

Dear All,

We understand that it is very time consuming to keep up to date with Government changes to legislation/policies, etc. and we endeavour to keep you all updated by sending you information regularly, but please continue to look for updates on the PEN website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/providerengagementnetwork/resources/coronavirus-advice>.

Todays All Provider call:

Thank you to those providers who joined the call today. The next All Provider call will be on Friday 24th July via Teams. We will sort out the glitches that prevented some of you from joining today before then.

Following the All Provider call on 24th July, the All Provider call will move to a monthly call, the first Friday of the month. Should we need to increase call volume in the event of increased Covid activity we will do so.

All Provider conference call dates: Friday August 7th; Friday Sept 4th; Friday Oct 2nd; Friday Nov 6th, and; Friday Dec 4th.

NHS regional survey to help improve services:

Source; PEN Posted: 7th July 2020

Please encourage staff, service users and the general public to complete [this Survey](#) about their experiences of the new ways of working by the NHS and social care during the pandemic.

Updated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) letter:

Source; PEN Dated 06th July 2020

To view the updated letter please [click here](#).

AGP PPE *updated*

Visors or eye protection are now part of the required PPE. Please refer [to table 2](#):

Mandatory use of PPE:

Wearing masks when delivering care is not optional, please remind all staff of this. Concerns have been raised that some careworkers have been asking those who receive care whether or not they would want them to wear masks. If this is happening, it places unfair pressure on those receiving care.

Hourly rate consultation feedback:

Thank you to those providers who joined in the consultation call today.

All providers would have received a letter outlining changes to the proposal. Due to changes, the existing consultation is no longer relevant and is closed.

The Trust as Prime provider will be agreeing to these changes. They are to continue with the two banded rates, with provider-determined approaches to passing the funding uplift onto your workforce. Waking and sleeping night rates remain as current. We are working on an amendment, anticipated to be in the Partnership Agreement, to formalise these changes and hope to have this document completed and with you all w/c 20th July at the latest.

Next steps

Nykayla Stockham will be arranging individual provider conversations to understand your intentions, including your willingness to sign a new partnership agreement, how you will use the extra funding to reward staff and improve terms and conditions and how you will use the backdated funds.

We are aware of problems regarding backdating pay, as raised on the previous consultation call. There is an opportunity to be creative, for example, paying an enhanced rate for a set period, making a one off payment to staff (staff may find they move out of the benefits system with overall pay increase), providing staff with an enhanced training or technology budget etc. The funding should be flowed to staff and we recognise there are various ways to do this depending on your workforce profile.

We are co-designing the **90 day challenge** project as we believe the investment in the hourly rate provides an opportunity to remove an awaiting care list from north and mid-Devon and look forward to working with you all on this.

Update on Devon's economic recovery:

Source: DCC Employment and skills lead

- UK currently undergoing a once in lifetime economic event. Nearest equivalent in economic terms is WW2.
- The current economic situation is likely to hit everyone in some way. Opportunities raised are therefore all seeking to find routes forward within a difficult context.
- Almost every sector has seen a period of significant retraction (bar public admin) as lockdown has bitten. Tourism and leisure almost entirely closed now for 4 months (92% drop in output)
- 2,000 jobs lost in Devon before lockdown even formally began, 3,200 by end of second week.
- Health and Social Care on entering the COVID crisis was our second largest employment sector, and second highest contributor to GVA. Today it is probably our largest, despite seeing a slight fall in activity.
- Local economy is going to feel a significant impact from COVID. Likely not to recover until 2022/23 at earliest, with some areas facing ongoing challenges around employment and business recovery for far longer.

- Health and Social Care however will be amongst the fastest sectors to recover. Nature of crisis and need for strong services will add additional demand into the system. Will likely be used as a key Growth sector through recovery plans.
- Growth opportunity will be accompanied by recruitment opportunities. Several competitor sectors likely to face significant barriers to recovery through to 2022, with large job losses. Likely to hit young people, older people with lower skills and those with a barrier to work hardest
- Likely to be more difficult in the medium term in areas with a higher focus on tourism activity, with foundation sectors like Health and Social Care becoming far more important as employers and customers in individual communities.
- Young People and displaced adults may see health and social care, and wider public sector, as a safe haven career in some areas over the next few years. Ongoing demand for apprentices and provision of roles for young people in the sector likely to be relatively unique going into 2021
- Likely to be a stronger focus on the sector as a result of its additional economic importance. Skills, training and employment all likely to receive additional focus, but also additional scrutiny
- Other sectors likely to also recover quickly, so some opportunities may be short. COVID may also act as a shock to system in many sectors and around some recruitment areas to up their game.
- Pace of technology change and investment likely to increase across all sectors, with businesses already using the opportunity to upskill, downscale and shift their business model forward.

In summary, there is a unique 'opportunity' in the economic downturn to stabilise social care when viewed in conjunction with the hourly rate increase and greater public recognition of value. That opportunity should include training/career pathways if this opportunity is to be sustainable.

