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# Adults' Health and Care

## Provider newsletter

**24 November 2025**

### **Lateral Flow Detection testing in care homes in the South East webinar**

UKHSA South East is inviting you to join a short 30-minute webinar at 2pm Wednesday 26 November, to support you in using and reporting results from the SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza A+B Antigen LFD Tests.

These tests were sent to all eligible CQC-registered care homes across the South East as part of a UKHSA project to make it easier and quicker to identify flu outbreaks and support timely treatment.

The session will cover:

- how and when to use the LFD tests,
- how to interpret and upload results,
- how and when to contact UKHSA.

There will also be a short update on the project and next steps, and time for questions.

All care homes in South East England who have received these LFDs are welcome to attend.

If you're unable to attend, minutes or a recording will be shared afterwards.

If you are a CQC-registered nursing or residential care home in SE England and have not yet received your test kits or have any queries, please contact [SE.AcuteResponse@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:SE.AcuteResponse@ukhsa.gov.uk).

Click here on Wednesday 26 November at 2pm to [join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 371 977 481 297 54

Passcode: 7z9Nx9jK

Dial in by phone

[+44 20 8142 8939.,792584162#](tel:+442081428939792584162) United Kingdom, City of London

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 792 584 162#

[CLICK TO JOIN THE WEBINAR ON WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER](#)

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## **M27 road users given advance notice of closure between J9-J11 over Christmas and New Year**

Drivers are being advised to plan ahead to avoid severe delays this Christmas and New Year as details are published for a full closure in both directions on a section of the M27 in Hampshire – this is scheduled from 8pm, 24 December 2025 to 4am on Sunday 4 January 2026.

[FIND OUT MORE AND PLAN AHEAD](#)

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## **South East Social Care Alliance (SESCA) – latest international recruitment bulletin**

[Read the latest International Recruitment Project Bulletin](#), which includes:

### **Displaced Worker Recruitment Scheme Update**

- Funding now: £6,000 per worker (up to 6 per CQC-registered location).
- 287 displaced workers in new sponsored employment
- Scheme closes March 2026.

### **Legal Helpline – Ends 28 November**

- Free 30-minute consultation with Lester Aldridge Solicitors.

- Contact: 01202 786126 / [sescahelp@LA-Law.com](mailto:sescahelp@LA-Law.com)

### **Free International Recruitment Webinars**

- 10:00 – 11:00 am, Thursday, 4 December 2025 – Homecare Provider Special presented by UKVI

**SESCA Website Revamp:** Streamlined International Recruitment Hub

**Home Office Update:** Immigration Skills Charge increasing by 32% from 16 December 2025

**Skills for Care Report:** Adult social care worth £77.8bn to the economy — international recruitment remains crucial

**Employment Rights Bill Consultations:** Have your say on new employment proposals, including union rights, dismissal protections, and bereavement leave

[READ THE SESCO BULLETIN](#)

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### **Safeguarding week**

The Local Safeguarding Adults Boards in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are proud to support National Safeguarding Adults Week. Every day of last week, Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) shone a spotlight on a specific theme.

#### **Daily Themes**

[Monday – Change the Conversation](#)

[Tuesday – Prevention in Practice](#)

[Wednesday – Creating Empowering Environments](#)

[Thursday – Trust Your Instincts](#)

[Friday – Celebrate Safer Cultures](#)

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**Are you supporting someone who could be missing out on Pension Credit?**

This winter we want to help ensure that older people get the financial support they are entitled to. If you are working with someone of State Pension age or older, do consider asking them to check their eligibility for [Pension Credit](#). Checking entitlement is easy with the [Pension Credit online calculator](#).

DWP is also taking this opportunity to raise awareness of the State Pension age increase, which will rise incrementally from 66 to 67 starting in April 2026, as outlined in the Pensions Act 2014.

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### **Heating homes safely**

As the chill of Autumn sets in, electric blankets and [portable heaters](#) can help to keep the cold at bay, but old appliances can lead to faults and electrical fires. It's vital that items are checked regularly for scorch marks, loose/damaged wires or hot plugs and sockets. Vulnerable members of the community may not be aware of the risks so you can help by sharing this guidance.

All [electrical appliances](#) including portable heaters should be turned off when not in use/or before bed. Portable heaters shouldn't be placed too close to bedding, curtains, clothing or anything which could catch fire.

Electric blankets should be replaced with a new one if:

- Scorch marks are visible on the fabric, or the fabric is worn or frayed.
- Wires are poking through the fabric, or the electrical cord is damaged
- The appliance is giving off a smell, or the control buttons make a buzzing sound.
- The connector fitted to the blanket is overheating or damaged.

[READ MORE FROM HIWFRS](#)

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## **Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism (Oliver's Training)**

Funding for the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism (Oliver's Training) is expected to become available for adult social care (ASC) providers registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Under the Health and Care Act 2022, CQC-registered providers are required to ensure staff receive training on learning disability and autism appropriate to their role.

### **How the funding will work**

Funding will be available via the same online claims service as the [Learning and Development Support Scheme \(LDSS\)](#), operating under the same arrangements currently in place. [Read more from Skills for Care.](#)

Training completed between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 will be eligible for reimbursement.

Please note that this is a separate funding pot from the LDSS, dedicated specifically to Oliver's Training.

### **Eligibility and requirements**

To submit claims for Oliver's Training, providers must:

- Be registered with the CQC as an ASC provider.
- Have an up-to-date ASC Workforce Dataset account.
- Complete the LDSS onboarding form.
- Submit a claim once training is completed and paid for, providing evidence of completion and payment.

### **About Oliver's Training**

Funding is being provided for Oliver's Training as it is the government's recommended training package to meet the statutory training requirement. There are currently no plans to extend funding to other courses or to providers not registered with the CQC.

Providers choosing an alternative training package must ensure it meets the expectations set out in the Oliver McGowan Code of Practice.

[CQC has also published guidance on how it assesses this requirement, available on its dedicated webpage.](#)

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## **CQC Consultation - Better regulation, better care - now open**

The CQC Better regulation, better care consultation has now officially launched.

This is your opportunity to share your views and help them to improve how they assess and rate health and care providers.

[Take part in the consultation](#) – the consultation is open until 5 December

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