre as part of the Department of Health's efforts to increase access to testing for key workers and their households. In partnership with NHS South Sefton and NHS Southport and Formby CCG and Ministry of Defence colleagues, we were able to complete 350 key worker tests in the period this unit was operational. While the unit has now moved on, we are continuing to explore options for further testing centres.

You may have already seen that you can register as an employer on the new employer referral portal where you can upload details in the secure portal of essential workers who are self-isolating. These staff members will then receive an email or text inviting them to book a test for the symptomatic member(s) of their household. To find out more about this or to register as an employer visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#arrange-a-test>

To obtain a log-in employers should email portalservicedesk@dhsc.gov.uk with two email addresses that will primarily be used to load essential worker contact details. Once employer details have been verified two log-in credentials will be issued for the employer referral portal. Here is the [Employer Referral Portal User Guide](#) that talks through the steps to Register and to log into the Portal.

The test will be conducted at one of the regional testing sites across the UK, where there is good availability. Some of your staff and their family members may have already accessed testing themselves via the government website. There is some home testing availability but initially this will be limited.

There are constant changes to Government guidance as you can appreciate, but we will aim to keep you up to date with information as we receive it. We are continuing to explore options for further testing centres and will keep you informed about these also.

Education and Training Programme V2

Last week we shared with you an Education and Training Programme and as mentioned we will be updating it as additional support becomes available or because support is put in place to meet your needs. Version 2 is now available [here](#) for you and your staff.

Medicines Ordering Support

In the past few weeks Sefton medicines management team have contacted all care homes via telephone to offer support with the ordering of monthly medication for residents if you are struggling due to staff shortages. If you would like to take up the offer of support please complete the form that was sent to you via email and return it to the medicines management team at seftonmm.hub@nhs.net