

Adult Social Care Provider Webinar

Friday 19th March 2021

Welcome and Introductions

Tony Pounder

Welcome and introductions

Purpose of webinar: key messages and updates, both national and local

Reminders:

- Fortnightly webinar for providers on Fridays, 1-2/2.30 p.m. Potentially schedule in weekly, dependent on developments and the need to quickly share key messages.
- Provider portal: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/health-and-social-care/care-service-provider-engagement/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-care-providers/>

Today's Agenda

1-2.30pm

- Provider Webinar - One Year On (Louise Taylor and Cllr Graham Gooch)
- National updates (Tony Pounder)
- Local updates (Tony Pounder)
- Vaccination Update (Joanne Reed)
- Bed Levers (Val Knight)
- Finance Update (Tony Pounder)
- Testing Update (Tony Pounder)
- Day Service Update (Tony Pounder)
- IPC Update (Ellen Smith)
- PPE Update (Ellen Smith)
- Pulse Oximetry at Home (Katie Whittle and Lydia Smith)
- Regular updates; National and Local Guidance (Nichola Morris)

Provider Webinar – One Year On

Louise Taylor - Executive Director of Adult, Health and Wellbeing Services

Cllr Graham Gooch - Cabinet Member for Adult Services

Lancashire Strategy - Roadmap Outline

Objectives

- Promote and facilitate the delivery of the vaccine programme
- Identify and concentrate efforts on areas of stubborn transmission
- Ensure Lancashire is free of restrictions and allow normal life to return
- Monitor and regularly review COVID situation
- Address long term health and social inequalities to reduce the impact of future outbreaks

Guiding Principles

- Protection of life
- Public health, confidence and welfare
- Restoration of economy
- A balanced and controlled approach to normality and any future restrictions
- Always be guided by the data
- Promote vaccine and other preventative health measures

Roadmap Phases

1. Preparation - March to May 21

To reduce the virus to manageable levels by effective vaccine rollout and public health interventions.

2. Transition - May to June 21

To mitigate the impact of the virus as normal life and economy returns.

3. Recovery - June 21 to April 22

To promote Lancashire's economy, leisure industry, tourism and health whilst improving the health of the population and closely monitoring the underlying virus.

The RCG will...

- **INFORM** – Protect data integrity, provide weekly report
- **WARN** – Provide data on changing trends
- **COORDINATE** – PCR testing and deployment, meet monthly with wider network
- **PROTECT** – Corporate memory and ability to surge

National and Local Updates

Tony Pounder

National Lockdown Update



STEP 2

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.



Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups.



Rule of 6 or two households outdoors.
No household mixing indoors.



Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas.



Libraries and community centres.



Personal care premises.



All retail.



Outdoor hospitality.



All children's activities, indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).



Domestic overnight stays (household only).



Self-contained accommodation (household only).



Funerals (30), wakes, weddings, receptions (15).



Minimise travel.
No international holidays.



Event pilots begin.

Updated National Guidance - Visiting Arrangements in Care Homes - Reminder from Previous Webinar

- [Visiting arrangements in care homes \(updated 4th March\)](#)

The guidance has been replaced with a new version to reflect the announcements in the roadmap published on 22 February (COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021) for the next phase in opening up care home visiting. Added a new document: 'Summary of guidance for visitors'.

LRF Care Home Visiting Policy Update – Reminder from Previous Webinar

- The LRF Care Home Visiting Policy was updated on 5th March; purpose of this local guidance is to highlight the relevant key messages and guidance for care home visitors which came into effect from 8th March 2021.
- The updated policy can be found here: [Link](#)

Professionals Visiting Care Homes – National Guidance

- Updated Guidance (11th March) [Link here](#)

The key changes are:

- The default position is that without a negative test, the professional should not be allowed into the care home, (unless in an emergency, unless overridden by the care home manager following a risk based decision, or unless their entry is required by law such as for CQC inspectors).
- For NHS professionals, care homes should see evidence from the professional of a negative rapid lateral flow test within the last 72hrs, which shows they are following the NHS staff testing regime.
- As per the previous guidance, professionals who are not part of regular testing for NHS staff or CQC inspectors (for example professionals such as podiatrists or engineers) will need to be tested at the care home in the same way as visitors.

Professionals Visiting Care Homes

- National Guidance Con't

- If they are visiting multiple care homes in one day, they will now only need to be tested at the first care home they visit that day and can use evidence of this test at the next care home they visit that day.
- CQC inspectors will now test at home using a lateral flow test on the day of a care home inspection, in addition to their weekly PCR.
- Like care home staff, visiting professionals are exempt from testing for 90 days following a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms.

