Date: 19th February 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

Thank you for everything you are doing to keep your staff and residents safe currently. We know that you are working hard to prevent outbreaks. We are starting to see a gradual reduction in the number of outbreaks but if you do have cases or outbreaks please continue to report these promptly to the Community Infection Control Team on 0151 295 3036.

The vaccine rollout is going very well. If there are any staff who have yet to have the vaccine and would like one, they can still book onto the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Hub to receive their vaccine by using the links below:

Pfizer Vaccine - [Southport Vaccination Clinic | Scheduling and Booking Website (nhsbookings.com)](https://southportvaccinationclinic.nhsbookings.com/v2/)

Astra Zeneca Oxford Vaccine - <https://ormskirkvaccinationclinic.nhsbookings.com/v2/>

Please remind staff to bring their ID and the consent form and most importantly not to share the link with anyone.

There may be staff who haven’t had the vaccine because they feel that it is not needed because they have had COVID. Even if they have had COVID, they should still have the vaccine. It will boost their immunity and protect themselves, the residents, their colleagues and family. If they have had COVID recently they will need to wait 28 days from the positive test before they have the first vaccination. It’s also important that staff go for the second vaccination when they get called -to give them the maximum protection.

As mentioned previously, it is important that the Capacity Tracker is completed daily. Please find below the invite to the National Providers Q&A call held every Tuesday at 1pm. Can you please have an appropriate representative from your home to join the call. The Capacity Tracker team deliver a weekly update on the following:

* Latest changes
* Recent requests from NHSX, NHSE, DHSC and the Cabinet Office
* System functionality

The Capacity Tracker weekly call with Providers will explain exactly what will be required to submit the data when these circumstances arise, thus reducing your workload.

Please [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YWRjMWQ4NGMtMmJjNy00OTc0LTkzMjctYzA1NzZhZmFhNmZj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2237c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fe1da4b4-21d3-404c-903d-2f4ec6e4dab4%22%7d)

We would like to remind you of the DHSC survey to let them know your COVID experiences on the vaccination process and accessing information - how it is working in Sefton so it can review the take-up of, how you have accessed information about the vaccine and your attitudes towards the vaccine. The feedback will also be important to the Sefton health and care system running our local programme to know how the vaccine programme is working. You can access the survey [here](https://sefton.healthwatchcrm.co.uk/civicrm/mailing/url?u=1603&qid=92944). Paper copies of the survey and in alternative languages and other formats is available on request. Please call 0800 206 1304.

**Shaping Care Together**

Health leaders in Southport, Formby and West Lancashire are inviting people to share their views and experiences of local healthcare, by getting involved with Shaping Care Together, a new programme designed to improve services across the area.

Patients, carers and staff who use and deliver services are invited to give their feedback and help shape, develop and improve future services.

Shaping Care Together is led by a partnership of NHS organisations; Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, NHS Southport and Formby CCG and NHS West Lancashire CCG.

These organisations are working together to look at the challenges currently faced by Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals, considering the COVID-19 pandemic, financial pressures and the growing demand for NHS services in and out of hospital.

Whilst many improvements have already been made, Shaping Care Together will look at services across the whole area, and ensure they are joined up, efficient and fit for the future.

The areas of focus are:

* frail and elderly care
* when you have an urgent or emergency care need
* services for children including those who have complex needs
* services for women who are pregnant and for the new-born
* gynaecology - dealing with women’s reproductive system
* sexual health services for all genders
* planned care, such as follow-up outpatient and/or subsequent admissions as part of ongoing treatment.

Shaping Care Together is giving all members of local communities the opportunity to get involved and share views on:

* What works well
* What could be improved
* What is important to them

To take part, visit their interactive engagement site [www.yoursayshapingcaretogether.co.uk](http://www.yoursayshapingcaretogether.co.uk) for more information and to complete a short survey. If you would prefer to speak to someone or require information in a different format or language, please call 01695 588025. Please note that at this stage it is a listening exercise and no decisions have been made. We would be grateful if you could please also share this information with your staff teams.

**Workforce Capacity Fund**

The Workforce Capacity Fund is a national grant of c £120M of which Sefton have been allocated £762,443. The purpose of this funding is to deliver measures to supplement and strengthen adult social care staff capacity to ensure that safe and continuous care is achieved.

The DHSC guidance states that Care Providers in receipt of the funding should use the grant to generate additional adult social care workforce capacity where shortages arise due to COVID-19 only and keep sufficient records to be able to demonstrate what specific staffing capacity was secured using this funding

Sefton have chosen to pass a large proportion of this grant directly to providers. The grant has to be utilised by 31 March 2021 and providers will be asked to return a template evidencing spend and outputs achieved which will be circulated as soon as it is available.

Care Homes

We anticipate that one-off payments will be made, calculated based on Capacity Tracker submissions. This will ensure that payments can be calculated and made as quickly as possible.

