

Adult Social Care



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Provider bulletin

December 2023

As Christmas is fast approaching I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work and dedication throughout 2023. You have made an immense contribution to ensuring people living in Slough who need care and support are achieving better outcomes and receiving quality services. We will continue to work closely with you in the coming year and believe this partnership will ensure we continue to serve residents well.

I hope you all get a chance to have a break over the festive season and we look forward to working with you in the New Year

Lynn Johnson, Interim Group Manager, Market Management

Training

Updated Links: NHS England funded Resilience Based Clinical Supervision programme (RBCS) (information for all nurses within social care settings)

The Foundation of Nursing Studies (FoNS) are delighted to be launching a RBCS programme specifically for nurses across England in all social care settings. The programme will be delivered virtually to a group of participants (Champions), using MS Teams, by FoNS facilitators.

The programme involves:

Recommended pre-work (up to 1 hour)

Sessions 1-3 (3 hours each) – around one week apart. These sessions will focus on both the principles underpinning RBCS and the practice of RBCS

Sessions 4-5 (2 hours each) – around one month apart. These sessions will focus on the practice of RBCS and the cascade of RBCS within your organisation

The total commitment is approximately 15 hours per participant, including pre-work, group work, reflection, and evaluation. Want to find out more?

Contact rbc.socialcare@fons.org for an informal discussion and to find out more about the programme.

Staff wellbeing

Carers' Leave Act

The Carer's Leave Bill has received Royal Assent and is due to become law in 2024. This means there will be a new workplace law to support working carers including:

- New flexible working entitlement to one week's unpaid leave per year for employees who are providing and arranging care for a relative or dependent. This is applicable from the first day of their employment
- Employees can take the unpaid leave flexibly for planned and foreseen caring commitments
- The law provides employment protection from dismissal or any detriment because employees have taken time off due to caring responsibilities

All organisations need to be prepared to deliver the changes to how they support unpaid carers in the workforce. Here are a few things to consider:

- Do you have any working carers in your organisation?
- Do your employees recognise themselves as carers?
- How can you support your working carers to balance work and caring responsibilities?
- Are you working with HR advisors to keep up to date with the legal requirements under the Carers Leave Bill?

Register with [UK | Carers UK](#) to keep up to date with news, information, and resources.

Public Health

Seasonal Vaccinations

It's still possible to book your vaccinations after 15 December through local NHS vaccination services, like pharmacies or walk-in sites. However, there will be fewer appointments, and you may need to travel further.

As the vaccines take up to two weeks to provide maximum protection, getting vaccinated soon will help people 'get winter strong' and help reduce the risk of severe disease in time for Christmas.

Even if you were vaccinated last year, it is important to get your jabs again this season as the viruses can change year to year, and protection decreases over time.

Please take advantage of this preventative measure to keep yourself, and the people you care for, well and winter strong.

Health and social care workers are eligible to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine, which can be booked via [Book, cancel or change a COVID-19 vaccination appointment - NHS](#) or you can find a pharmacy [Find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site - NHS](#)

If you are unable to book an appointment online, you can call 119 free of charge.

Capacity tracker

The Capacity Tracker team has been developing a new tool to help members of the public search for Care Home vacancies via a new public facing website, CareFind. Capacity Tracker will provide this as a free service for Providers on an opt-out basis, with some conditions in place.

The concept of CareFind has been developed with the support of the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England. CareFind aims to give benefits to both providers and people looking for care services, building on the information and resource of Capacity Tracker.

In the New Year they will be running training sessions on how to create your public profile that will be visible on CareFind. To register for a session, please click on the link below. [Home - Capacity Tracker](#)

The Capacity Tracker team recommend providers review and refresh current provider details.

If you have any queries when updating your information, please don't hesitate to contact the Capacity Tracker Support Centre on 0191 691 3729 or necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net

Other updates

Updated Guidance: Free personal protective equipment (PPE) scheme (information for all providers)

This guidance covers the provision of free PPE for all health, social care, and public sector workers for COVID-19 infection control, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024.

The 'Estimated stock-out dates by PPE category' has been updated to move 'eye protectors, visor' to the list of out-of-stock items. The full guidance can be found below:

[Free personal protective equipment \(PPE\) scheme - GOV.UK](#)

Health and safety building compliance forms

The Quality Assurance team reports on H&S building compliance every month to the council. Providers must email their certificates and reports as and when checks are completed to ASC.Commissioning@slough.gov.uk to ensure they are recorded as compliant.

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.