Professionals Visiting Care Homes - NHS LAMP Testing

- The majority of NHS professionals will be using rapid LFT testing for their regular testing regime. However, if a professional falls under a different NHS testing regime they may use PCR or LAMP testing.
- LAMP (loop mediated isothermal amplification), testing has been introduced which is based on the testing of saliva. It is quicker than the usual PCR swab tests and can be done at greater volume. If an individual is under this testing regime they will need to demonstrate that they are testing in line with NHS policy for that testing technology (once per week).
- Please note that for employees of NHS Trusts using (weekly) LAMP testing for routine staff testing, a negative result from the previous 7 days can be considered as sufficient evidence
- Given the importance of NHS staff testing regularly to ensure the safety of their patients, and the role of care home managers to keep their care homes safe, if care homes have any problems with NHS staff not following this policy, they should contact their clinical commissioning group (CCG) chief nurse.

Professionals Visiting Care Homes - Local Position

- At a local level, we are working with NHS colleagues to produce a local statement on our position on testing professionals visiting care homes.
- We are aware this is a concern for homes but have to manage the testing position in a risked assessed way in terms of allowing access for vital care and support for residents.

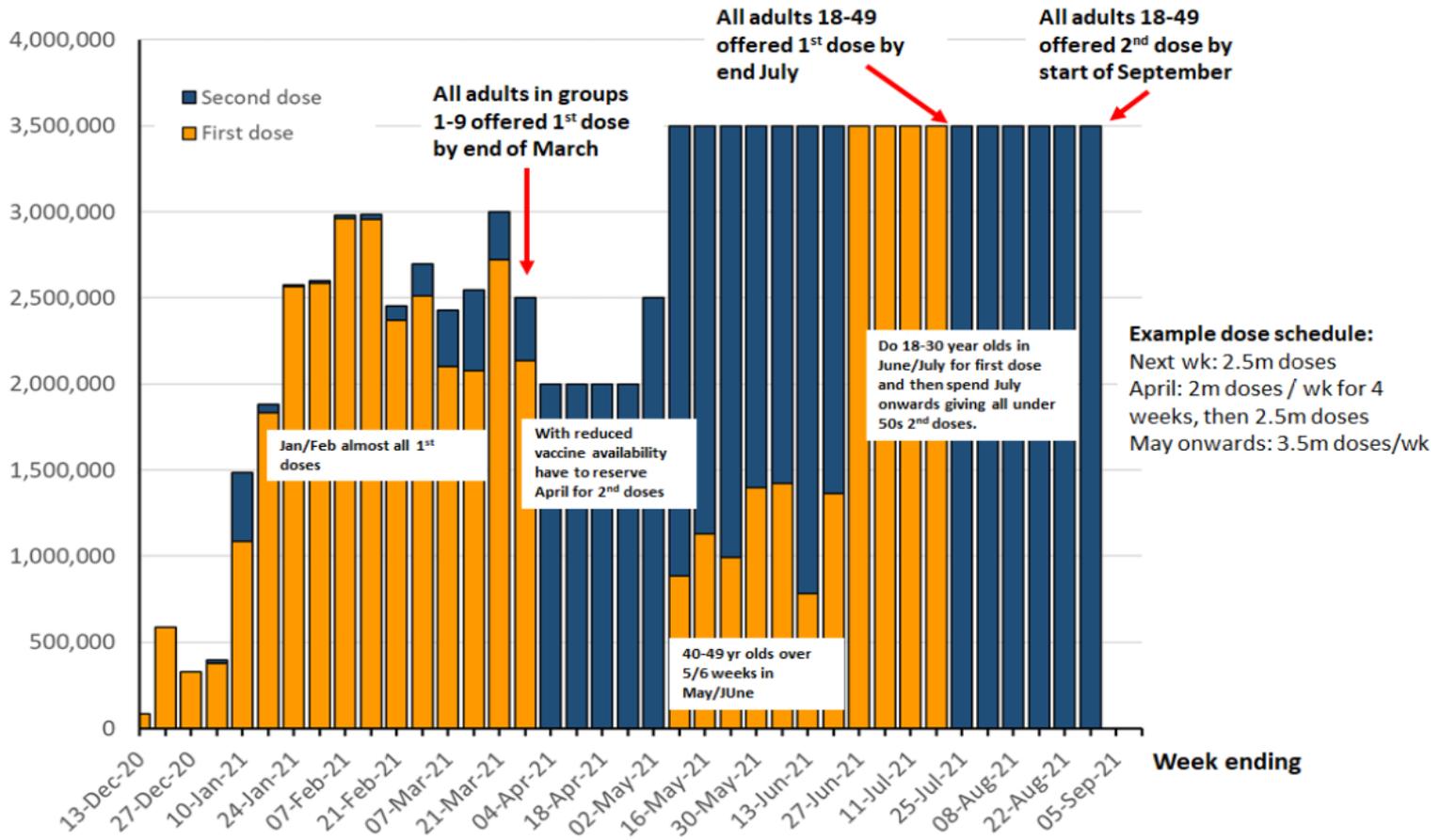
Vaccination Updates

Joanne Reed

National Vaccination Update

- 25m people now vaccinated in UK, nearly half of the adult population
- Over 90% of 65+ have taken the vaccine
- On track to offer vaccine to cohorts 1-9, (includes CEV and age 50+) in next few weeks
- NHS now alerted to vaccine supply shortages in April
- Supply in April will be retained for 2nd doses and cohorts 1-9. Govt still committed to all adults by July
- 'Known' carers should now be receiving invites from NHS
- 'Unknown' carers can now use the National Booking System or call 119
- Also LD&A and MH should be receiving invites from GPs or via letter
- Eligible H&SC staff, CEV, unpaid carers and all 50+ can still use the National Booking System or 119

National Vaccination Update Con't



Data to 14th March from <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations>

Local Vaccination Update - 2nd doses

- If you had your 1st jab via a GP they will contact you
- If you went to a hospital site they will contact you
- If you received a phone call and went to Blackburn crypt, Lancaster Town Hall or Winter gardens Blackpool you can now use the NBS or 119
- Any 2nd jab appointments booked at same time as 1st on NBS are valid
- There is a briefing note about the second dose of the vaccination on the Provider Portal: [link here](#)
- Link to the national booking system: www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination

