

 **Deborah Butcher**

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Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

As always thank you to you and your staff for everything you are doing to help protect our most vulnerable residents.

After the Government has announced the relaxation of measures, Sefton Council are advising people to remain cautious and considerate to others to help keep people safe. Please continue to report any confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 to Sefton’s Community Infection Control Team on 0151 295 3036 (in hours) or Public Health England on 0151 434 4819 (out of hours/weekends and bank holidays).

Infection, prevention, and control measures remain in place in all healthcare settings. So, NHS staff, patients and visitors must continue to wear face coverings when visiting GP practices, hospitals, and clinics etc, unless they are exempt and anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should not visit a healthcare setting.

Visit <nhs.uk/coronavirus> for more information on COVID-19 symptoms, and what to do if you or your child has them.

Read more about the NHS guidance [here.](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/living-with-covid-19-white-paper-update/)

**Fees consultation**

This week we commenced fees consultation with the following providers:

* Care Homes
* Community support
* Domiciliary care
* Direct Payments – agency rate
* Supported Living
* Extra Care

Day Care Services for the purpose of this consultation are outside of scope and will be addressed separately.

Providers have been written to this week to inform them of the proposals and the consultation. There are provider consultation meetings set up and providers have been informed of these in the letter dated 28th February. You are very welcome to join these meetings.

The information about the consultation is also available on the following webpages and these will be updated during the process of the consultation.

[Community Provider Information (sefton.gov.uk)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/social-care-provider-information/community-provider-information/)

[Care Home Information (sefton.gov.uk)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/social-care-provider-information/care-home-information/)

**CQC system wide inspection**

The CQC are currently undertaking a North Mersey system wide inspection to understand the patient experience and quality of care delivered across urgent and emergency care. Providers will come from a range of different services but may include adult social care, emergency departments, 111 and out-of-hours services, GPs and dentists, 999 and ambulance services and community services.

They expect their onsite activity will conclude by the end of April 2022 and they will be offering a system wide feedback call with all Providers they have inspected as part of this review, and system leaders, on completion of all inspection activity.

We will keep you informed as we receive further details.

**Cheshire & Merseyside Resilience Hub (CMRH) Newsletter**

The latest newsletter from the Cheshire & Merseyside Resilience Hub is available here:

<https://sway.office.com/XGyx2jrtkTFhx45m?ref=Link>

**Specific Information for Care Homes**

**Care Home Strategic Partnership**

The next meeting of the Care Home Strategic Partnership is Tuesday 8th March 2022, 4.00 – 5.00pm. We hope you can attend. Here is the link to join the meeting:

[Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_NzdlODE5YTAtZGI1OS00MDhkLWIwNWEtNTc2MDEzZTRkODE2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bf3a3387-dc95-4c7d-940e-49cc2fc9d4f1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%227980ebac-f4fc-4859-929d-9be7da0b5368%22%7d)

**Mandatory vaccinations in Care Homes**

We would like to draw your attention to recent developments regarding Mandatory Vaccinations in Care Homes.

*“The Government intends to revoke the regulations making vaccines a condition of deployment for health and social care staff and sought views on this through consultation. The government’s response to the consultation has now been published. In the light of consultation, the government is proceeding with revocation and the regulations revoking vaccination as a condition of deployment in all health and social care settings will come into force on 15 March 2022.”*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccination-of-people-working-or-deployed-in-care-homes-operational-guidance>

We appreciate that this is a significant change in direction and the implications for some staff will have been great; regretfully this will have brought about some extremely challenging employment situations and difficult discussions, and we would like to extend our support to you working with those affected. Please contact us by emailing contractsandcommissioning@sefton.gov.uk if you need any immediate support and we will be discussing this at our next strategic call on the 8th March.

**Homely Remedies**

Some of you may have realised that the Homely Remedies policy for Paracetamol and Codeine Linctus for the short-term treatment of Covid-19 symptoms (fever/cough) is due to expire on the 31st March 2022?

Over the past two years the Medicines Management team have updated this policy and authorised use of medication for all suitable care home residents across Sefton at the same time however moving forward we will authorise residents in response to a request from a care home due to an outbreak.

If you require authorisation of homey remedies for your residents in the event of an outbreak, please complete the form attached and email to **seftonmm.hub@nhs.net**

**Future Communications**

As you are aware, we have been providing information and resources to you over the past two years in response to the pandemic, which we hope you have found helpful for you and your teams.

In Sefton, we are looking forward to a pivotal year as work on integrating local health and care services steps up a gear. Health and care leaders are finalising a ‘collaboration agreement’ that will set out how organisations will continue to work together in Sefton Partnership to provide more joined up health and care services and greater benefits to patients in the borough.

Considering this, we will be refocusing our communications to you. We want to be able to share with you some of the strategic developments and joint working that is taking place in Sefton. We will be relaunching our communications in April 2022. In the meantime, we will send out a letter fortnightly but will also contact you in the meantime, should anything need sharing.

From us, all the Health and Care partners and Councillor Paul Cummins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, we would like to take the opportunity to thank you and your staff teams for everything you are doing to support our most vulnerable residents. Your dedication, support and hard work is very much appreciated by us all.

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