

# Adults' Health and Care

## Provider newsletter

29 September 2023

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## COVID-19 and flu vaccination programme 2023

The COVID-19 vaccination programme was brought forward and began on 11 September 2023.

This has been done as a precautionary measure to protect the most vulnerable from illness during winter following the identification of COVID-19 variant BA.2.86, the most prominent new variant to emerge since Omicron was first detected.

While BA.2.86 is not currently classified as a variant of concern, advice from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) suggests that speeding up the winter vaccine programmes will deliver greater protection, supporting those at greatest risk of severe illness, reducing the potential impact on the NHS.

The eligible cohorts for both flu and COVID-19 vaccination cover those aged 65 and over and those in a clinical risk group. Both programmes also include frontline health and social care workers.

- Adult care home residents, housebound individuals, and those most at risk are to receive vaccines first.
- You can [book your COVID-19 vaccination online](#), via the NHS App or by calling 119.
- National COVID-19 vaccination invitations started from 18 September.
- Wherever possible, flu and COVID-19 vaccination will be offered at the same time.

Please encourage and advise staff to access vaccination at the earliest opportunity if not available at their place of work.

In addition to vaccination, standard infection prevention and control (IPC) measures should be practiced at all times to protect vulnerable people as well as staff from contracting infections. [Check national guidance](#) regularly to make sure you are up to date on the latest advice on testing, isolation, and use of IPC measures.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board IPC team hold Care Home Q&A sessions. These sessions will give the most recent updates on government guidance. If you need more information or a reminder about how to sign up to these sessions, please email [hampshire.quality.caresector@nhs.net](mailto:hampshire.quality.caresector@nhs.net)

## **UKHSA – Winter-readiness infection prevention information for care homes in South East England**

Care home residents and staff are susceptible to infections which increase over the winter months, such as COVID-19, the flu and stomach infections such as norovirus. These are very infectious and can cause outbreaks due to close contact in residential settings.

Good infection control practices can help reduce the risk of outbreaks occurring.

[Read the information](#) pack for care homes to help prepare for the winter season.

## **National Patient Safety Alert: Medical beds, trolleys, bed rails, bed grab handles and lateral turning devices: risk of death from entrapment or falls**

The MHRA continues to receive reports of deaths and serious injuries from entrapment or falls relating to medical beds, bed rails, trolleys, bariatric beds, lateral turning devices and bed grab handles.

[Read more](#) about the safety alert and any actions you may need to take. [Read the alert in full.](#)

## Frimley Health and Care ReSPECT process

From 25 September to 1 October Frimley Health and Care are raising awareness of the ReSPECT process. ReSPECT stands for Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment. The ReSPECT process personalises recommendations for an individual's clinical care in emergency situations, where they are not able to decide for themselves or communicate their wishes.

ReSPECT is important for both patients and healthcare professionals. It allows patients to have their preferences around their medical treatment heard and recorded and it also allows health and care staff to make the right decisions on the most appropriate form and place

of treatment and care for them.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Candle Fire Safety Week 23 –29 October

As the nights draw in lighting candles can help to create a warm, comfortable glow in the home but an open flame can also destroy a home in minutes, so it's important to warn the most vulnerable members of our community about [candle safety](#).

You can help by sharing the safety advice below when you visit somebody's home and [making a referral for a Safe and Well home fire safety](#) visit if you have concerns (you may need to seek the individual's permission before sharing their details):

- If possible, use an LED candle instead to create the mood without the risk
- Candles pose an extra risk for those who use [emollient creams](#)
- Make sure candles are secured in a candle holder and away from materials that may catch fire, like curtains or loose-fitting clothes
- Don't burn lots of candles close together as this may cause a larger flame and don't move a candle once lit.
- Put candles, incense or oil burners out when you leave the room, go to bed or leave the house

- Never leave children or pets alone with burning candles

## **Fire Risk and Vulnerability Training– Wednesday 11 October - 12:00pm**

Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) has arranged for a free virtual session with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire Rescue Service (HIOWFRS) on Fire Risk and Vulnerability Training. This session aims to raise awareness of what makes an individual more vulnerable to having a fire, based on local information and previous incidents, as well as providing information regarding what agencies can do to acknowledge and reduce fire risk and how HIOWFRS can support with this.