Local Vaccination Update

- Care home staff uptake remains a local and national focus
- In L&SC the care home staff uptake rate is 75%, ranges from 100% to low 40%; many are in the high 80 to 90%, a few are in the low 50 to 40%
- In L&SC the care home resident uptake rate is 93%
- NHS and LCC working together to support increase in uptake
- Lots of vaccine hesitancy and 'myth busting' info available on our portal and NHS sites
- Info available in a range of languages, letters of assurance from faith leaders, local champions
- Local leaders giving assurance about AZ, after European regulator has now confirmed its safety
- Please continue to encourage uptake and contact Contracts team (contractmgmt@lancashire.gov.uk), if you would like to take up the interactive webinar offer from Jamie and Carol (CCG) or need any further general support or advice

Government Myth Busting Campaign

- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) [has launched a new social media campaign](#) to tackle false vaccine information shared amongst ethnic minority communities.
- The campaign is fronted by trusted local community figures such as imams, pastors and clinicians in short, shareable videos which include simple tips on how to spot misinformation and what to do to stop its spread. The key message is to **check before you share**, [signposting to the NHS](#) for the best source of information.
- The assets are designed to be shared via Whatsapp and Facebook community groups, as well as Twitter, Youtube and Instagram, to tackle false information spread through private channels.
- [Government targets false vaccine information on social media - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

NHS Pregnancy Webinar

- NHS Covid vaccination Q&A Webinar: Answering your questions on pregnancy and fertility - Wednesday 24 March, 2pm
- Experts from NHS England & NHS Improvement (Midlands) and Birmingham Women's Hospital will talk about the Covid vaccination and how it affects men and women who are trying for a family or who are pregnant
- The experts will address concerns about fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding and also answer questions from participants.
- To secure your place, visit <https://cutt.ly/KzMQF4w>
- Will upload flyer to the portal and it will be emailed also

Bed Levers

Val Knight
County Occupational Therapy Manager
(Community OT)

19/03/2021

Bed Rails versus Bed Levers



- Bed rails/sides are used to prevent the service user from falling out of bed.
- Bed levers are not designed to prevent service users from falling from their bed and should not be used as, or instead of, bed rails.
- Bed levers are designed to aid movement in bed and whilst transferring on and off the bed
- Bed levers can pose the same hazards to users as bed rails, and their use should be carefully considered, risk assessed and documented.

