

Mental Health Provider Forum

Tuesday 17th August 2021 10:00am-12:00pm

Attendees

Ellen Smith – Commissioning Manager
Charlotte Hammond – Head of Service, Learning Disabilities, Autism and Mental Health
Lauren Mawdsley – Business Support Officer
Hannah McCaffrey –
Angela Rooney – Grey Healthcare
Deborah Webster – Richmond Fellowship
Vanessa Burt – Mansard House
Sarah – Brook House
Anushka Karmali – 360 degree Healthcare
Caroline Daley – Mental Health Nurse Dove Court
Caroline Sawley – Mental Health Service
Nick Shaunessy – Halton House

Commissioning Engagement Strategy

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

Vaccination update

- Mandatory vaccine now law for care home staff including agency and volunteers
- Also includes visiting professionals including tradespeople, beauticians etc
- ***1st dose required by 16th September, 2nd dose by 11th 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 1st 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

Changes to isolation exemption

- 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)

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

Infection Control and Testing Funding

As you are away this fund was updated so there was a further allocation to cover June -September 2021.

- All providers should have received a letter about the extended grants. This is bespoke to each provider.
- If you have not received your letter, please let us know by emailing contractmgmt.care@lancashire.gov.uk.

Feedback from the providers with regards to information being presented at the forum

- Information can be repetitive and already covered at the regular Friday Covid webinars
- No information specifically for clients with Mental Health
- Would like more business as usual discussions and not a focus just on Covid
- Discuss difficulties that providers are facing at the moment

Issues raised

- CMHTs are not always easily contactable and this can be hard to move on from the pandemic

Caroline said there are no support from social workers or mental health teams as many are not carrying out face to face visits due to the pandemic. Charlotte said social workers can do essential visits but only essential due to COVID.

- CMHT do not have the PPE available to them, they are only allowed one piece of PPE.

Charlotte said there is no shortage of PPE but will investigate this – **Action**

Issues with the North West ambulance service threatening to raise a safeguarding, and this is increasing. Charlotte will contact the safeguarding team and ask if they have had an increase in referrals from NWAS – **Action**. It would be beneficial to invite the NWAS to one of the forums to gain an insight into their processes, Charlotte will raise this with Ellen – **Action**

- Commission of mental health packages – state of homes, are social workers assessing the property before a package of care is commissioned.

Charlotte said there should be something made clear in the referral. If you do go out and there is a risk of their well-being, we need to go back to referrer and discuss the circumstances the client is living in. There are a lot more people living in such circumstances, as people were used to getting visits but this stopped through the pandemic so their circumstances have deteriorated. A team could go in to clean the property beforehand however we need to be clear if the person consents to this. Anushka said social workers have sometime expected providers to act as cleaners and not just prompting and motivating people. Charlotte said social workers should not refer to providers as cleaners but there could be instances where this could be interpreted as cleaners instead of helping the person to clean.

If providers have any agenda items these can be sent through so these can be discussed at the next forum and we can make sure we have the right people on the call.

Hannah McCaffrey and Angela Rooney to be added to the distribution lists.

Next meeting – 12th October