



Monday 06 December 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](#)



## Guidance for Seasonal Decorations

Please find through this [link](#) a bulletin from the Community IPC Team with some practical suggestions which will allow residents and staff to enjoy a festive atmosphere over the festive season without having an adverse impact on infection prevention and control. The key points for providers to note are:

- Place Christmas trees in an area where contact or touching is minimal. If appropriate, arrange a discrete boundary around the tree.
- Decorations should be single season use and disposed of when taken down unless they are washable or wipeable with

a disinfectant.

- To facilitate frequent cleaning and disinfection of surfaces, try to avoid putting decorations on horizontal surfaces keeping them free from clutter.
- Decorations that are hung or displayed on walls should be at a height they can't be touched.
- Display cloth and knitted toys where they can't be touched.
- Residents can display their own Christmas tree and decorations in their room.
- Remember, if there is an outbreak of infection in the home, after the outbreak is over the decorations must be appropriately cleaned and disinfected or disposed of.

## Staff Wellbeing Slides and Resources

Please find through this [link](#), slides that providers may find supportive to promote wellbeing and signpost staff to support services. This includes ideas of how different providers have been managing this in their settings, as well as links for support from the Humber Coast and Vale Resilience Hub, Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust's mindfulness offer and the Mindfulness Institute.



## Research Opportunities for Care Providers

**Survey of Care Workers Experiences of COVID-19:** The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) are seeking views in a national survey of care workers' experiences during COVID19. This is the second wave of the survey (the first was April-June 2021) but everyone delivering frontline care in the social care sector is eligible to take part, even if you did not take part before.

A [presentation](#) of the wave one findings is available and highlights the significant impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of the social care workforce, including raising issues of abuse and working conditions. Those who complete the survey will be given the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win a £50 Amazon voucher.

**Care Home Staff Survey on Acute Deterioration Practices:** The study is investigating how care home staff recognise and respond to acute deterioration in

care home residents. We want to hear from older people care homes – both nursing and residential care home staff involved in caring for residents. This includes managers, clinical leads, registered nurses and assistant care staff. The findings from the survey will be published in healthcare journals. All survey responses will be anonymous. The survey takes less than 10 minutes. For further information please contact the lead researcher: [ntxsyh@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ntxsyh@nottingham.ac.uk)

**ClimaCare Research Project:** This study is looking into the impact of climate change, in particular at how to mitigate the impact of rising temperatures and overheating. The project has almost 40 care homes already participating, and is remotely monitoring the indoor environment and the response of residents and staff. There are still have vacancies for interested services - any care home in England can participate. You will receive tailored advice from international experts on how to improve your resilience in hot weather and heat waves. Further information is available [here](#), and if you are interested in taking part please email April Cole at CQC ([April.cole@cqc.org.uk](mailto:April.cole@cqc.org.uk)) or Professor Rajat Gupta at Oxford Brookes University ([rgupta@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:rgupta@brookes.ac.uk)).

## Medicines Ordering in Care Homes Survey

We know that ordering medication is a significant task for care homes and is done in many different ways. To help us look at the overall system and how to improve it, we would be very grateful if homes would be happy to complete this quick 2 minute/4 question [survey](#) around your current ordering process. If homes would be able to respond by **Wed 08 December** that would be a great help. If you have any other comments you would like make you are welcome to do so through the survey or in response to this email.

## Need to know



### Partners in Care Virtual Forum

Partners in Care Virtual Forum will take place **Thursday 09 December from 2.00-2.45**. This week's session will include a discussion on recruitment and retention of staff, DBS Checks and Risk Assessments with input from both North Yorkshire

County Council and City of York Council. We will be also sharing good new stories from our care providers from Autumn.

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](mailto:sam.varo@nhs.net) if you don't have the calendar invite.

## Discharge Quality Standards Consultation

This week is the final chance for care providers to share their views to shape a new set of discharge standards for the area. These have been created by the North Yorkshire and York Quality of Discharges Group based on available guidance, evidence and contributed too by a wide range of partners, and created following feedback of instances where the quality of discharge has led to a poor experience for the patient and their families and sometimes left the person at risk of harm.

We will be holding a virtual consultation event on **Tuesday 7 December 2.00-3.00** which will provide a chance for providers to come together as a collaborative to share you views. Alternatively providers can also comment via email to [sam.varo@nhs.net](mailto:sam.varo@nhs.net). The deadline for responses will be **Friday 10 December**.

- [Draft Quality Standards](#)
  - [Tips When Supporting Discharge of Residents into Care Homes](#)
  - [Consultation Script for Staff](#)
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## Learning and Development Opportunities

### **Lecture- Valuing 'Nous' - Injecting Health and Social Care with a Booster of Emotional Intelligence.**

**When: Tuesday 07 December 6.00-7.45**

Dr David Sheard (Professor of Emotional Intelligence in Care in the School of Science, Technology and Health at York St John University) will be delivering this lecture to make a positive call to refocus our NHS and Social Care services on emotional intelligence, as this kind of nous has not always been central to health and social care. Emotional intelligence has been defined as the ability to perceive, use, understand, manage and handle emotions.

The session can be attended either virtually for in person. For more information please follow this [link](#).

### **Effective Supervision: Developing Supervision Skills to Support your Staff**

**When: Tuesday 7 December 2021 10:00 - 10:30**

This webinar is aimed at frontline managers and people who supervise staff. It'll look at some practical approaches to developing new supervision skills, including contributions from specialist learning providers and employers best practice approaches to supervision and how this benefits the staff you support. The webinar will signpost to resources and tools from Skills for Care to support supervisors and answer some of the most common questions that employers have.

For more information and to register please follow this [link](#).

## Further Information

## Flu Vaccination Letter for Care Providers

Please find through this [link](#) a letter addressed by NHS England and Improvement and North Yorkshire County Council to all their care providers but also applicable to providers in other local authority areas, which sets out how providers can access vaccines for both those in their care and their staff. The letter also sets out how providers can support the seasonal vaccination campaign, including making sure each member of staff is aware how to access, keeping your vaccination records up to date and to be able to identify symptoms of flu so the possibility of an outbreak is reduced.

Flu and its complications can be serious and sometimes fatal, particularly for older people, and those who have long term health conditions. The virus spreads rapidly, especially in care homes largely due to the age of the clients (many of whom have co-morbidities/long term conditions) and the close contact between residents and staff, with outbreaks often seen in these settings during winter months. Outbreaks of flu-like illness cause severe disruption to health and social care services as a result of, for example, reduced staffing due to sickness, home closures (due to outbreaks) and delayed discharges from hospital. This therefore makes vaccination of staff caring for these people even more important. All frontline health and social care workers should receive a vaccination this season where possible.



## Visiting Professionals Proof of Vaccination for Care Homes- Reminder and Feedback Request

As a reminder, please find this [letter](#) which details the 3 methods of which proof of vaccination from a visiting professional can be demonstrated. Homes **must** now check any vaccination status of any professionals visiting the home, and any of these forms of identification **must** be accepted in order to avoid a risk to residents of staff being turned away. For those needing to demonstrate proof it can be good practice to request a letter demonstrating proof, as a standby in case of any technical issues.

If providers are having any issues with visiting staff showing proof of vaccination, we would really value if this could be fed back for us to escalate as necessary. We would also appreciate any feedback in understand how homes are managing the

recording of vaccination status of visiting staff or on any issues you are experiencing around this. Please send feedback to [sam.varo@nhs.net](mailto:sam.varo@nhs.net).

**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](mailto:sam.varo@nhs.net)