*Reference – Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
January 2021 - [Bed rails: management and safe use - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bed-rails-management-and-safe-use)*

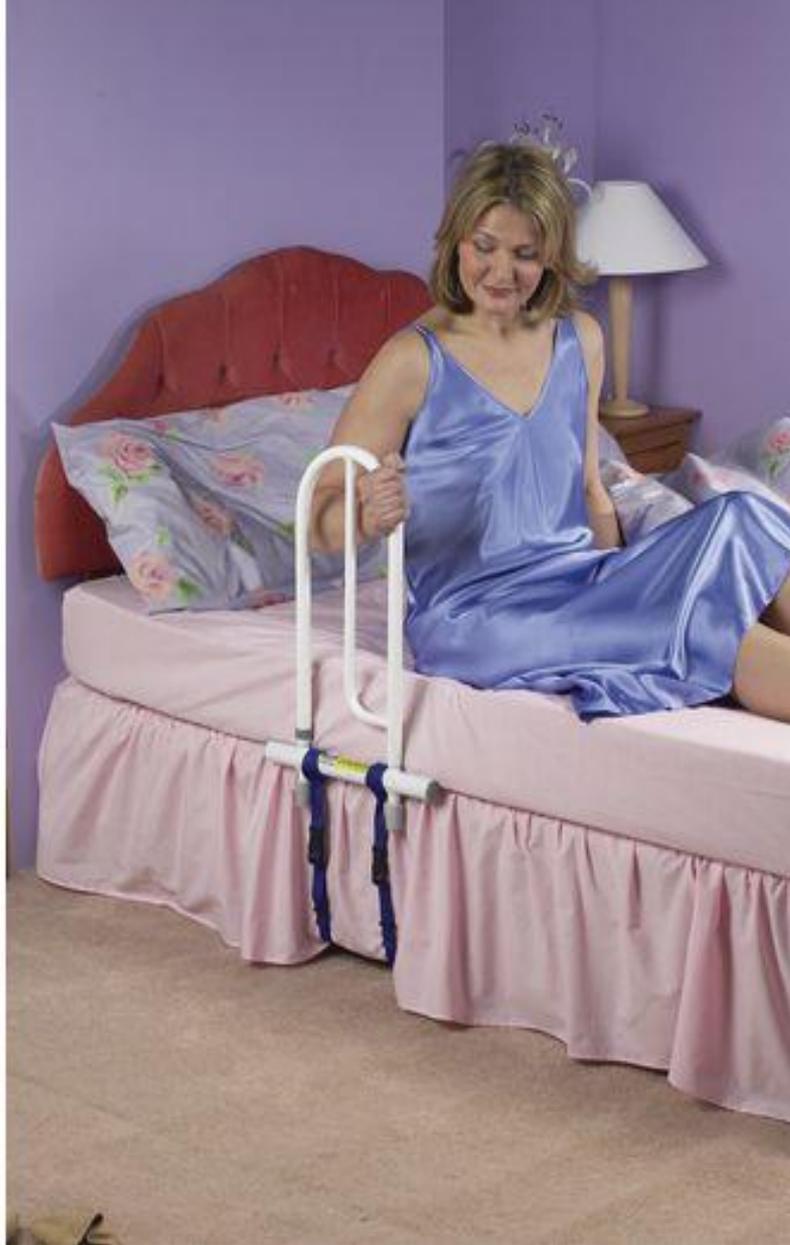
Bed levers come in a variety of types and sizes





Slatted type

Sits on top of slats and is held in place by the weight of the mattress and sides of bed frame – no straps required



