

Adult Social Care



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Provider bulletin

January 2024

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your teams a Happy New Year and hope that you managed to take some time out to relax over the festive period.

I know that you will go into 2024 with the same level of commitment to making a positive difference to people's lives and supporting your staff, and I thank you for that.

Please share this newsletter with your staff.

Lynn Johnson Interim Group Manager Market Management

Training

Skills for Care, London and South East nominated individual network

Next meeting - Thursday 08 February 2024, 10:00 - 12:00

In this supportive community of practice, our main goal is to support you as nominated individuals in your roles and empower your voices within the social care sector, celebrating successes and addressing challenges together. We will be joined by Mark Topps, Columnist for 'Log my Care' and co-host of 'The Caring View'.

Please follow this link to register for this free online event.

[London and South East Nominated Individual network meetings 2023 - 2024](#)

Public Health

COVID and Flu vaccinations: current vaccination campaign ending 31 January 2024

Protecting yourself against serious illness during the winter months is of paramount importance, and vaccination serves as an essential component in achieving this goal.

This year, individuals who fall within the following categories are eligible to receive COVID and Flu vaccinations: those over the age of 65, individuals with conditions that place them at greater risk from COVID and Flu, residents of care homes, frontline health, or social care workers.

The current campaign will end on Wednesday 31 January 2024.

It is safe to receive both the COVID and Flu vaccines at the same time, and individuals may also be offered the flu vaccine.

Vaccinations continue to provide the most effective protection against serious illness and hospitalisation due to COVID-19 and flu, and it is crucial that individuals take advantage of this protection when offered and encourage eligible loved ones to do the same.

Local resources

Let's Talk Commissioning

During 23/24 we have been reviewing our strategic direction and developed a range of commissioning strategies including Learning Disabilities, Older People and Carers.

These Strategies have been co-produced with people who use services and carers including contributions from the local Co-Production Network and views from local care home residents, staff and families. All of the contributions are included as appendices and each Strategy has its own Action Plan identifying the strategic priorities for the next 3 years.

Steering Groups are being established to oversee action plan implementation and to act as a champion of all things e.g., Older People, Learning Disabilities, Carers, etc.

As well as Council officers, key partners and stakeholder, carers and people who use services will be involved to hold the Council to account for the delivery of the action plans. Steering Groups will come together to share experiences, opportunities, and knowledge, offer mutual support, and discuss issues that are important to them and enable people who use services and carers to have their voice heard.

The Steering Groups will meet on a quarterly basis with an Annual General Meeting to undertake several actions:

- Agree and elect Co Chairs (every 3 years)
- Review the progress with the Action Plan
- Review the Strategy (every 3 years unless major changes in statute)
- Review Terms of Reference
- Present the annual report from the Co-Chairs to Cabinet.

For any further information please contact Vicky Tutty, Group Manager, People Strategy and Commissioning, SBC Victoria.Tutty@slough.gov.uk

Health and safety building compliance forms

The Contracts Management 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.

Other updates

Government sets out plans to boost care workforce

The DHSC has unveiled measures to reaffirm care work as a career, helping to recruit and retain talent by providing accredited qualifications, training and funded apprenticeships.

Skills for Care have been working in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to develop the first part of the pathway, which focuses on staff working in direct care roles and outlines an initial four role categories.

[Care workforce pathway for adult social care: overview - GOV.UK](#)

Preparing for the CQC Single Assessment Framework

Providers should thoroughly read and understand the CQC single assessment framework. This includes the quality statements and evidence categories.

Training and education: Providers should invest in training and education for themselves and their staff teams. This can include attending workshops, webinars, or conferences that focus on the new framework. Additionally, providers can consider hiring external consultants or experts to provide specialised training.

Internal audits and assessments: Providers should conduct internal audits and assessments to identify any gaps or areas for improvement in their current practices. This can help them align their processes with the requirements of the new framework.

Documentation and record-keeping: Providers should ensure that they have proper documentation and record-keeping systems in place. This includes maintaining accurate and up-to-date records of their policies, procedures, and evidence of compliance with the framework.

Collaboration and networking: Providers can benefit from collaborating and networking with other care providers in the region. This can involve sharing best practices, discussing challenges, and learning from each other's experiences.

Continuous improvement: Providers should adopt a mindset of continuous improvement. This involves regularly reviewing and updating their practices to ensure they are in line with the latest guidelines and recommendations.

By taking these steps, care providers can better prepare themselves for the new CQC single assessment framework and ensure they are ready to meet the required standards.

CQC Consultation on Visiting in Care Homes

The Care Quality Commission is consulting on proposed guidance to help providers and other stakeholders understand and meet the new fundamental standard on

visiting and accompanying in care homes, and their roles and responsibilities under it.

The guidance also sets out what people using health and social care services and their families, friends or advocates can expect.

This follows the government's consultation during summer 2023, and the finding that most people supported the proposal to introduce a fundamental standard on visiting and being accompanied on appointments that providers must meet.

The new fundamental standard aims to make sure:

- people staying in a care home can receive visits from people they want to see
- people living in a care home are not discouraged from making social visits outside the home

people attending appointments in a hospital or hospice, that do not require an overnight stay, can be accompanied by a family member, friend, or advocate if they want someone with them.

Given the timescales the government has set out for the regulation to come into force on 6 April 2024, CQC welcome all responses by midday on 20 February 2024.

They have published draft guidance and invite members of the public and providers, their representatives, and other stakeholders to give us their feedback through our online form or easy read.

Find out more

[Consultation on our guidance on visiting in care homes, hospitals, and hospices - Care Quality Commission](#)

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.