

**Learning Disability and Autism Provider Forum - Virtual Zoom Meeting**  
**24<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 10:00-12:00pm**

**Attendee's**

Ellen Smith – Commissioning Manager  
Charlotte Hammond – Head of Service, LD&A, Mental Health  
Lauren Mawdsley – Business Support Officer  
James Hughes – Caritas Care Manager  
Neil Maguire – Creative Support Area Manager  
Jane Martin – Linkability  
Carol Lucas – Service Manager Creative Support  
Mark Sax – Ops manager Midstream  
Mark Day – Senior manager Dalesview  
Susie Loud – Manager Sphire  
Ruth Bradford – Ops Manager Sense  
David Lovelady – Service Manager PLO Team  
John Armatitch – Manager UBU  
Anushka Karmali– 360 degree healthcare  
Jill Diamond – Lifeways Paragon  
Leanne Harrison –  
Gareth Edwards – Compliance manager Freedom Care & Support  
Vicky – Larch Preston  
Sue Taylor – Manager The Barn  
Lorraine Chapman – Ops Manager Future Directions

**Apologies**

Martin Layton – Caritas Care  
Martin Hennagen – Caritas Care

### **COVID-19: Exemptions from the legal requirement to self-isolate for contacts of confirmed cases- advice for the general public and for health and social care workers**

- From 16th August 2021, individuals who are identified as a contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in England will be exempt from the legal duty to self-isolate if they meet one of four exemption criteria, including if they are fully vaccinated. Guidance for the public has been updated to reflect these changes and the updated guidance was published on 12th August:
- **LCC will therefore no longer be authorising risk assessments and this responsibility will lie with the respective Registered Manager.** Health and social care staff who are exempt from self-isolation will be required to implement *risk assessment /mitigations* to attend the workplace during the period they would have been required to self-isolate.
- **The key messages are before returning to work, the staff member should remain free of any COVID-19 symptoms and should immediately arrange to have a PCR test and have proof of a negative result.**
- **Once back in work, the staff member should undertake an LFD test every day for ten days following their last contact with the case (even on days they are not in work).**
- Further additional mitigations to return to work are outlined below:
- If a staff member has had COVID-19 within in the past 90 days, they should **not have a PCR test** as outlined above and **should instead only undertake daily LFD tests**
- On days the staff member is working, the LFD test should be taken before starting their shift, and the result should be negative
- The staff member should comply with all relevant infection control precautions and PPE should be properly worn throughout the day
- If the staff member works with patients or residents who are highly vulnerable to COVID-19 (as determined by the organisation), a risk assessment should be undertaken, and consideration given to redeployment during their 10-day period
- Full updated guidance to reflect these changes was published on 12th August. [Link to guidance.](#)

### **General Public Guidance:**

- From 16th August 2021, individuals will be exempt from the legal duty to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 by NHS Test and Trace and they meet one of four exemption criteria:
- Fully vaccinated adults: those who received their final dose of an MHRA approved vaccine in the UK vaccination programme, at least 14 days prior to contact with a positive case

- Children and young people: those under the age of 18 years and 6 months
- Clinical trial participants: those who have taken part in – or are currently taking part in – an MHRA approved Covid-19 vaccine clinical trial
- Medical exemptions: those who can evidence that they cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons

#### **Additional Guidance:**

- Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(\[www.gov.uk\]\(http://www.gov.uk\)\)](#)

#### **Vaccination Mandate Update**

- Mandatory vaccine now law for care home staff including agency and volunteers
- Also includes visiting professionals including tradespeople, beauticians etc
- **1<sup>st</sup> dose required by 16<sup>th</sup> September 2<sup>nd</sup> dose by 11<sup>th</sup> November**
- Awaiting details on medical exemptions (will need to be evidenced)
- Does not apply in emergencies or for visitors
- Will be part of CQC requirements, care homes required to obtain evidence
- Currently around **10%** of care home staff across Lancs yet to receive 1<sup>st</sup> dose - around **1472** staff
- There are **300** homes across Lancs with less than 100% vaccination
- Could impact on staffing levels locally and nationally
- Government consulting on other H&SC staff groups

#### **Infection Control and Testing Fund Update**

- All providers should have received a letter about the extended grants.
- If you have not received your letter, please let us know by emailing [contractmgmt.care@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:contractmgmt.care@lancashire.gov.uk).