**For divan base
only – must be
held in place with
straps**





2 in 1

On a slatted base

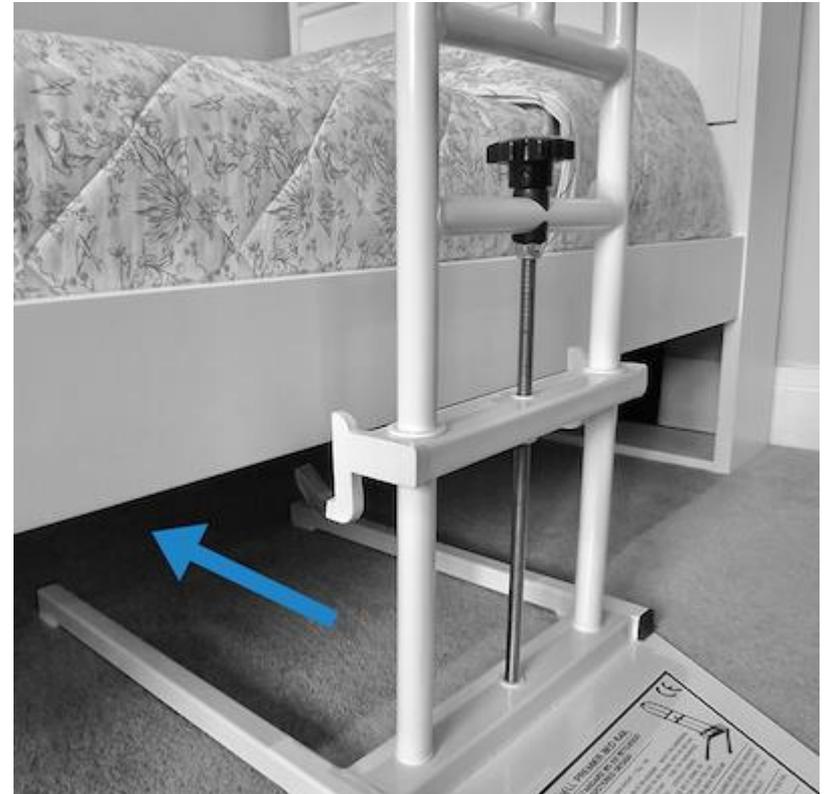


2 in 1
On divan base held
in place with 2
straps around base



- **Double ended bed stick held in place by weight of mattress**
- **Can be used on single, double and king sized divan and slatted bases**

Parnell bed rail fits to metal and wooden framed beds



Bed levers for electric profiling beds



Risk assessment

Research has shown that the physical or clinical condition of bed occupants means that some are at greater risk of entrapment in bed rails. Those at greater risk could include older people, adults or children with:

- communication problems
- confusion, agitation or delirium
- learning disabilities
- dementia
- repetitive or involuntary movements
- high or low body mass (which may change entrapment risks)
- impaired or restricted mobility
- Variable levels of consciousness, or those under sedation.

All the above would form part of an in-depth, individual risk assessment carried out before bed levers would be recommended



Finance Updates

Tony Pounder

Budget Announcement 2021

- The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his Budget to Parliament on Wednesday 3 March 2021 - [article](#) here.
- No announcements about money for much awaited Social Care Reforms
- No announcements about any extensions or additional Grant programmes (eg ICF, Testing, or Workforce Grant)
- However...

NHS and social care funding

An oral statement to Parliament re: **NHS and social care funding** was made yesterday (18th March) by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care about the support that the Government is giving to the NHS and social care to help recover from the pandemic -[link](#)

Adult social care funding

- The Government has announced a further £341 million to support adult social care with the costs of infection prevention control and testing that will make sure visits are safe for everyone.
- This takes the total infection control fund and testing support to more than £1.6 billion, alongside the free PPE that care homes receive.

NHS Funding

- NHS to receive a further £6.6 billion of funding for the first half of this coming financial year.
- This money is in addition to the £3 billion committed at the Spending Review last November to help the NHS meet the additional costs of COVID, while critically starting the work on the elective recovery ahead.
- £594 million will be committed towards safe hospital discharge.
- A £500 million mental health recovery package will help tackle the challenges that the pandemic has brought in access to mental health services; the Government will be extending enhanced discharge arrangements for mental health patients, getting patients safely from hospital into healthy community settings, providing better care and freeing up thousands of beds

Current grants and grant conditions, March 2021

This document is a summary. Councils should assure themselves of the full conditions of the grant.

Grant	Purpose	Conditions and passporting rules	Reporting requirements	End of funding period	More information/resources	Local requirements
Infection Control Fund 2 (ICF2)	ICF2 is an extension of the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund which was first introduced in May 2020. It is intended to support adult social care providers to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission.	<p>Please note funding conditions have been revised since ICF1.</p> <p>Of total funds allocated, 80% is to be passed directly to care homes within a LA's geographic area on a 'per bed' basis and CQC-regulated providers on a 'per user' basis. This includes providers with whom the LA does not have a contract. The further 20% can be allocated at the LA's discretion to support providers to tackle the risk of COVID-19 infections.</p> <p>Funding can be used to pay staff who are self-isolating with suspected COVID-19 symptoms, rather than only after a positive test, but individuals must be seeking to confirm whether they do have COVID through a test. The funding cannot be used to pay staff who are off sick with conditions other than COVID-19, to top up the pay of staff who are furloughed, or to pay staff who are shielding.</p>	<p>LA's must submit monthly returns specifying how the grant has been spent. LA's must seek assurance that all funding passed to providers is spent on infection prevention and control measures.</p> <p>The remaining reporting points are:</p> <p>Reporting point 4: 26th February (spending up to end of January and planned spending for the entirety of the fund).</p> <p>Reporting point 5: 31st March (spending up to end of February and planned spending for the entirety of the fund).</p> <p>Reporting point 6: 30th April (spending up to the end of March and end of the fund).</p>	Funding must be fully spent by 31st March .	<p>A list of appropriate infection prevention and control measures which can be covered by the ICF2 grant and suggested uses for the 20% of the funding to be allocated at LA discretion is covered in the Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund round 2 guidance.</p> <p>The LA reporting template will be made available before the reporting point in Annexe E of the guidance.</p>	<p>Prior to the council releasing the grant to providers, Providers must signal their agreement of the grant conditions by returning Schedule 2 from the letter issued to them.</p> <p>Providers not wishing to accept the grant should also return Schedule 2 so that funding may be reallocated.</p> <p>A monthly return detailing how the grant has been utilised must be completed. Information should be completed online at this link: Schedule 3 - Grant Spending Analysis</p>

