



**Monday 13 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](#)

## Contacts for Incident Reporting

To report any patient safety concerns regarding York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, please use this dedicated generic email.

This will allow the Trust to continuously receipt, acknowledge and investigate these concerns. Please send to: [yhs-tr.s2s@nhs.net](mailto:yhs-tr.s2s@nhs.net)

To make a complaint or to highlight any concerns regarding Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, please email [yas.patientrelations@nhs.net](mailto:yas.patientrelations@nhs.net).

Please find through this [link](#) a template which you are able to complete, which will ensure they have all the information required to investigate.



## 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.

## Need to know



### Queen's Nursing Institute IPC Champions Network

The Queen's Nursing Institute has launched a new infection prevention and control (IPC) scheme for nurses and their colleagues working in adult social care settings. The new IPC Champions Network builds on measures already in place to maintain and continuously improve standards across the care sector. Lessons learned from the pandemic will be rolled out through the network to help minimise the future spread of infections, including COVID-19 and flu, to protect people living in care homes and receiving home care. The champions will share best practice through a series of virtual meetings, a newsletter and discussion forum.

The Network will be open to frontline social care staff responsible for infection prevention and control in their specific areas or homes.

To join the Network, please follow this [link](#). Information from the network launch which took place on 30 November can be found through this [link](#).



### **Success in NYCC People's Choice Award- COVID-19 Care Settings Response.**

At the recent North Yorkshire County Council 'Innovation Awards 2021', the 'People's Choice Award' was presented for the 'Covid-19 Care Settings Response'. This award recognises how colleagues within NYCC and stakeholders collaborated to support care providers and their staff during the pandemic. The VOY CCG Nursing Team are honoured to have been included in this recognition alongside other colleagues at NYCC.



### **Good News from Vale of York Providers**

At last week's Partners in Care Virtual Forum the group heard about some of the great work providers in our area have been doing to support those in their care. The full slides from the update can be found through this [link](#), and include:

- Julie Norman from Heritage Healthcare being recognised as Carer of the Year at the York Community Pride Awards
- Wilf Ward Family Trust supporting one of their clients to take part in a dragon boat race
- Staff from Ouse View raising over £1000 through a memory walk in aid of Alzheimer's UK

- Fulford Nursing Home being nominated for Management Team of the Year at the Caring UK Awards
- The Great Care Company getting through the regional final of the Great British Care Awards in the Care Team Category.

## Learning and Development Opportunities

### **Strategies for Supporting Palliative Care for People with Learning Disabilities in Family Homes and Residential/Care Home**

**When: Wednesday 15 December 12.00-1.00**

Irene Tuffrey-Wijne, will be discussing strategies for supporting palliative care for people with learning disabilities in family homes and residential/care home settings. Her presentation will include practical examples of end-of-life day to day care procedures.

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

### **Skills for Care Yorkshire and Humber Webinar- Retention and Recruitment**

**When: Tuesday 11 January 10.00-11.30**

Recruiting new workers can be challenging at any time, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has made this challenge even greater. From our research and work with employers across the sector we know what has worked well for others. In this session we will outline the support available to help you find and keep the right people.

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

## Further Information

### 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



### 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).

appropriately cleaned and disinfected or disposed of.

**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)