This is an excellent opportunity to find out about fire risk and vulnerabilities for both managers and those that work supporting people.

The session will cover

- Fire vulnerabilities (person; behaviour; environment factors)
- 4LSAB Fire Safety Framework
- Individual fire risk assessments and control measures for fire risks
- Safe and well visits

**FIND OUT MORE AND SIGN UP**

## **Awareness Session: Advocacy – Tuesday 17 October – 12:00pm**

HSAB has arranged for a free virtual awareness raising session with Voiceability, who provide advocacy and involvement services so that people can be heard in decisions about their health, care and wellbeing.

This is an excellent opportunity to find out about advocacy in Hampshire. The session will help you to:

- Build your knowledge of advocacy and its benefits, including an overview, eligibility, as well as the statutory duties of advocacy.
- Empower service users in Hampshire by helping them feel supported.
- Understand your legal responsibilities.
- Make referrals easy so you can support more people.

The presentation also includes stories from our advocates in Hampshire, a Q&A session and a short case study from a service user on their advocacy experience.

[READ MORE AND GET YOUR TICKET](#)

## Workforce Development Fund and Adult Social Care - Workforce Data Set information session

The **Workforce Development Fund** (WDF) is a financial contribution towards the cost of completing a range of qualifications, learning programmes and digital learning modules.

In this session, hosted by Skills for Care, you'll learn how you can access the WDF, which programmes are eligible, what criteria are needed, as well as important deadlines.

Having an up-to-date **Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set** (ASC WDS) account is required to claim WDF. You'll learn how to set one up and add information.

It will be an opportunity to understand how you can also use it to:

- manage your training records and generate evidence for CQC
- benchmark your service against similar providers
- access discounts and offers from Skills for Care and endorsed training providers.

The session is on Wednesday 11 October, 10:00 - 11:15am – [book your ticket](#). If you are unable to attend on this date, it will also be taking place on Wednesday 15 November, 10:00 - 11:15am - [find out more information and book your place](#)

## Peer Models of support resources from Skills for Care

Skills for care have newly developed resources, aimed at providing valuable guidance and tools for organisations and professionals working in the sector. These resources cover a range of topics related to peer support models, including implementation, benefits, and case studies.

## Find out more

In conjunction with the release of these resources, they have developed a [virtual event](#) on Tuesday 17 October at 10:00am. The event will bring together adult social care employers, registered managers, care workers, individual employers, and personal assistants in the field of peer support to discuss best practice, success stories, and challenges. This is an excellent opportunity to gain insights, network with peers, and contribute to the ongoing conversation about enhancing support in the workforce.

The resources have also been added to the [Wellbeing Resource Finder](#).

## Recruiting the right people into adult social care – information from Skills for Care

Throughout September, Skills for Care have been shining a light on how adult social care organisations can [#RecruitRight](#). Take a look at the useful links around recruiting:

- [Values-based recruitment](#) – Skills for Care have created the [Values-based recruitment toolkit](#), which can help those recruiting develop their skills.
- [Safe and fair recruitment guide](#)
- [International recruitment](#) including [bite-size videos on modern slavery](#).

[Sign up](#) to the Skills for Care newsletter to receive further updates.

## Reminder: Tell the Government what's needed to make social care a better place to work

The Government has launched the first major national survey of all care workers in care roles in adult social care in England, including personal assistants.

The national survey of care workers, conducted by Skills for Care, Ipsos and the University of Kent on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care, is gathering information about working conditions, organisational characteristics, and workplace culture, to understand how work-related quality of life and wellbeing is affected.

The survey will take around 20 minutes to complete and responses are collected anonymously.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

## Cost-of-living support grants available to community organisations

If you're part of a local organisation that wants to help tackle the cost of living in your area, [connect4communities](#) wants to hear from you.

Hampshire's community and voluntary groups can currently apply for grant funding to support local projects tailored to local needs, that help to provide vulnerable households with food and utilities and to keep warm.

These are made available from the [Household Support Fund](#), funded by central government, and they could help turn ideas into reality – projects of ALL sizes are welcome to apply. **The deadline is 6 October**



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