Grant	Purpose	Conditions and passporting rules	Reporting requirements	End of funding period	More information/resources	Local requirements
Workforce Capacity Fund	The fund is intended to enable LA's to support all providers of adult social care in managing workforce pressures by extending the capacity of the existing workforce (e.g. by paying staff overtime or enabling staff to work more flexibly) or by growing and developing the workforce (e.g. through recruitment and training for new staff).	<p>LA's can use the funding to support any provider, inc. those with whom they do not have contracts and non-CQC registered providers. However, LA's may passport funding directly to CQC registered providers only.</p> <p>Providers may use the funding to support new expenditure or expand existing activity not already funded by other grants (e.g. cannot be used to pay self-isolating staff as covered by ICF2).</p>	<p>The second return is due on 5th March. LA's should use this to confirm that they have been able to take forward planned activities, and report on outputs delivered so far.</p> <p>The third return is due 15th May. LA's must demonstrate how the fund has been used to support workforce capacity. DHSC will provide LA's with a template for this return.</p>	Funding must be fully spent by 31st March and all activities must have taken place by this date (e.g. training cannot be purchased before 31 st March to be used after the end of the fund).	<p>An FAQ by the LGA answers some common questions about acceptable use of the funding.</p> <p>A full breakdown of the data requested for reporting points 2 and 3 is contained in Annexe C of the DHSC guidance.</p> <p>The reporting point 2 template is Annexe F of the guidance.</p>	<p>Prior to the council releasing the grant to providers, Providers must signal their agreement of the grant conditions by returning Schedule 2 from the letter issued to them.</p> <p>Providers not wishing to accept the grant should also return Schedule 2 so that funding may be reallocated.</p> <p>A monthly return detailing how the grant has been utilised must be completed. Information should be completed online at this link: Schedule 3 - Grant Spending Analysis</p>

Testing Updates

Tony Pounder

Clinical Advisory Group Updated Position Statement on Testing

- Lateral flow testing within 90 days of a positive test
- *Review 16th March 2021: change in position: [Link here](#)*
- Following review at today's Clinical Advisory Group, it was noted that:
- Incidence rates are falling across Lancashire.
- Vaccination rates are increasing across Lancashire.
- Additional routine asymptomatic testing is taking place in the community.
- The CAG now feels that the benefit of aligning with national messages on testing now outweighs the benefits of keeping the original position on retesting within 90 days. As a result, the CAG withdraws its previous position statement and advises that individuals follow the guidance for their national programme.
- Individuals and workplaces who choose to continue lateral flow testing within 90 days of a positive test can still access support from their local authority's

Health Protection and Infection Prevention and Control Teams

Clinical Advisory Group Updated Position Statement on Testing

Methods of testing

Review 16th March 2021: minor update to point 2.

- The emergence of new variants of Covid-19 is of concern, particularly if they present with a different clinical picture to the accepted three classic symptoms (cough, high temperature, loss or change of taste or smell).
- The Lancashire Directors of Public Health, Arif Rajpura, Dominic Harrison and Sakthi Karunanithi, have agreed the following position on testing and isolation for residents of the pan-Lancashire region:
- For three classic Covid-19 symptoms - isolate until PCR test. Continue isolation for 10 days if positive.
- For broader symptoms - if feeling unwell with **new and unusual symptoms or if in doubt** - get a PCR. Don't need to isolate until results (unless isolating for other reasons like diarrhoea or generally unwell). Follow national stay at home, hands face space. If test positive, isolate.
- Asymptomatic - at present, the default is LFD as part of repeat testing (SMART). Isolate for 10 days if positive. PCR may be indicated subject to local/national requirement.

Future review:

- This position statement will be regularly reviewed by the CAG and updated as new evidence emerges.

