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

Date: 3rd September 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

As always, we want to thank you for everything you are doing to continue to keep our vulnerable residents safe and well. Please continue to follow all Infection Control and visiting guidance for your setting. Remember to report other types of cases of communicable disease, as well as Covid

Reporting of a single, or more positive swabs in your setting is vitally important, as is any other type of infection

In the event of a positive LFD or PCR test result for your staff or residents/service users you must do the following:

• Contact the Community Infection Control Team immediately

• Ring them on 0151 295 3036 or email infection.controlteam@merseycare.nhs.uk

• This is during normal Monday to Friday working hours 9am-5pm

• For advice, support and reporting outside of these hours at weekends/ evenings and Bank Holidays – please contact PHE on 0344 225 0562 – Option 1

As you are aware Covid-19 is still prevalent in Sefton and to help prevent transmission and outbreaks, it is important to be vaccinated; either to get a first or second jab, to protect yourselves, family, colleagues, and people you care for. During the past couple of weeks, we have seen the NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Bus visit Sefton, where residents over the age of 18 have been able to get a vaccine, without the need for an appointment.

In addition to the NHS Covid-19 Vaccine Bus, walk-in vaccinations are available at Seaforth Village Surgery. There is still one more date for Seaforth Village Surgery vaccination centre. They are open 10.00am – 6.30pm for walk ins on Saturday the 4th September, or you can book an appointment by calling 07979 938 229 or via your own GP practice if you are registered with a GP in south Sefton. Please do share with your staff that may be ready to take up the offer.

Other ways you can get your COVID-19 vaccination in Sefton are:

* You can find details of walk-in clinics across Sefton over the bank holiday weekend on the NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) website: <https://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/get-informed/latest-news/extra-covid-19-vaccine-dates-for-walk-ins/>
* To find future dates and locations, you can find walk-in sites in Sefton and beyond using the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/9>
* You can also book a COVID-19 vaccine or manage your appointment on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

For the latest information on vaccine eligibility, visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/who-can-get-the-vaccine/>.

Answers to frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccines can be found here: <https://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk/coronavirus-information/covid-19-vaccination-faqs-sefton/>.

**Information for Care Homes**

**Care Home Visits: Risk Assessments**

Each care home is unique in its physical environment and facilities, and the needs and wishes of their residents. As such, care home managers are best placed to develop their own policies (in consultation with residents and their relatives) to ensure that the visits described in this guidance are provided in the best way for individual residents, their loved ones, and care home staff.

Care homes should discuss and agree arrangements with residents, residents’ named visitors, or their essential care giver in advance about visiting in to the care home, and visits out .  Risk assessments must be completed in advance for individuals, other residents and the setting itself.

Providers are best placed to design individual visiting arrangements that take account of the needs of their residents and what is possible within the layout and facilities within the home. In this context, the provider must develop a dynamic risk assessment that assesses how the care home can best manage visits safely, and how this is delivered.

* This dynamic risk assessment should consider relevant factors relating to the rights and wellbeing of the residents. Any risk assessment should follow the CQC regulatory framework around providing person centred care.
* The risk assessment should also consider factors relating to the layout, facilities and other issues around the care home
* Care home managers should share the risk assessments underpinning visiting policies with residents or their families, including updates on any changes, to help explain the decisions they have made, and their visiting policy
* Providers should consider both the benefits and potential risks involved in a visit out of the care home, in order to recommend measures to mitigate risks before, during and after the visit
* Visiting must be supported and enabled wherever and whenever it is possible and safe to do so – and a wide range of professionals have a role in supporting this, including care home managers, DPH and DASS.
* As the default position, all care homes should seek to enable the different types of visits in and out of the care home setting
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=c7f0e524-6b32-4489-8a15-ad82d7334975&utm_content=daily>
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrangements-for-visiting-out-of-the-care-home>

**Prior notification of a further Liverpool City Region Grant round:**

From September, St Helens Chamber will be administering a cross LCR small grant fund to help businesses fund smaller capital purchases. This scheme is not related to Covid and does require the business to provide the majority of the match funding.

<https://www.sthelenschamber.com/business/liverpool-city-region-capital-grant-fund/>

**Social Care Workforce Crisis**

The Liverpool City Region are hosting an event to support Care Homes and Home Care in the region with current staffing challenges you may find it helpful to join via MS Teams. The meeting is scheduled for the 14th September 1 – 2 pm, (Care Homes / Home Care) and can be accessed using this link:

[Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_MTdmYTdkYWItNmNkYS00MTgxLWFkOTUtMGRiZmI0Zjc5OThh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22dcdb1ea5-3b10-49a2-bf8f-5fd59edcd762%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228c3d8ae3-9ebf-447d-915e-827aa2cdfd49%22%7d)

The initial part of the session will be for practitioners and providers to hear about the Single-Handed Care good practice case study from Sefton. The session will provide commissioners, practitioners and providers with an opportunity to ask how this practice can be applied in different care settings and to raise any queries/concerns that they may have; and to discuss how local areas can work together to resolve any barriers to rolling out this practice. The second part will be to discuss other initiatives to manage demand or support recruitment and retention.

Previous events have included information from the DWP, Skills for Care and the Liverpool in Work hub. Please see attached to this letter a copy of the presentations given. It includes information on working with the DWP on innovative schemes to work together to recruit, through their sector-based activity work programs, information on funded apprenticeship schemes, skills for care resources and the approaches employed by Liverpool in work to successfully recruit. Speakers have agreed to attend future Strategic Calls, feedback on whether this would be helpful would be appreciated.

**Looking after people who lack mental capacity**

Please can we make Care Homes aware that the COVID guidance relating to Mental Capacity, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-looking-after-people-who-lack-mental-capacity> has now been withdrawn. Please can we ask homes that they encourage the S12 doctors to commence visits to their residents. If you have any questions or concerns around this, please get in touch via Commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk and we get back to you with the right advice

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.

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