



Monday 04 October 2021

What's in your Partners in Care bulletin?

This weekly bulletin provides details of training, guidance, access to past editions and lots more. There's also helpful information on the web pages dedicated to our Independent Care Provider colleagues.

[Please click here to bookmark these pages](#)



Extension of PPE Portal and Consultation

The portal for free PPE for social care providers has been extended to March 2022. Full details are available through this [link](#).

DHSC have launched a consultation on continuing this service beyond this time. Responses are welcomed from across the sector to help the Government make a well-balanced and considered decision, to comment please follow this [link](#).

To note: From Monday 4 October 2021, the new phone number for emergency PPE requests will be: 0800 876 6802 (lines open Mon-Sun 7am-7pm). The National Supply Disruption Response line (0800 915 9964) remains in use to report disruptions to any medical products."

Guidance on Medical Exemption from COVID-19 Vaccination and Capacity Tracker Reporting

DHSC have published [guidance](#) on how people can apply for official proof that, for medical reasons, they are unable to be vaccinated and/or tested for COVID-19. All exemptions will be confirmed by a doctor, specialist clinician or midwife. If approved, the [NHS COVID Pass](#) can then be used by an individual to prove their status

The possible reasons for exemptions are limited, and include:

- People receiving end of life care where vaccination is not in the person's best interests
- People with learning disabilities or autistic individuals, or people with a combination of impairments where vaccination cannot be provided through reasonable adjustments
- A person with severe allergies to all currently available vaccines
- Those who have had an adverse reaction to the first dose (for example, myocarditis)
- Short-term exemptions will also be available for those with short-term medical conditions and as an option that some pregnant women may choose to take. Exemptions for pregnant women will expire 16 weeks post-partum, in order to allow them to become fully vaccinated after birth.

To assist in recording exemptions, from **7 October 2021** Care Homes will be asked to update their Covid vaccination information within Capacity Tracker for numbers of staff with a medical exemption certificate. They will also be asked to record the numbers of staff that have received a Covid vaccination abroad e.g. Janssen vaccination.



Celebrating Homecare Day- 22 September

[Celebrating Homecare Day](#) took place for the very first time earlier in the month. This important initiative, developed by the [Homecare Association](#) in conjunction with the [Care Workers' Charity](#), is dedicated to highlighting the amazing difference homecare services make in people's lives every day. Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, joined many other organisations and individuals, flying the flag for homecare colleagues, by recording a [special video message](#), celebrating their incredible contribution to the health and happiness of friends, families and loved ones during these difficult times.

She also took the opportunity to encourage colleagues to nominate their fellow care workers for the [Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care Awards](#). [Find out more in her blog](#), which launched the awards earlier this year, including links to the nomination forms.

Need to know



Partners in Care Virtual Forum

Partners in Care Virtual Forum will take place **Thursday 07 September from 2.00-2.45**. The technology issues that affected the last two meetings have now been resolved, our apologies again for those.

Jan Tuson, the Playlist for Life Local Organiser for York and the surrounding areas, will be talking at Partners in Care Forum this week about the range of

benefits that having a personal playlist of songs can have for someone living with dementia, including reducing anxiety and depression and improving communication/interaction with loved ones and/or carers.

These sessions are designed to provide support with the latest guidance, updates from across health and social care and a chance to ask questions of both health professionals and fellow care sector colleagues. The group is shaped by our care providers, so if you have anything you would like to raise for this meeting please get in touch. All care providers and partners agencies are welcome at the forum, please contact sam.varo@nhs.net if you don't have the calendar invite.



Free London Symphony Orchestra Thank You Concert for Care Homes

London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) are performing a free live streamed concert for care home staff and residents to say thank you for your hard work and resilience through the pandemic. The concert is being broadcast from Bath Forum and is made possible by a partnership between Bristol Beacon and Bristol Care Homes, who wanted to extend the opportunity to watch the concert to all care homes across the country.

For one night only, the concert will be broadcast live via YouTube at **7:15pm on Thursday 7 October 2021**. Any care home in the country can tune in for free to this special thank you broadcast. LSO would like to see photos of you watching the concert together, so please share them on social media using the hashtag #ThankYouCareHomes and tagging @Bristol_Beacon and @londonsymphony

In order to play the stream on your Smart TV, [follow this instruction guide](#).