Day Services Updates

Tony Pounder

Day Time Support Services

- Independent Day Time Support Services – February update (data taken over a 5 week period)

Overview:

- Pre-covid, there were **13** older persons day time support service across Lancashire (excluding in-house providers) of which only **8** services are open, operating across **7** sites. There were **47** LD&A providers, with **34** currently operating.
- Pre-Covid there was a capacity of **1552** day time support service places per week.
- All providers have re-opened or begun re-opening following guidance to re-open on March 8th, following the January 4th lockdown
- For the month of February, average attendance has risen from **881** in the first week to **1092** by the end of the month
- In week 1, **65%** of providers were taking referrals, by week 5, **79%** of providers were taking new referrals
- In week 1, **1** service user and **4** staff had contracted Covid, by week 5, **0** service users and **1** member of staff had contracted Covid

IPC updates

Ellen Smith

IPC Back to Basics

An email has been circulated to providers and will go on the portal.

IPC measures

- Although outbreaks in care homes have reduced recently, it is vital that we continue to comply with the basics of IPC.
- Wearing facemasks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough.
- Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.
- Thank you to those staff who have had the vaccine as you are helping to build herd immunity. If you have yet to have your vaccine, we strongly encourage you to do so as stopping this pandemic requires us to use all the tools available to us.

IPC Back to Basics Con't

- Hand hygiene remains one of the most effective actions you can take to reduce the spread of infections.
- Hand washing for 20 seconds following the correct technique is the gold standard. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser is also effective but should only be used when hands are not visible soiled.
- Care homes should continue to reiterate their hand hygiene policy and undertake hand hygiene audits to ensure compliance and effective technique is being followed.
- [Hand wash technique](#)

IPC Back to Basics Con't

- Facemasks are still compulsory to wear in care settings. They can be worn sessional but must be worn correctly. Within a care home or supported living service, a session might be the duration of the shift. However, it is expected that the facemask will be changed as follows: -
 - When the care worker goes for a break. A new facemask will be needed on return to duties.
 - If the facemask is touched by either the care worker or by someone else.
 - If the facemask is soiled.
 - If the facemask is uncomfortable.
 - If the facemask is damaged.
 - If the facemask becomes moist.
 - Before any facemask is worn, the care worker [MUST watch a video](#) on how to put on and take off properly.

IPC Back to Basics Con't

- Gloves and aprons remain single resident use only and changed between resident/tasks.
- When removing any item of PPE, the care worker MUST decontaminate their hands. Care staff should be bare below the elbows. If there is a risk of splashing from providing direct care, when removing PPE and washing hands, staff should include washing below their elbows also.
- Please see the guides for donning and doffing PPE:
 - [Putting on PPE](#)
 - [Taking off PPE](#)

IPC Back to Basics Con't

- Environmental cleaning is an integral part of IPC and everyone in the home has their part to play in this.
- High touch areas must be cleaned at least twice a day. Increased frequency of cleaning of general room surfaces reduces the presence of the virus and the risk of contact.
- Now the weather is getting more Spring like, it is worth considering increasing ventilation and opening windows where possible.

Any Queries?

These measures are as important now as they were in the first wave of the pandemic; it is easy to slip into complacency, particularly now that we have improved testing in place and the vaccination programme is being delivered at pace.

Please email:

- If you have any queries around testing or vaccination, please direct these to contractmgmt.care@lancashire.gov.uk.
- If you require infection, prevention and control advice you can access this via InfectionPrevention@lancashire.gov.uk.

(Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm)

PPE Updates

Ellen Smith

PPE Easter Opening Hours

PPE Line Easter Opening Hours:

Please can all providers ensure they have sufficient stock for the Easter weekend to ensure we can meet demand and avoid delays in deliveries on Tues 6th April.

Tues 30 th March	Open – deadline for requests before easter by midday.
Weds 31 st March	Open for deliveries only
Thurs 1 st April	Open for deliveries only
Fri 2 nd April	CLOSED
Sat 3 rd April	CLOSED
Sun 4 th April	CLOSED
Mon 5 th April	CLOSED
Tues 6 th April	Open – Business as usual.

LCC PPE Line (0300 123 6786) is now operating between 9:30am – 4:00pm

Pulse Oximetry at Home

Katie Whittle

**North West Coast Patient safety Collaborative/Innovation
Agency**

Lydia Smith

Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust

National and local policy guidance and updates

Nichola Morris

All new and updated national adult social care guidance is available on the Portal under:
Government, NHS and NW ADASS advice and guidance

COVID-19 Online Resources

- [Care Quality Commission info for providers](#)
- [Social Care Institute for Excellence](#)
- [Health Education England's coronavirus programme](#)

New National Guidance

- [COVID-19: ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus](#) – this new guidance provides advice and information on how ventilation of indoor spaces can help to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), including how to increase ventilation at home and in other settings. Published on 4th March
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) lateral flow testing in adult social care settings](#) – this guidance document explains how adult social care services can prepare and manage on-site lateral flow testing. This can include the testing of:
 - people who work in social care
 - professionals visiting a social care service for work
 - people getting care and support from social care services
 - people visiting someone who gets care and support.

