

Adult Social Care



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Slough
Borough Council

Provider bulletin

April 2024

Message from Lynn Johnson Interim Head of Market Management, Slough Borough Council.

The Adult Social Care Strategy was approved at Cabinet earlier this month and sets out the Council`s vision for working with people in Slough. [AGENDA ITEM \(slough.gov.uk\)](http://slough.gov.uk)

It builds on work undertaken to date and describes the direction for Adult Social Care and how it intends to work with residents, people who use services and partners, including care providers, to deliver the Strategy.

The aim of the strategy is to help everyone know what to expect from Adult Social Care. It focuses on developing care and support options for all residents, in offering a proactive and partnership approach to prevention and early intervention.

The Strategy has been informed by feedback from engagement with partners and local people; residents told us about what is important to them; that we must work hard at engaging hard to reach communities to understand their needs and what works best for them and that they need a personalised and tailored approach to care and support.

Residents also told us that integration must mean more than with our health partners and must include all of our connections such as housing, the voluntary sector, people with lived experience, and others who have valuable contributions to make to the work of Adult Social Care in Slough.

We will monitor our progress in delivering the priorities in the strategy through the Adult Social Care Board.

Training

Registered Managers wellbeing support webinar.

This webinar will take place **Thursday 16 May 2024**. It will look at simple and effective ways to best support your workforce, helping them manage the latest pressures and workload. It will explore how you can offer meaningful wellbeing initiatives which will

not break the bank, whilst convincing others – including the CQC - of the value this brings to your service.

With live panel discussions and debate, the webinar will be shaped around questions from delegates attending. **Click [here](#) to find out more, or to book your space**

International recruitment

We are very pleased that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), in collaboration with Skills for Care have now published the Toolkit for International Recruitment for Adult Social Care Providers. Click [here](#) to get your toolkit

Workforce Development Funding

Transitional arrangements are being developed by Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Skills for Care, aiming to maintain similar benefits initially and expand them as the new scheme progresses.

The new fund will be known as the **'Adult Social Care Training and Development Fund'** Click [here](#) to find out more

Using social media for care recruitment

Social media provides a wealth of opportunities to attract people from a variety of backgrounds and demographics.

This Skills for Care series of videos covers everything you need to know to optimise your social media usage. Marketing expert Paul Ince from [LikeMind Media](#) has produced a series of videos looking at the social media landscape and the opportunities it presents for recruiting new staff and helping the retention of existing team members.

The videos cover:

- [Using social media for care recruitment](#)
- [Creating content - the basics that apply to all content](#)
- [Selecting the right platform for your recruitment needs](#)
- [What are algorithms and how can they help recruitment?](#)
- [Platform essentials: Facebook](#)
- [Platform essentials: LinkedIn](#)
- [Platform essentials: Instagram](#)
- [Platform essentials: TikTok](#)
- [Other platforms](#)
- [Tools to make your life easier](#)
- [Getting your team to act as employee ambassadors](#)

Access the whole suite here: [Using social media for care recruitment \(skillsforcare.org.uk\)](#)

Public Health

Infection Prevention Guidance

Please don't forget, that from the **1st April 2024** the revised [Infection prevention and control guidance in adult social care: acute respiratory infection \(ARI\)](#) came into effect.

One of the key changes was the cessation of routine Covid testing of people being discharged from hospital settings to care homes.

PPE Portal Closure

The Department of Health and Social Care's scheme to provide free COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) to health and care providers ended on 31 March 2024.

Due to this decision, the PPE Portal will be closed from **Thursday 23 May 2024**. Last order dates through the portal will be 23 May with the last delivery date occurring week commencing 27 May. **Click [here](#) to get to the PPE portal**

Supporting safer visiting in care homes during infectious illness outbreaks

This guidance covers the principles to support decision making for those involved in safely planning and protecting visiting during outbreaks of infectious illness in adult social care.

The full guidance can be found here; [Supporting safer visiting in care homes during infectious illness outbreaks - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Local resources

Market Position Statement (MPS) 2024/27

The MPS describes how the Covid-19 pandemic response and moving into recovery and learning to "live with covid" has allowed us to review what is important for Slough and enable us to build on what we have seen - great community spirit, people helping people, businesses helping businesses, service providers, staff and partners going the extra mile under unprecedented circumstances.