Update Regarding Voided or Expired Test Kits by NHS Track and Trace

A number of providers have had issues where expired tests submitted have been declared as void by NHS Track and Trace when received into labs. Please find guidance circulated by them below to help providers identify any expired test kits. If you think you have been sent kits that have already expired, then please send an email with a photo attached of expiry dates on the box, the packet and the vial to carehometesting@dhsc.gov.uk.

1 Check the box the tests were delivered in

The expiry date will be printed on a label affixed to the larger cardboard box that your tests are sent in.



2 Check the exterior plastic bag in each test kit

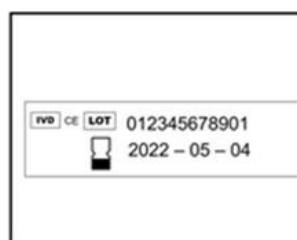
An expiry date may be printed on one of the plastic bags. Look out for the egg-timer symbol.



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3 Check the vial

Expiry dates are added to some of the vials but not all. Look out for the egg-timer symbol.



Training and Development Opportunities

Webinar: CQC Monitoring, Inspection and Smarter Regulation

When: Tuesday 05 October 10.00-10.30

This webinar, delivered in partnership with CQC, looks at how monitoring, inspection and support is evolving as the regulator implements their new strategy and smarter regulation. The webinar provides the opportunity to learn more about current CQC processes and what further changes on the horizon. This webinar is aimed at frontline managers, quality and compliance leads and others involved in preparing for the service for CQC monitoring and inspection. Skills for Care will also be sharing insight into our own resources and future plans to enable you to continue to deliver good and outstanding care.

To register, please follow this [link](#)

Valuing Nursing in Social Care for Students, Employers and Educators

When: Wednesday 13 October 10.00-15.00

This event will highlight how incredibly rewarding and complex it is to be a nurse in adult social care. It's the first of its kind and will feature a special welcome from our CEO Oonagh Smyth, with keynote addresses from Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, and Professor Brian J Webster-Henderson, Chair of Council of Deans. At the event we'll be launching our new guide 'How to make the most of student nurse placements in social care settings – for the person who needs care and support, employer, student, and education provider', which was developed in partnership with Health Education England. Hot topics will include digital transformation and virtual placements in social care, and the social model of care. As well as providing an opportunity for regional networking, there will also be the chance to ask questions of a panel made up of key national stakeholders for nursing in social care. This event is aimed at:

- students undertaking pre-registration undergraduate healthcare degrees
- social care employers who would like to expand or develop their offer of placements

colleagues from the higher education sector.

To register please follow this [link](#)

Further Information

Care Home Feedback Survey-Digital Connectivity

Over the course of the pandemic we have been working hard to support care homes and your residents through digital care initiatives to increase connectivity between care providers the health and social services who support you.

Ahead of winter, we are re-running a short 5 minute survey we first took last year to see how things have changed in how these are being used across our area, and will also be surveying clinical colleagues to see how they are working from their perspective. This will be a chance to take of stock of these initiatives are working in your setting, and gather feedback (Whether good or bad) to identify how those could work differently to provide the best support possible. For any further feedback please contact sam.varo@nhs.net

The survey can be accessed through this [link](#).



Skills for Care Workforce Development Fund 2021-22

The Workforce Development Fund for this year is now open to adult social care employers in England to support the development of their staff at all levels, offering funding for a wide range of qualifications, learning programmes and digital learning modules. This year the WDF will continue to provide enhanced funding for completion of leadership and management qualifications, learning programmes and digital learning modules. The funding will support registered managers and other frontline managers with their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Certification, ensuring that they're able to access learning opportunities to continue to develop their knowledge and skills to effectively lead and support the workforce. Additional priorities may also emerge during the year in response to COVID-19 recovery.

For more information please follow this [link](#)

This bulletin is produced by NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group.

Do you have.....

- **thoughts or comments to share?**
- **news that you would like to feature in the bulletin?**
- **items to be discussed at the next Partners in Care Meeting?**

If so please contact sam.varo@nhs.net