New National Guidance

- [COVID-19: Shared and overcrowded housing - reducing the risk of infection](#) – this guidance explains the additional steps people should consider to reduce the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19. This guidance is for people living in all types of housing and accommodation. Published on 10th March
- The Government is writing to all those clinically extremely vulnerable people (on 18th March), to let them know that shielding will come to an end on 31st March

Updated National Guidance

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): disposing of waste](#) – new guidance has been added on how to dispose of lateral flow tests. Updated on 5th March
- [COVID-19: letter to people identified as high risk – aged 70 and over](#) – a British sign language version and an easy read version have been added. Updated on 5th and 8th March

Updated National Guidance

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for homecare workers](#) – directly employed or self-employed personal assistants who provide care that requires them to come within 2 metres of the person they support and who support adults over the age of 18 are now eligible for regular testing. A guide to registering test kits for homecare workers has been added. Updated on 10th March
- [PPE portal: how to order COVID-19 personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) - the information on adult social care order limits has been updated and the section on when to use the National Supply Disruption Response has been removed. Updated on 15th March

Vitamin D

- The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is providing a free 4-month supply of daily vitamin D supplements for residents in residential and nursing care homes in England to help support their general health, in particular bone and muscle health.
- This will be delivered directly to your care home.
- This guidance will be uploaded onto the portal.

Care Home Visiting Webinar

- The DHSC and Better Care Fund are hosting a series of webinars.
- There is a care home visiting webinar that will focus on how care providers can facilitate visiting safely, the importance and benefits of enabling visitors to come back into care homes and share some of the practical things that will ensure the risks are minimised.
- Date: 25th March
- Time: 3-4pm
- **To book your place on the webinar, please use the link below:-**
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/care-home-visiting-webinar-tickets-146557829413>

Technology for Independence

- There is some work going on to increase use of technology for people with learning disabilities in Lancashire.
- Charlotte Hammond met with Vodafone and members of the ICS last week about an App that is being tested out to support people to be more independent.
- We are looking for a selection of volunteers to help us with our thinking and perhaps test out some kit.
- Please email ellen.smith@lancashire.gov.uk if you support anyone who may be interested in volunteering.

Care Hero Recruitment Campaign

- The NW ADASS Care Hero recruitment campaign is still ongoing, with lots of promotional materials being shared to advertise careers and jobs in social care.
- If you would like to advertise any vacancies you may have, please can you place them on the DWP system, where you can take full advantage of the recruitment campaign.

CQC consultation – open until Tuesday

- We want to hear your feedback on our proposed changes for flexible regulation
- In this [consultation](#), we're proposing some specific changes that will enable us to deal with ongoing challenges from the pandemic and move us towards our ambition to be a more dynamic, proportionate and flexible regulator.
- This consultation will close at 5.00pm on Tuesday 23 March 2021.

Census 2021

- Following a request from the National Care Forum, ADASS has obtained guidance from the ONS on the issue of supporting care homes residents to complete the census return.
- ONS ask that care homes do all they can to complete as full a response as possible. [Guidance to that effect is on the ONS website.](#)
- [There is also separate guidance for people about how to help others complete their forms;](#) this is particularly good on care homes' responsibilities for people who don't have the capacity to answer for themselves:

You can also contact the Census helpline if needed: Telephone free: 0800 141 2021

Health and Wellbeing

- [Our Frontline](#) has launched a new social media campaign to support all care workers.
- 'Weather the Storm' reminds all of us working in or with the sector, that Our Frontline services continue to be available, providing one-to-one free and confidential emotional support with trained volunteers, via 24/7 text or online, or 7am - 11pm by phone (seven days a week).
- Download the 'Weather the Storm' campaign assets [here](#)

Next steps

- There will be no webinar on 2nd April, as this is the Good Friday Bank Holiday
- The next webinar will take place on Friday 9th April at 1pm and then the fortnightly schedule will resume
- We now have a permanent joining link for our webinars
- The recording from today will be shared on the portal – [link](#)
- Review and respond to any queries/questions, as appropriate

Thank you!