#### **Commissioning Engagement Strategy**

- Care provider survey going live on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug; link is: <https://forms.office.com/r/SFL2Tf0wQa>
- Closing date is 27<sup>th</sup> August at 23.59

- Potential support from Customer Access Service to call providers to support survey uptake
- Asking providers for their view on:
  - current engagement mechanisms; map what is currently in place
  - MPS
  - challenges facing the sector
- Focus groups will be set up, based on emerging themes to inform onwards development of our engagement approach

### **Residential Contract Update**

- Current residential care home contract in need of update and refresh
- Developed a new contract which is similar to other Local Authorities
- Engaged with providers pre- pandemic
- Recently presented the new contract at webinars
- Some feedback from providers received that further engagement would be helpful
- Will pause the issuing of the contract and engage further with providers over next few weeks

### **Employment – topic of conversation**

- We have asked if you can provide us with information about who you support that are in employment.
- This is a source of frustration, LCC is one of the worst performing authorities in relation to people with Learning Disabilities and Autism who are in paid employment.
- Lancashire may not have the same opportunities as other areas, or this could be a recording issue. If any providers are aware of anyone who is in paid employment, please let Charlotte know so this can be updated on our system.
- A lot of providers offer day service/experience type provision, it doesn't appear many people aren't progressing to employment.
- Need to think about why and be clear if people want employment, we don't make the voluntary arrangement too comfortable
- Feedback can be that hours are not convenient for some people – volunteering seems to be more flexible.

- Caritas has plans to employ another 3 people
- Impact on benefits and travel can be an issue for people
- It's worth looking at eligibility under the care act, looking at how we can support people with different aspects.
- What criteria counts as employment? Two performance indicators.
- Need to look at why people are being charged to do things they should be paid for.
- Insurance can be a problem for employers. Support workers have been asked to attend work and this can be a barrier.
- We need to develop an employment pathway or have some guidance that we could share.
- Enterprise bids, enterprise zone and LCC need to be involved in this also.
- Discrimination against people with Learning Disabilities can happen and this can be difficult to challenge
- Need to be transparent about people's needs as some people will need to be supported in the workplace

**Action** – Invite The British Association for Support Employment to the next provider forum to discuss paid employment for people with Learning Disabilities and Autism.

### **Recruitment**

- Struggling to recruit to posts
- When we are getting candidates, they are not suitable
- Sickness is high – non COVID related
- Having to cancel care at short notice at times
- Pandemic has had an impact on caring roles and created anxiety with staff
- Nationwide problem of recruitment and retention of staff
- Some staff are reluctant to get the COVID vaccine and this could have an impact if not able to redeploy
- Feedback from some staff is that care is still seen as 'scary' as masks are still being worn in some settings. However, some staff feel safer with masks and social distancing still being in place in other settings.

**Action** – When information regarding consultation on vaccine mandate for other care settings is available, potentially pull together a focus group to discuss

### **Household contact – Mental Health and Anxiety**

- Staff member of their household has tested positive, but the staff member has had both vaccines. This can cause anxiety and have an impact on Mental Health.
- LSCFT has a resilience hub where social care, NHS and their families can access – [Welcome to the Lancashire and South Cumbria Resilience Hub - Resilience Hub \(lscresiliencehub.nhs.uk\)](https://www.lscresiliencehub.nhs.uk)
- If providers feel it is not safe for a staff member to come into work if they have been in contact with someone who is positive for COVID and are fully vaccinated they should still receive full pay.

### **Hospital care and support**

- Support in hospital has declined since before COVID, particularly around DNR.
- Hospital was looking for alternative provider who could provide nursing care in one instance
- One person had a COVID test which was negative but was placed on a COVID ward
- Could possibly raise with hospital liaison nurses

**Action** – Providers to share any issues with Ellen who will find out to raise this with health colleagues or safeguarding in CCGs/LCC

Date and Time of next meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 10:00am-12:00pm