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Date: 12th March 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

We are pleased to be able to say that we are seeing a decrease in the number of outbreaks and we want to thank you for everything you and your teams are doing to practice safe COVID behaviours and to help prevent infection. If you do have cases or outbreaks, please continue to report these promptly to the Community Infection Control Team on 0151 295 3036.

To let you know that the Alzheimer's Society is organising a free Policy Conference on delivering quality social care for people with dementia. This free policy [event](#) is for anyone living with or affected by dementia, Social Care Professionals/Practitioners, Industry Bodies, Local Authorities, Research Institutes and Think Tanks,

The virtual event will take place on Tuesday 23rd March, between 1.05pm – 5.00pm Event. To attend, please [Register here](#).

We would also like to remind you that the Workforce Capacity Grant Fund must be spent by 31st March 2021 and last week we shared with you the areas of spend and a proposed return for expenditure and outputs for your information. Please note that there is no specific acceptance letter that you must sign and return.

Information for Community Support Providers

This week we had a dedicated consultation meeting with Extra Care and Supported Living Providers in connection to the Council's fee proposals for 2021/22 and we would like to thank those providers who attended. We have updated the community support webpage with the Supported Living/Extra Care presentation, the interim Equality Impact Assessments, and the Q&A's which we have received, which can be found here <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/social-care-provider-information/community-support-provision-information-including-domiciliary-care-and-day-care/>

The dedicated fees meeting for Domiciliary Care and Community Support Providers will take place on 17th March 11.00am – 12.00 noon. We welcome your participation and would encourage you to attend.

Please do not hesitate to contact the lead officers for the consultation if you have any questions or would like further information:

Extra Care- Alison.taylor@sefton.gov.uk

Supported Living- Joanne.christensen@sefton.gov.uk

Domiciliary Care- Neil.watson@sefton.gov.uk

Community Support- Rebecca.bond@sefton.gov.uk or joanne.christensen@sefton.gov.uk

Information for Care Homes

As you are aware, this week saw the introduction of new government guidance about visiting. We discussed this on the strategic call this week and have since sent you the summary presentation and links to the guidance. The Government is asking Registered Managers to explain their visiting policy to their staff and family members, with a view to keeping everyone safe and providing as much safe visiting as you can, recognising that you know best how things can be run in your care home and any limits that may have to be in place. If there is an outbreak, please refrain from allowing visitors. If you would like IPC advice and support, please email public.health@sefton.gov.uk

We have now received confirmation of the arrangements regarding obtaining consent for administration of the second dose of the COVID vaccine. The guidance is available via the link below and we would like to draw your attention to **pages 34-36** which covers the issue of consent and capacity.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/12/C1186-covid-19-vaccine-deployment-in-community-settings-lvs-sop-v3.3-8-march-21.pdf>

In summary, the process care homes followed for administration of the first dose of the vaccine will be the same for the second dose of the vaccine therefore please obtain consent for your residents as you did the first time using the same documentation and process and with due regard to the capacity to consent issue and best interests decision making under the Mental Capacity Act. The Vaccination Teams prior to beginning the session at the home will go through the list of your residents, check documentation, confirm whether there are any residents who reacted adversely to the first dose of the vaccine, any who are currently unwell and any refusing the second dose of the vaccine. The teams are looking forward to working with you all again and building upon the positive experience from the first vaccination round.

We have been asked to share the attached guidance regarding the Vitamin D administration that is being delivered to care homes. 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, bone and muscle health. It has the full backing of all the medicines teams across the North West and it has also been shared with CQC who are very happy with the content.

Thank you to everyone who has registered for the free DoLs training session on the 28th April, which is now full. There is another training session planned for the 8th September, 9.30am – 1.00pm. If you have staff who would like to attend, please self-register at www.seftonclc.co.uk.

Finally, thank you to the care homes who attended the fees consultation meeting on the 9th March

and for the discussion and feedback at the meeting which will further inform the final recommendations. We have now scheduled a final consultation meeting for the 16th of March 12 noon to 1.00pm which is prior to the close of the consultation at midnight on the 21st of March 2021. The information we have shared with you previously in connection to this consultation is on the care home providers webpage: <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/social-care-provider-information/care-homes-information/>

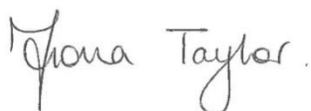
The email contact for responses is neil.watson@sefton.gov.uk or postal responses can be sent to Deborah Butcher, Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health, c/o Bootle Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle, L20 7AE.

From us, all the Health and Care partners and Councillor Paul Cummins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, we would like to thank you and your staff once again for all your hard work and everything you are doing at this time.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Butcher
Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health



Fiona Taylor
Chief Officer, NHS South Sefton and NHS Southport and Formby CCGs