The development of our Market Position Statement has also been underpinned by our approach to prevention, delaying and reducing the need for traditional longer-term care and reducing the need for people to enter more acute settings.

The MPS outlines our key commissioning priorities and this will enable providers and partners currently operating in Slough, and those who may wish to in the future, to understand our requirements to collectively shape and develop a vibrant diverse market for current and future generations.

The aim is to help providers:

- Understand the future strategic direction of care and support and future commissioning intentions with an overview of the current people we support, and insights into the wider market.
- Make proactive business and investment decisions.
- Understand future demand; where there are gaps in the current offer; and where a change to the current provision may be required
- Work with us to develop the market and respond to individual needs and choices.

We fed back key messages to the market at December Care Connected forums; the MPS also has a survey which we would encourage providers to complete and return to ASC.ContractsManagement@slough.gov.uk

This is now live on the Council's website [Market Position Statement - Adult social care strategies, plans and policies](#); with a direct link to the download [Adult social care market position statement 2024-2027](#).

Fee Uplifts 24/25

Please ensure to contact us via Fee.Uplifts@slough.gov.uk for any review of rates above 2.9% so that we can send out the template we will need to inform a business case.

New resource for business continuity plan audit tool

Local Authorities and care providers can now access a [business continuity plan audit tool](#) that aims to consider how thoroughly cyber security and data protection issues are addressed as part of a business continuity plan.

Air Quality Action Plan

Slough Borough Council is currently consulting on a draft, which sets out the measures the Council intends to take between 2024 and 2028 to address poor air quality within the borough.

This consultation is for all people who work, live, study and visit the Slough borough area. You may be interested to feedback of the impact of air quality on health and any possible barriers to using public transport and walking.

The action plan was released for public consultation on 15th March and will be open until 27th April, available on the following link:
<https://slough.citizenspace.com/environmentalquality/slough-air-quality-action-plan-2024-2028/>

Free Data Security Toolkit support

The Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) helps adult social care providers in England to check and improve how they keep people's information safe. It is the official

self-assessment tool for the care sector and is widely recognised by CQC, local authorities and the NHS.

Please take a moment to watch the [short animation](#).

The DSPT for social care is specifically designed for adult care providers and is nationally recognised as the official tool to evaluate compliance with legal requirements, data security standards and good practice.

If you have services funded by the NHS, for example under continuing healthcare, there is a contractual requirement to complete the DSPT every year.

For further information

Contact the Berkshire Care Association

[DSPT – Data Security and Protection Toolkit | Berkshire Care Association](#)
(berkscare.co.uk)

Contact Details

Are your contact details up-to-date?

We encourage providers to update their contact details (especially email addresses) by emailing ASC.ContractsManagement@slough.gov.uk.

We use these details to communicate with providers.

It is very important that we reach the correct person in your organisation to receive appropriate referrals and timely updates from SBC, and that you do not miss out on any opportunities.

Please ensure we have your most recent email address.

Other updates

Final CQC Guidance: Regulation 9A: Visiting and accompanying in care homes, hospitals, and hospices.

Following national consultation, the CQC have now published their final guidance on the new fundamental standard '[Regulation 9A: Visiting and accompanying in care homes, hospitals and hospices.](#)'

Better Security, Better Care Data and Cybersecurity Support

Better Security, Better Care is a national and local support programme to help adult social care providers to store and share information safely. It covers paper and digital records and focuses on helping care providers to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit – the annual, online self-assessment.

As a care provider, the programme will help you to evaluate and improve your data and cyber security. This means you can reassure the people you support and their families, your staff, commissioners, regulators, and health and care partners, that you are following good practice – and meeting legal and regulatory requirements.

You do not have to be a data or digital expert to get support. The programme can support you – wherever you are on your data security journey.

[Better Security, Better Care. - Digital Care Hub](#)

Contact us

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 20 May 2024.

If you are interested in contributing by writing about a topic of your choice, perhaps something that is particularly important to you, please contact us at

ASC.ContractsManagement@slough.gov.uk