



Adult Social Care Cell Policy Statement on Day Services and Short Breaks

**Lancashire Resilience Forum
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Author:

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Version		Revision date	Summary of changes
1		August 2020	Original version
2		05/10/2020	Updated guidance on staff self-isolation
3		23/10/2020	Transport section added
4		4/11/2020	Update for national lockdown
5		21/12/2020	Definition in Transport section

Adult Social Care Cell

Policy Statement on Day Services and Short Breaks

At the outset of the pandemic in March 2020 a number of services across the three upper tier councils in Lancashire were suspended/closed in order to keep service users and staff in these settings as safe as possible. This included some Short Breaks and many Day Time Support services.

Residential, Supported Living and Shared Lives services remained open, with appropriate infection prevention measures, as these are people's homes and could not be closed. Services delivered directly to people in their own home including Domiciliary Care have also continued throughout the pandemic as they are vital to keeping vulnerable people safe and well.

This is entirely consistent with other parts of the care sector and country. All Infection Prevention Control (IPC) measures, visiting policies etc. have been put in place where services have remained open, ratified via the LRF Adult Social Care Cell, and where appropriate relevant testing of staff and residents has been completed.

As part of the ongoing management of the pandemic and restoration of services some services that had been closed have now started to re-open, on a phased basis and with all practicable safety measures put in place. For example, the LCC Short Breaks services that had been closed were re-opened at the end of July. This means that unmet needs of service users can be addressed and we can support families who have been under immense strain since the services have been closed. People have been reliant on these services in the past to help maintain home situations by allowing periods of respite as identified in their Care Assessments. All of these services have now got the covid19 safe place risk assessments in place.

Short Breaks services have been the type of services that have remained open during the pandemic but in relatively lower numbers. All residential short break services are included in the whole care home testing programme and are able to undertake testing of staff and people using the service as required.

The government is currently reviewing the whole home testing programme with a view to introducing alternative arrangements. We are committed to maintaining appropriate testing of service users and staff and as such our approach to staff and service user testing remains a priority and is kept under constant review. Additionally, again after extensive and rigorous planning, Day Services which have been closed are now re-opening. These too are crucial to families to allow them to maintain their caring responsibilities and essential to the wellbeing of service users who have been significantly restricted over the period of closure. Contact with some service users has been maintained through home visits and escorted activities outside the home, restrictions permitting.

Day Services will be re-opened cautiously, and will arguably provide a safer controlled environment than home visiting. Staff will adhere to IPC measures and as far as possible social distancing rules by the use of 'Zones'. All Day services have got the covid19 safe place risk assessments and are controlled care environments. The numbers in each zone have been carefully planned for ratios of staff to persons who receive support and kept low for the first phase of opening.

We acknowledge the increased local restrictions in Lancashire applied by the government since the 31st July 2020 but believe the above services to be essential care services countywide and should not be impacted by the local restrictions in any District/Area unless specifically identified. The measures taken to provide ongoing safe care to our most vulnerable citizens is entirely compatible with the recently announced national government guidance.

To withdraw services that have been operational throughout the pandemic and /or further delay the reinstatement of other care services in parts of the county with higher levels of concern, would in our professional opinion, be detrimental to the health and well-being of vulnerable members of our communities, potentially exacerbating risk to a level that could result in an increased rate of hospital or residential care admission. Responsible and safe measures have been instigated to manage and mitigate risk in order to protect those receiving and delivering the care, and they will be kept under review. A more regular testing programme would further enhance these measures. The status of these services remaining in place are reviewed daily using a risk based approach and regularly reported into local senior management structures including the LRF Adult Social Care Cell.

All relevant national and local policies related to care services will be applied as will any regular testing of staff and service users as recommended.

There can be no guarantee that any care service in any area can remain entirely covid19 free but we are satisfied that the above actions serve to minimise its impact. We will continue to maintain high levels of vigilance and will react with expediency and with the safety of our customers and staff at the forefront of our actions in any changing circumstances.

The Lancashire Resilience Forum take the view that Day Services should be recognised as a care setting, just as with regulated care settings such as care homes. In a regulated environment, self-isolation by staff is not needed if they are using clinical grade PPE and adhering to IPC guidance. In addition, individual risk assessments are in place.

This position applies to staff working in both Local Authority provider establishments and Independent day services in Lancashire, who will not need to self-isolate if:

- They are using clinical grade PPE, as supplied by regulated PPE supplies i.e. National portal or LRF emergency supplies or other suppliers supported by health and social care.
- They are adhering to IPC measures
- The service provider holds individual risk assessments for members of staff

This advice has been confirmed in the [NHS Covid-19 app FAQ](#) where it reiterates that the app should be used at all times, including whilst at work, except if the individual is (amongst other circumstances):

- a worker in social care and are wearing medical grade PPE such as a surgical mask

Equally, staff working in day services who are not compliant with the clinical grade PPE and IPC measures or where there has been a breach of guidance following a risk assessment must self-isolate for 14 days.

On Transport

The principles applied above apply on Service User Transport*.

- In the event of a staff member (driver or passenger assistant) or service user (passenger) testing positive and both the staff member(s) and passenger were wearing clinical grade PPE, there is no requirement for the passenger or staff member(s) who is not the party in receipt of a positive test to self-isolate following notification of their contact with the party who has tested positive, as the risk has been assessed as mitigated by the wearing of clinical grade PPE by both parties.

* Service User Transport is defined as any mode of transport used to transport service users and which, in respect of each journey involving the transport of a service user, carries only the service user(s) and the member(s) of staff. We recognise that in the absence of Travelcare for Independent sector providers, private vehicles are often used for transporting service users to the service, and in some circumstances are preferable, due to the needs of an individual. If private vehicles are used:

- they must be cleaned before use each time
- windows must be kept open
- Staff and service users must wear appropriate clinical grade PPE


Providers who are unsure as to whether they have all of these measures in place, can contact the Infection Prevention and Control team at InfectionPrevention@lancashire.gov.uk

The adult social care cell would like to record its thanks to all of the staff who have worked so hard in keeping these services open and are now working to safely re-open the services that have been closed.

Update in light of national lockdown in effect from 5th November 2020 to 2nd December 2020

The Adult Social Care Cell acknowledges the importance and necessity of measures introduced by the government in its attempt to reduce the acceleration of transmission of the virus across the country and the inevitable increase in pressure on our hospitals and care and support services, and sadly, deaths as a consequential result.

Whilst acknowledging and understanding the need for Lancashire citizens to reduce their movements and close contacts during this second lockdown period the Cell



wishes to re state and confirm its position and proposals for day services and short breaks services outlined above.

There is growing evidence and support for the view that it is of great benefit and importance from a health and wellbeing perspective that users of care and support services and their families and carers, and in particular for those with cognitive and/or physical impairment, should where ever possible continue to be given access to the care and support services that they want and need.

The Cell understands that not all service users or their families or carers will feel able or willing to continue to access day services and/or short breaks services during this time. However where there is a desire for service users and their families and carers to continue to access services the Cell is actively supporting this and is seeking to implement additional measures such as rapid testing for staff and service users in day centres, reinforcement and stringent use of IPC measures, continued training and reminders in the correct use of PPE and enhanced cleaning and ongoing review of safe practices in the use of buildings and transport services. All services have robust Incident and Outbreak management plans in place which enable speedy and effective response to any issues and the use and deployment of staff across all services is carefully monitored and managed.