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Date: 5th March 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

First, we would like to express that colleagues in the health and care system really appreciate all the work being undertaken by you and your staff to help keep our vulnerable people safe and well.

Please continue to follow IPC guidance, ensuring that your staff wear the appropriate PPE at work. We would also like to ask you to consider your arrangements for the laundry of uniforms; to help prevent staff going to and from work wearing their uniform, to avoid any unnecessary transmission. Although some staff and residents have been vaccinated, it is important to not be complacent as COVID is still prevalent and transmissible.

We would also like to hear any ideas you have on how staff can reduce their use of public transport for getting to and from work and whilst carrying their work. We have heard from some providers that they have purchased bikes to use and some providers are now part of the [cycle to work scheme](#). These are fantastic solutions but if there are other ideas you have, we would love to hear them. Please contact Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk.

Workforce Capacity Grant Fund

Payments have started to go out this week from the Workforce Capacity Grant fund to care homes and Community Providers who have a CQC registered location in Sefton and is based on £100 per worker (as per capacity tracker information previously completed). Payment of the grant will be considered based on Provider's acceptance of the grant and its terms and conditions. The grant must be spent by 31st March 21 and areas of spend and a proposed return for expenditure and outputs is attached for your information. Please note that there is no specific acceptance letter that they have to sign / return.

Information for Community Support Providers

We would like to remind domiciliary care, supported living, extra care and community support providers about the dedicated consultation meetings in connection to the fee proposals for 2021/22. An invitation has been sent to you based on what we believe is the most relevant meeting for you to attend in relation to your specific service:

- Extra Care/Supported Living Providers- 10th March 2021, 12 Noon to 1pm
- Domiciliary Care/Community Support- 17th March 2021, 11am to 12 Noon

We do hope you are able to attend and, in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the lead officers for the consultation if you have any questions or would like further information:

Extra Care- Alison.taylor@sefton.gov.uk

Supported Living- Joanne.christensen@sefton.gov.uk

Domiciliary Care- Neil.watson@sefton.gov.uk

Community Support- Rebecca.bond@sefton.gov.uk or joanne.christensen@sefton.gov.uk

We would also like to share the following collection of guidance to support vaccinations for people with learning disabilities.

Resources on vaccinations for people with learning disabilities

Accessible resources have been released, produced in collaboration with people with lived experience, to support clinicians in communicating with people with a learning disability and their family carers:

- **Covid Vaccine film** produced in collaboration with Skills for People and Learning Disability England
- **Easy Read: COVID vaccination (PHE)**
- **Easy Read: What to expect after the vaccine? (PHE)**
- **Easy Read: Adult consent form (PHE)**
- Additional **training materials for COVID-19 vaccinators and volunteers** provide top tips for communicating with people with a learning disability and autistic people and reasonable adjustments that can be considered
- **Easy Read: How to test yourself for COVID-19 before you go to hospital**
- **Easy Read: How to test yourself for COVID-19 at home**

Information for Care Homes

As mentioned on the strategic care home call this week, there is new government guidance for agency staff. The guidance includes:

- Where there is an individual being deployed, they should have a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for COVID-19 in the 7 days before starting the placement and have received a negative result.
- The individual should also be tested using an LFD provided by the National Testing Programme on their first day before their first shift.
- Where a provider deploys an individual, who is working in another setting, to help manage the risk of infection the individual should also be tested using an LFD immediately before the shift every time they return to the care home after working elsewhere.

More information can be found at this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/restricting-workforce-movement-between-care-homes-and-other-care-settings/restricting-workforce-movement-between-care-homes-and-other-care-settings>

As you will be aware the Government announced that from the 8th March residents are to be allowed [one visitor per resident Government announcement](#). Please note that we are still waiting formal guidance on the single-named visitor scheme and we will share this with you as we receive it. In the meantime, you may wish to review your risk assessments and environments in readiness. Please can we ask that you read the guidance carefully on Monday, review it and amend their your own Risk Assessment and visiting policy, if you would like IPC advice and support please e mail public.health@sefton.gov.uk . We will then dedicate the majority of our Agenda on Tuesday's Care Home Strategic Call to Q&As on this area. You may also find this summary document helpful in supporting families and service users understanding around the requirements <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/summary-of-guidance-for-visitors--2>

We are aware that there are a few care homes that are not aware of who their named clinical Lead is. We will be contacting those care homes direct to inform them of who their Lead is and how to get in touch with them.

We are aware that there are a few care homes that are not aware of who their Strategic Lead is. We will be contacting those care homes direct to inform them of who their Lead is and how to get in touch with them. Please do come back to us if you are not aware. We would like to remind you it's important to reflect this on your capacity tracker returns as this is monitored at a national level. We have attached a spread sheet containing this information for you.

NHS England are working with a team of researchers from RAND Europe, University of Birmingham, and University College London to understand, and learn from, the impact and consequences of using pulse oximetry and remote monitoring in care homes and develop recommendations about changes into the future.

If you are able to help by filling in a short questionnaire about using pulse oximetry and remote monitoring in care homes and possibly take part in an interview, please contact Dr Manbinder

Sidhu at the University of Birmingham m.s.sidhu@bham.ac.uk. Any involvement would be confidential.

We would like to remind you that there is another fee consultation meeting planned for the 9th March at 11.00am. An invitation to this meeting has been sent and we hope that you will be able to join us. The information we have shared with you previously in connection to this consultation is 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 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.

Capacity Tracker

Please can we draw attention to a Q&A session with the national team every Tuesday 1-2pm
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Workforce Strategy

Gentle reminder for all care providers to complete the short workforce survey previously shared, only 4 questions!

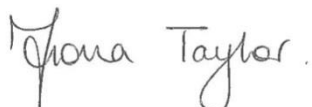
Finally, thank you for attending the weekly provider calls – your attendance and contribution is very much appreciated by us all. We are aware, however, that there are some providers who are not engaging with the calls and we would like to evaluate these meetings with you to find out your views and experiences of the meetings and how they can be improved, to help encourage participation. We will be contacting you in the next week or so, to ask you to complete a short survey about this.

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