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PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A WEB VERSION OF THE LETTER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY OF THE DOCUMENTS MENTIONED, PLEASE CONTACT Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk

Date: 7th May 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

As always thank you to you and your teams for your continued efforts and support to our vulnerable residents.

We wanted to remind you that the Mental Health at Work eLearning is now available on Me Learning! The course will provide you and your teams with a wide understanding of mental health issues and the signs to look out for, for yourself and your colleagues. The aim of the six modules is to support the promotion of a safe and respectful workplace culture, to equip staff and teams to better manage concerns that arise around mental health and being able to actively support each other. The course recognises by creating an environment that promotes wellbeing, staff feel supported and valued.

We'd encourage all providers to complete Mental Health at Work eLearning, especially if you would like to know more about how you can support yourself and your colleagues.

Please note this course is FREE to all Care Providers and Community Services in Sefton. Charges apply to organisations outside of Sefton.

Click on the following link to access the course:

https://seftonclc.melearning.university/course_centre/course_details/134

Mental Health Awareness Week is next week from 10th -16th May. There will be information and resources available, which we can share with you next week, so please watch out for these.

We would like to remind providers to complete the Capacity Tracker daily.

For your information, Sefton's SMART COVID-19 testing centre at Aintree Racecourse closed on Friday 30th April due to an increase in home testing. However, SMART tests that will provide a result in as little as 30 minutes, will still be available, 8am to 8pm, seven days a week at Bootle

Leisure Centre, Bootle Town Hall (Oriol Road) and at Southport's Splash World.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Healthwatch Sefton Covid-19 Vaccine survey in recent weeks. The purpose of the survey was to hear from local people and understand their views of the COVID-19 vaccine and whether there is any hesitancy in getting vaccinated. The survey was based on a template of questions developed by Healthwatch England. The feedback report can be found at this link: <https://healthwatchsefton.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HWS-Covid-Vaccine-report-March-2021-FINAL.pdf>

Liverpool City Region Care Providers' Grant

As a direct response to the challenges these businesses are facing, a new fund, the LCR Care Providers' Grant, has been created by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Care homes have been sent information on this grant and an initial "window" is open for receipt of applications for the Liverpool City Region Care Providers' Grant from Tuesday 4th May 2021 and **CLOSE on Tuesday 18th May 2021**

Registered Care Homes (Adults) are eligible to apply for the grant and can apply via this link - <https://forms.sefton.gov.uk/lcrcareprovgrant/>

Workforce Capacity Grant

The returns to show expenditure and outputs for the grant period mid Jan – 31 March were due in on 4th May. Approximately 25% have been returned. Many thanks to those who have submitted their returns and a plea for all **outstanding forms to be in by Monday 10th May**. The return to be submitted is attached – please ensure you are using this return & not the draft that was circulated prior to DHSC confirming what was required. Where returns are not submitted, the terms of the grant request that monies are returned, and we will be in touch about this.

Infection Control Rd 2 / Rapid Test

Thanks to all providers who submitted their final returns to allow us to process a return to DHSC by 30th April. Unfortunately, there are still some providers who have not sent returns and we will be in touch as if the grant has not been spent / evidenced then it may need to be recouped.

Infection Control / Rapid Test 2021

We have had several Annex A's (acceptance of grant conditions) returned and will be sending out grant to those respondents however a cross check will be undertaken and if there are outstanding issues with previous grant returns this may result in a delay to some providers.

A template for April spend is attached and is in a familiar, yet improved, template with allocations which auto populate as the provider is chosen. This information is in the public domain i.e. Gov.uk website for Sefton allocation & CQC website for bed / user numbers. There are separate returns for Care Homes and Community Providers. **The return date for this is 14 May.**

Information for Care Homes

We have heard this week that no homes across Sefton have reported an outbreak, which is fantastic news and testament to all the hard work undertaken by you and your teams –

congratulations!

We are still getting requests from staff who wish to have the vaccine and thank you for your ongoing support with this. We just wanted to let you know that from the 5th May, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will begin Phase 2 of the Driving Uptake Project, a project to offer direct support via phone calls to care home managers in Older Adult Care homes showing 25-50% staff vaccination rates. This project complements existing work in Local Authorities and NHSE to support social care workers to get vaccinated and, where necessary, triggers additional activities or action plans with the home to improve its uptake. This will also improve future policy making.

Upcoming Proxy Ordering Webinar on 8 June by NHSEI.

This webinar is essentially for homes to understand how to do the proxy ordering and make use of the IT/digital elements. This practical webinar will show how the IT works and feedback from a care home whom is already doing proxy ordering. (Proxy access was developed to allow someone other than the patient to access and manage parts of their GP online services, meaning that care home staff can order repeat prescriptions for patients and include notes to the GP etc).

Please find below the link for the Proxy Ordering in Care Homes Webinar being held on Tuesday 8 June 2021 at 3pm, proposed agenda is attached. Final agenda will be sent out 2 weeks prior to the event.

The webinar will be hosted as a MS Teams Live Event and has been made public so anyone can join using the link below, please cascade to relevant attendees.

[Click here to join Proxy Ordering Webinar 8 June 2021](#)

The Greater Manchester Infection Prevention Control webinar took place on the 27th April. The slides are attached to this letter. A recording of the webinar can also be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/fk-vG2zx41E>. Links to previous webinar recordings are listed below:

1. [IPC COVID-19 and beyond](#) (recorded 04/09/20)
2. [Winter preparedness in 2020](#) (recorded 04/11/20)
3. [Supporting care home residents and staff](#) (recorded 08/12/20)
4. [Testing arrangements for Care Homes and vaccination myth busting](#) (recorded 19/01/21)
5. [A Day in the Life of a Care Home](#) (recorded 23/02/21)
6. [Visiting guidance, outbreak testing and staying COVID-secure - #VaccineHero campaign](#) (recorded 30/03/21)

Please note that national/local guidance referenced in previous webinars may have updated since the recordings. Please check with the Sefton Infection Prevention Control team for the latest guidance.

All homes should have received two Pulse Oximeters this week. Please be aware that there is no maintenance contract attached to this free resource.

This week on the strategic care home call we gave a summary presentation of the new guidance

for visits out of the care home and have since sent you the presentation. If you haven't received the presentation, please contact Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk and we can arrange for it to be sent to you. Please note that this is only a summary and we advise that you familiarise yourself with the full guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/arrangements-for-visiting-out-of-the-care-home>

We appreciate everything you are doing around infection control. We have had an offer from the vaccination hubs of visors and alcohol wipes, and we will be making these available at Bootle Town Hall. You can access these and emergency PPE by emailing emergencyppe@sefton.gov.uk.

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



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Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health



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