

Adult Social Care



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Provider bulletin

October 2023

Welcome to our October newsletter from the Market management team. Please share this newsletter with all staff.

Training

Digital Champions

On Thursday 19 October 2023, 11:00 – 12:00, Skills for Care will be hosting a digital champions awareness session for the South East region.

This session aims to give you an understanding about the role of a digital champion and how it can support your organisation's digital journey, your workforce and the people who are accessing care and support. You will hear how existing digital champions are currently working in the adult social care sector and the positive impact this has had on the delivery of care services.

This session will be hosted on Zoom and is open to anyone who is interested in the role of digital champions.

Find out more and book your place via the [Skills for Care website](#).

Workforce Development Funding (WDF)

Claims for 2023-24 WDF have now commenced. The Berkshire Partnership is open to new members. If you would like to know more or are already a member but not sure how to go about claiming funding, please contact Liz Bailey by email via berkshiredwf@outlook.com. Up to £2,000.00 per year per individual staff member can be claimed for specific learning and qualifications. For more information on eligibility and what can be claimed please visit the [Skills for Care website](#).

Skills for Care: Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS) demo & Workforce Development Funding information session

The Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS) helps providers manage their workforce data and provides crucial intelligence to key decision makers such as Government, DHSC, CQC and local authorities. It also gives employers access to safe and free management of staff and training records and the ability to benchmark your workplace against similar providers.

The Workforce Development Fund allows you to claim back money towards the costs of paid staff completing a broad range of adult social care qualifications, learning programmes and digital learning modules.

If you are interested to know more about ASC-WDS, are planning to update your account, haven't looked at it for a while or want to claim Workforce Development Funding this is the session for you! The session is taking place on Thursday 9th November 11am – 12noon on MS Teams. To book your place email:

Rachel.reid@skillsforcare.org.uk or Marianne.Davis@skillsforcare.org.uk

Capacity tracker

All providers are required to update the Capacity Tracker on a monthly basis, otherwise there is a risk of being fined. Please make use of the support available via the Contact Centre on 0191 6913729 or drop them an email via necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net. There is training available to providers on the Resource page of their [website](#).

Both care home residents and social care staff will be offered Covid-19 and flu vaccinations and as with previous campaigns and in line [with the Formal Notice](#), vaccination data will form part of the mandated collection. This will be the same fields as in previous years. Due to the dates the campaigns start, the first reporting window for this data will be 8 October 2023 to 16 October 2023. It is especially useful for care home managers to update CT immediately following a vaccination team visit.

We encourage all residents and staff to take up their autumn COVID-19 and flu vaccine. Eligible individuals can book and manage their [COVID-19](#) - and [flu](#) - vaccination appointments online when the service becomes available.

Local resources

Activity and Wellbeing Coordinator Forums

The next meeting is **4 October 11:30-12:30**. There is also an active WhatsApp group for the activity coordinators to share ideas and support each other. The aim of the forums is to support continuing professional development for activity and wellbeing coordinators, and to create an opportunity to share and exchange ideas and resources.

The forums aim to support a focus on person-centred care for people drawing on care and support and provide a space to explore knowledge and research to continue driving quality. Contact sue.langan@nhs.net to join.

Advocacy service in Slough

The Advocacy service, delivered by Matrix, is commissioned to provide advocacy services across Slough. Matrix have a history of working in Slough that dates back to 2007.

Advocacy is for people who have difficulties getting their voice heard due to impairments, social care needs, and having no other independent person to assist them. Typically, the person instructs the advocate themselves. However, if the person lacks capacity around a particular decision and/or process, an advocate can also be appointed in the person's best interest. There are various advocacy provisions depending on the issue.

For further information, please refer to the Matrix (advocacy service) by contacting them by email via referral@matrixsdt.com or by the Slough referrals phone number 01753 415299. You can also visit the [Matrix website](#).

Other updates

Staffing update within the Commissioning team

Lynn Johnson will be starting in the Group Manager Market Management role on an interim basis on Wednesday 11th October. We look forward to welcoming Lynn to the Council.

Norovirus awareness

According to Norovirus lab reports, it is 70% higher than average for this time of year. Norovirus is easily transmitted through contact with people with the infection, surfaces or objects that have been contaminated with the virus. Reminder for providers to remain vigilant. For more information about how to stop it spreading in your care setting, [visit the government website](#).

Do you come into contact with unpaid carers? Their views matter to us!

Slough Borough Council has written to unpaid carers who received a service from Adult Social Care, inviting them to take part in the national Survey of Adult Carers in England, and letters will be arriving in the first two weeks of October. This survey is being carried out on behalf of NHS Digital.

If someone you work with is contacted, please encourage them to complete the survey so we can hear their views about the services they receive. This information is very important as it will be used to help improve Adult Social Care support.

If they need support in filling out the survey please ask them to contact Slough Carers Support by calling: 01753 303428 or if they would like it in a different language, they can email: sloughcarers@slough.gov.uk . All information will be treated in confidence. The survey closes on 30 November

Please note a [new Carers Strategy](#) was approved at Cabinet in September 2023.

Flu and Covid-19 vaccination

As a frontline health or social care professional, you're more likely to be exposed to these viruses. And of course, they can also be passed on to the people you care for, including care home residents, those with weakened immune systems and underlying health conditions.

Vaccinations are our best defence against flu and COVID-19 ahead of what could be a very challenging winter, and it is even more important considering the potential for this new COVID-19 variant to increase the risk of infection. Keep yourself and those you care for safe. [Get your seasonal flu vaccination and visit the NHS website](#).

The COVID-19 vaccine may be offered through your employer, or you can book by downloading the NHS App, [online via the website](#) or by calling 119. There may also be walk-in vaccinations available your area. [Find your nearest COVID-19 vaccination walk-in site](#).

Contact us

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future items to this newsletter – please get in touch via ASC.Commissioning@slough.gov.uk

Information provided in this bulletin is correct at time of issuing.