Antibody testing: social care staff in phase 2:

Source; PEN Posted 09th July 2020

Although antibody (serology) testing is now being offered to NHS staff, social care staff will be included in phase 2 of antibody testing and will be made available when national guidance for this phase is issued.

In the meantime, in relation to antibody testing, please note that:

The antibody test is a venous blood test

A positive test result only means that an individual has had COVID-19 in the past

It does not mean you are currently infected, so you should continue to work as normal

Even if you receive a positive test, you still have to follow all social distancing and infection control measures

There is currently no evidence to show that a positive test means someone cannot be re-infected with the virus or pass it on to others, or have immunity.

The test is only available to staff, not family members.

The antibody testing programme will provide information on the prevalence of COVID-19 in the peninsula to help better understand how the disease spreads. It works alongside the swab testing programme, which confirms whether or not someone currently has the virus.

Regular retesting rolled out for care home staff and residents:

Source; [Department of Health and Social Care](#), [The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP](#), and [Helen Whately MP](#) Published 3rd July 2020

- Care home staff to be given coronavirus tests every week and residents monthly from Monday to identify anyone with the virus and reduce transmission
- Repeat testing will be initially prioritised for care homes primarily looking after over 65s or those with dementia before being rolled out to all adult care homes
- The government's Vivaldi 1 care home study highlights the importance of regular staff testing while there is a higher prevalence in care homes

Staff will be tested for coronavirus weekly, while residents will receive a test every 28 days to prevent the spread of coronavirus in social care. This is in addition to intensive testing in any care home facing an outbreak, or at increased risk of an outbreak.

Dedicated app for social care workers launched;

Source; [Department of Health and Social Care](#) Published 6 May 2020

- Care workers get access to guidance, learning resources, discounts and other support all in one place
- Support will be offered on mental health and wellbeing through toolkits and resources
- The Care Workforce app will unite 1.5 million care workers across more than 18,000 care providers

A new dedicated app for the adult social care workforce in England has been launched to support staff on-the-go through the coronavirus pandemic.

The social care workforce is spread across 18,000 providers and it can often be difficult to communicate with all staff in one clear way. The Care Workforce app, developed with NHSX and the NHS Business Services Authority, will be introduced under the new CARE brand and will act as a single digital hub for social care workers to access relevant updates, guidance, support and discounts from their phone.

The CARE branded app comes in response to calls from the sector for a more unified and connecting brand, and can be downloaded on Apple and Android supported smartphones or accessed by browsers on any device.

New mental wellbeing guidance will soon be published to further support the care sector with bespoke advice for care workers. This guidance will be signposted on the Care Workforce app when available. The tool will be the first of its kind provided for the care workforce, and will:

- act as a single one-stop-shop providing the sector with all the latest guidance, wellbeing support and advice they need to protect themselves from COVID-19 and keep themselves well
- provide access to learning resources on crucial areas such as infection control as well as practical advice and support for mental wellbeing
- show how care workers can take advantage of offers available to NHS and social care staff, including free car parking and discounts through organisations and initiatives like Discounts for Carers and the Blue Light Card
- signpost free access to apps like Silvercloud, Daylight and Sleepio, which can help boost users' mental wellbeing through programmes covering sleep, stress and resilience

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Testing facilities extended in England:

Source; DCC Posted 7th July 2020

The number of mobile testing units – there are currently 147 in the country – is set to rise to 236 by the end of this month, the Government says.

These are mobile units that can be requested by local councils in England in response to increased local demand. They offer both drive-through and walk-through services.

In addition, there are now 68 drive-through regional testing sites in the UK, and last week the Government announced a further 6 walk-through local testing sites in Newcastle, Rochdale, Leeds, Brent, Newham and Slough, offering appointments to people without cars.

Home testing kits are also available, allowing people to test at home and post their return at any of the 30,000 Royal Mail priority postboxes across the UK, which is marked by a regionalised NHS logo. [Check where your nearest priority postbox is.](#)

Anyone who receives a home testing kit will also receive instructions and about how to use it safely. If you are shielding, vulnerable or too unwell to leave your house, you can still use the courier service or call the customer contact centre (details in the pack) for further help.

Across the UK, testing capacity has been expanded to more than 200,000 tests a day, so that anyone with symptoms can immediately book a free test.

Reporting concerns to DCC

Please email: adultsc.adultcarehealthcovid19-mailbox@devon.gov.uk and copy in ndht.devoncares@nhs.net



Devon Coronavirus Emergency Helpline:

Source; DCC

Keeping Devon's most vulnerable residents safe remains our top priority. Anyone who is isolated and urgently needs essential food, medicine, care or social support, and doesn't have any family, friends, neighbours or community to help them, can contact the Devon Coronavirus Emergency Helpline on [0345 155 1011](tel:03451551011)

If you have missed any of our Covid-19 updates you can find them on our [Devon Cares](#) website.

Keep Safe,

Kind regards
Devon Cares Team