Community Providers

At the present time we are engaging with other neighbouring Local Authorities with respect to making payments to CQC registered providers. We are seeking to finalise arrangements within the next week and anticipate that any payments made as quickly as possible.

Thank you if you have already registered for the QWELL awareness sessions; the first being next week on the 22nd February 2.30-3.00pm and the second on the 25th February, 7.00 – 7.30pm. If you have nominations for next week’s sessions, please email [Louise.Kearney@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Louise.Kearney@sefton.gov.uk).

Information for Community Support providers

Adult Social Care in Sefton launched a formal consultation with community providers (domiciliary care, community support, supported living and extra care) in relation to the proposed fees and annual uplift for the 2021/22 financial year on the 18th of January 2021, the consultation was originally scheduled to close at midnight on the 21st of February 2021.

However, in consideration of the responses to date and to provide more time for you to respond if you haven’t done so already, we have decided to extend the consultation.

The consultation will now close at midnight on the 21st of March 2021. You have been sent a letter updating you on the consultation extension and the revised timeline. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/social-care-provider-information/community-support-provision-information-including-domiciliary-care-and-day-care/>

Please note that work with Day Care providers in relation to costs will be undertaken separately and will commence shortly.

Information for Care Homes

We are aware from a letter from the DHSC to the Director of Public Health on the 16th February that there are changes to the coronavirus outbreak testing in care homes to further expand the use of Lateral Flow Devices in care homes. You may have been contacted direct about this, but we wanted to bring the following amendments to the outbreak testing policy, to your attention:

* From 22nd February, residents should be tested using LFD at the same time as the outbreak PCR tests on day 1 and again between day 4-7 in a new outbreak. As with all testing of residents, if the resident is unable to consent to the test, the care home should consider the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and ‘best interest decisions’.
* Daily staff LFD testing is being extended beyond day 7 if positive tests are still occurring (from 22nd February onwards).
* With immediate effect, care home outbreak PCR testing for staff and residents at the start of a new outbreak is moving from Pillar 1 (local PHE and NHS labs) to the usual care home testing process through Pillar 2 (the National Testing Programme) to simplify the process and speed up test results.

These changes are based on SAGE and Public Health England advice for how to use testing in a care home outbreak to improve the speed at which cases are identified, reduce transmission and save lives. The outbreak section starts on page 39 of the [care home testing guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961926/care-home-testing-guidance-england-v1602.pdf), please also see this [infographic](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961927/care-home-outbreak-testing-guidance-england-visual-v1602.pdf) which summarises the new outbreak testing process.

Based on advice from SAGE, the DHSC are not increasing regular resident testing. However, SAGE advice is that testing of residents during an outbreak is important and recommends the addition of LFD to the outbreak PCR tests (as set out above) given the value of rapid results in enabling action.

We would also like to draw your attention to the [amended guidance on page 9](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961926/care-home-testing-guidance-england-v1602.pdf) regarding changes to LFD testing within 90 days of a positive coronavirus test. From now on, if someone tests positive with a PCR test, they should not be tested using PCR or LFD for 90 days, unless they develop new symptoms during this time, in which case they should be retested immediately using PCR.

Please use the link below to register for RESTORE training

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/restore-2-online-training-session-tickets-103421153454>

If you require further information please email [moira.harrison@southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk](mailto:moira.harrison@southportandformbyccg.nhs.uk)

Please see links below regarding the use of Pulse Oximeters, we hope you find these useful.

<https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Catalogue/Index?HierarchyId=0_50769_50770_51417&programmeId=50769>

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877533/Routine_decontamination_of_reusable_noninvasive_equipment.pdf><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifnYjD4IKus&feature=youtu.be>

<https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/679015>

<https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/679015>

<https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Component/Details/684697>

We would also like to remind you that there is free DoLs Training session is being arranged for 28th April 2021. This will be a virtual half-day session. If you have staff who would like to attend, please self-register at [www.seftonclc.co.uk](http://www.seftonclc.co.uk).

Finally, we wrote to you this week, to notify you that following the fee consultation meeting on the 11th of February 2021 and consideration of the responses we have received to date we have extended the current consultation from midnight on the 21st of February to midnight on the 21st of March 2021. The extension will enable us to engage further with you on the fee proposal and allow more time for you to provide a response. The 11th February meeting notes, the presentation and a Q&A are available on the care home providers webpage: <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/social-care-provider-information/care-homes-information/>

The email contact for responses is [neil.watson@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:neil.watson@sefton.gov.uk) or postal responses can be sent to Deborah Butcher, Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health, c/o Bootle Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle, L20 7AE.

From us, all the Health and Care partners and Councillor Paul Cummins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, we would like to thank you and your staff once again for all your hard work and everything you are doing at this time.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Butcher

Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health



Fiona Taylor

Chief Officer, NHS South Sefton and NHS Southport and Formby CCGs

THIS IS A WEB VERSION OF THE LETTER – IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY DOCUMENTS OR ATTACHMENTS MENTIONED, PLEASE CONTACT Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk