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Date: 9th April 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

We want to start this letter by expressing our gratitude to you and your staff teams for everything you have done in the past twelve months, in extraordinary circumstances, to care for our most vulnerable residents. We fully appreciate how challenging this has been for you all and would like to convey, on behalf of all partners in the health and care system, our heartfelt thanks.

As in previous weeks, we continue to see a low level of outbreaks and believe that everything you and your teams are doing to practice safe COVID behaviours and to help prevent infection is making a difference. Please do not hesitate to report any outbreaks to the Community Infection Control Team on 0151 295 3036.

PPE

The 'How to Work Safely' guidance for Adult Social Care guidance for Adult Social Care has been recently updated and includes updated advice on the use of masks and eye protection. It is essential that correct PPE is worn, and guidance followed, regardless of the vaccination status of the care worker and the person being cared for. To reflect the potential additional demand for masks and visors, order limits have been increased on the PPE Portal. Further to this, following the previous announcement of free PPE provision to Adult Social care for COVID-19 needs until June 2021, the scheme has now been extended to the end of March 2022.

Care Home Visiting

A Small presentation was given about the updated guidance at the Care Home Group meeting on Tuesday 7th April, which we have attached for your information. Care home managers and senior staff should read the guidance in detail, amend visiting policies, and ensure that all staff are aware of the changes. To assist with team training I've attached a summary of the guidance to help staff training on the updates regarding visiting. There are also summary sheets available for visitors with the guidance itself.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=79991ad1-fbb0-4c38-9542-788464d0f891&utm_content=daily

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/summary-of-guidance-for-visitors--2>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976068/visiting-care-homes-during-covid-19-one-page-overview.pdf

Visits Out of the Care Home

[Visits out of care homes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

This includes the need for residents to isolate on their return from any visit out. As such, we recognise taking advantage of the increasing opportunities to [receive visits within the care home](#) is likely to be the better option for many residents and their loved ones.

However, spending time with others outside the care home will increase the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for the resident and potentially to other vulnerable residents on their return. This is the case even as we see community infection rates dropping and vaccine coverage increasing.

Whereas it is possible to mitigate and manage infection risks within the controlled environment of the care home – including by testing anyone coming into the home – it is simply not possible to control the environment outside of the care home in the same way.

This means that there is still the need for some measures to manage the risk of residents returning from visits bringing infection into the care home environment

Care homes. Your story. Your say!

A reminder that Healthwatch Sefton would like to hear from relatives and their families about their experience of what it's been like for them and their family during the pandemic.

Their Care Home project, launched in March, is to hear about people's experiences and stories so they can understand the impact of the pandemic on people who have been living in care homes. They would like to hear about the support that has been in place and the areas that haven't worked so well, so we can learn how services can be improved in the future.

Feedback to date has been really positive and we want to find out from more people about local support which has been provided.

We would be grateful if you could please let your residents and families know about this and they

can share their story by using this web link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Care-Homes-YourStory-YourSay> or by giving us a call on 0800 206 1304

Day Care Testing Offer

NHS Test and Trace is offering weekly PCR home testing to adult day care centre workers in England. This is in an effort to reduce infection risk in adult day care centres that are currently open for essential activities and to identify any positive cases in these settings as early as possible.

Eligible day care centres are those that are run by paid day care staff and deemed critical to be open during lockdown by local authorities. Services must be for adults over 18 and provided within non-residential care settings that support the health and wellbeing of adults. This includes settings such as:

- purpose-built day care centres
- day centres attached to or part of a care home or supported living
- other buildings in communities specifically used for regular adult day care

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-adult-day-care-centre-workers>

Capacity Tracker

For some time now, we have been aware that whilst the Capacity Tracker system captures a wide variety of information which is reviewed at local, regional and national levels within the confines of the terms of use of the system; up until now providers have not been able to see reports containing their own data, nor have they had the opportunity to see National data sets to compare their status against.

You have asked, we have listened and this changes with the launch of the new Provider Access functionality.

From the evening of Monday 12th April Capacity Tracker data will be made available to all provider groups – Care Homes, Home Care, Hospices, Substance Misuse and Community Rehabilitation organisations, giving reports at organisation level and National level. We are also introducing a new report; Comparative Analysis, which will allow users to view their location data against a local or regional geographical data set

This invite of scheduled sessions, for **ALL Provider types** during April are shown below These will provide the opportunity of a walk-through of the new functionality and will aid understanding of the benefits that this new access will bring providers as well as the opportunity to ask questions about the changes.

15 April 2021

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

16 April 2021

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

22nd April 2021

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

26th April 2021

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

28th April 2021

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Vaccination Programme - Care home/Domiciliary Staff

1st & 2nd Vaccinations

We have been made aware that a number of care home and domiciliary staff require their first vaccination. Please can you inform Local Authority colleagues using the Commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk email. The Local Authority will also remind you of this next time they are in touch with you. Please remember to use a NHS.net e mail or other encrypted method;

- Title
- First name
- Surname
- DOB (please highlight if the individual is under the age of 30)
- NHS No.
- Care Home
- Registered GP Practice
- Address
- Postcode
- Contact Telephone number
- Vaccination required 1st or 2nd? (if 2nd please state which vaccine was given on the 1st vaccination)

Staff will be contacted to make an appointment, **however staff can still book an appointment for their 1st vaccination via the following**

link: <https://aintreeuniversityhospital.nhsbookings.com/v2/>

2nd Vaccinations

As you will be aware the 2nd vaccinations are now being rolled out across Sefton, with most care home residents now having received their 2nd vaccination and where advised staff would have also received 2nd vaccinations.

For staff who were unable to receive their 2nd vaccination when the team visited the home. These staff will be contacted within the 12 weeks of receiving their first vaccination advising they book an appointment at one of the hubs.

The hubs are allocated at:

- Maghull Town Hall
- North Park surgery
- Southport Health & Wellbeing Centre
- Ainsdale Health & Wellbeing

‘Mopping up’ sessions for any unvaccinated residents

South Sefton Homes will need to contact Jayne.williams29@nhs.net to advise of any residents who require a first vaccination, i.e. who were ill on the day of the vaccinations, newly admitted etc. Southport and Formby homes will be contacted directly.

Primary Care 24 - your new Merseyside GP Out of Hours Provider

From Thursday 1st April 2021, Primary Care 24 will be the GP Out of Hours Provider for the Merseyside area. This includes Liverpool, Halton, Knowsley, a number of practices in St Helens and new areas for the organisation in South Sefton, Southport & Formby and Warrington.

This new 5-year contract was due to commence in October 2020 but was delayed by commissioners due to the Covid-19 pandemic and rescheduled to April 2021.

Primary Care 24, or PC24 as some of you will know it, is a not-for-dividend Social Enterprise, working exclusively with the NHS, which has members rather than shareholders and sees any profits reinvested in the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

This new chapter in the history of PC24 will see a growth from the 750,000 patients we already care for, to a population of just over 1.3 million people.

“This is a really exciting time for PC24 as we begin to deliver GP Out of Hours services in South Sefton, Southport & Formby and Warrington alongside our long-standing commitment to Liverpool, Halton, Knowsley and part of St Helens.” stated Dr Mary Ryan, Chief Executive, Primary Care 24. “We are excited to get started in our new areas and to deliver this really important service to patients across Merseyside”.

Primary Care 24 can be accessed via NHS 111 in working hours 6.30pm – 8am (Mon-Fri) and over all weekends and Bank Holidays.

For all media enquiries please contact:

PC24 Communications team

4-6 Enterprise Way, Wavertree Technology Park, Liverpool, L13 1FB.

T: 0151 254 2553

M: 07818 116835

E: communications@pc24.nhs.uk

W: primarycare24.org.uk

T: @PrimaryCare24

The team are currently working from home and might have limited access to emails at certain times – please call the mobile number if you need to speak to us urgently.

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