



January 2020 E-News ESSEX CARE ASSOCIATION

Welcome to our January Issue. We are pleased to see that bookings for our Conference on 17th March 2020 are going well. No doubt this is due in large part to our keynote speaker Neil Eastwood. Neil is a well-known author and speaker on Social Care recruitment who founded 'Sticky People' <https://stickypeople.co.uk/> We guarantee a lively and thought-provoking session. The theme of the Conference is Recruitment. As well as Neil, we will also have Lloyd Clarke from Attwells Solicitors and speakers from Skills for Care ('Values-base Recruitment') and ECC.

Our two half-day seminars on LGBT+ issues in the Care sector on Thursday 13th February have proved to be very popular. The afternoon session in Marks Tey is now full, but we still have a small number of places at the morning session in Basildon.

To book for the conference or the Basildon LGBT+ workshop, please go to our website: <http://www.essexcare.org.uk/events/>

Workforce Development Funding – we still have funding available if you or your staff complete relevant qualifications from January 2019 end of May 2020. Contact ectp@essexcare.org.uk

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Hot Topics

Technology and Innovation can enhance the quality of care by Kate Terroni

Kate Terroni, the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care, discusses how technology and innovation can enhance the quality of care.



With the publication of our Driving improvement through technology resource; and the news that the NHS will soon be teaming up with Amazon to allow people to access health information through an AI-powered voice assistant (Alexa) – now seems like the perfect time to discuss the role that innovation and technology can, and indeed will, play in improving care and providing real solutions to the issues facing the whole of the adult social care sector.

[Read More Here](#)

Driving Improvement Through technology

Technology in health and care services is growing in importance. Digitally-enabled care can offer significant benefits to people who use services and those who run and deliver them.



This was also discussed at the Business Update Meeting, and can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Access it here](#)

Tory MP suggests ‘insurance system’ to fund social care after Conservative election victory

[Tory MP Damian Green](#) suggested an "insurance system" to fund social care just hours after the Conservatives won a majority in last week's [general election](#).



Editors note: Damian Green was also the author of a draft green paper the government didn't publish

[Read More Here](#)

CQC News

CQC Connect is coming!

We're excited to announce that we will be launching our first series of podcasts in January!

CQC *Connect* will explore topics such as the importance of giving feedback on care, the state of care, innovation and technology, and outstanding general practice.

Series one kicks off in the week of 13 January and will be available on all major podcast providers.

[Listen to the trailers now](#)

CQC Revises Inspection Outcomes

As members of the Care Associations Alliance, we regularly meet with CQC at a national level. As a result of this, we have been informed that during CQC's quality assurance process on inspection reports it was identified that "...duplicate or similar quotes, provided by two Experts by Experience (ExE) and a specialist advisor (SpA) were present in reports about different providers.

After close analysis and additional peer review, many of these reports have been republished. However, there are also a number of locations where we have decided to reinspect.

It is hugely disappointing to have to take this action, not only for us but for the vast majority of committed and excellent ExEs and SpAs who work with us to assure safe and high quality health and social care."

We understand that this issue relates to seventy-eight inspections – seventy-seven in the North and one in London. CQC have looked carefully at the evidence used to inform the rating for each of these services and we will be reinspecting thirty-eight services. All providers affected are aware.

A better system for those at risk

CQC are wanting views on the draft recommendations for a better system for those at risk of seclusion.

[See the recommendations here](#)

General Updates

Getting under the skin of the Social Care Innovation Network

This report will be of interest to all those who are interested and committed to creating a new and better form of social care - based on the principle that people want a life and not a service.



It was written by Tim Parkin, Senior Policy Advisor at Think Local Act Personal and presents the insights from phase 1 of the Social Care Innovation Network.

[Read the Report here](#)

Service Sector Updates



Older People

Buildings designed to bring the benefits of the outdoors indoors give people happier, healthier lives.

'I'm in touch with nature': the care homes connecting residents with the outdoors

"I love the space all around here," says care home resident John Ryan. "Previous homes I have lived in have been large, Victorian-style houses and in the garden, you would have a monkey puzzle tree with a little area to walk around in a circle, and that's it. Very boring."



The 85-year-old is anything but bored now. As he reminisces about his younger days travelling the world with his wife and working in agriculture, he pauses now and then to play a fish-themed game on the interactive table in front of him. When another resident joins him, the game is changed to a gentler challenge – painting colour on to a blossoming tree. It is one of a number of nature-themed activities residents at West Hall care home can take part in, from bingo and pub quizzes to art.



It is perhaps not surprising that nature plays such a central role in the lives of residents. The Anchor-run property in West Byfleet, Surrey, is in the middle of the greenbelt, surrounded by lush fields and trees, and wildlife including deer.



Learning Disabilities

I have a question: are you scared of people with learning disabilities like me?

My name is Pino and I want to have a conversation with you. You don't hear voices like mine in the news very much. You hear *about* people like me, but this could be the first time you have heard straight from a person with a learning disability.

I'm part of Heart n Soul at The Hub, [a research project](#) at the Wellcome Collection in London, and we have [some big questions](#) to ask you. The project is led by [Heart n Soul](#), the arts charity I co-founded for people with learning disabilities and autism.

See the proposals for A Better System above.



Domiciliary Care

Help Us, Help You - Before it Gets Worse

The NHS in England has launched a 'Help Us, Help You - Before It Gets Worse' campaign to help the public, the over 65s and those with underlying health conditions and family carers - understand the things they can do to stay well this winter, and where to get advice.



This includes a reminder to visit the pharmacist or contact NHS 111 at the first signs of illness, the importance of picking up prescriptions and staying warm and checking on elderly neighbours and relatives.

[More information and resources can be found here](#)



Mental Health

Government confirms commitment to reform of Mental Health Act

The Queen's speech confirmed that the government would continue to work to reform the Mental Health Act.



Theresa May previously somewhat surprised the sector by confirming a commitment to reform the Act and this new commitment will no doubt build on the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act by Sir Simon Wessely. The Queen's speech does not set out the detail of the amendments but it is clearly likely that Sir Simon's Review will be the foundation of much of that.

The government briefing on the Queen's speech confirms that they will respond to this review and its recommendations through a White Paper in the New Year, followed by legislation when parliamentary time allows. The briefing confirms their view that the Act requires modernisation to address:



- greater control for patients over their treatment
- making sure patients have a greater say in that care

- greater choice and autonomy including the ability to set out preferences for care and treatment in advance
- ensuring dignity and respect
- reforming the process for detention and providing greater support for patients to challenge detention
- making it easier for individuals with learning disabilities and autism to be discharged from the hospital and improve how they are treated in law

Brexit Update

Brexit – last minute checks to ensure your business is prepared

Now that the UK has officially left the European Union, you might still have questions about what this means for you and your business.

With that in mind, I think they'll find it helpful to read this free guide from our partner, Citation, on Brexit and Managing Uncertainty.

GET YOUR FREE GUIDE

It covers all the key HR & Employment Law considerations such as recruitment, settlement schemes, communicating change, and managing morale.

Get in touch with Citation to ask any questions or organise a free audit of your business, call **0345 844 1111**, or **click here** for more information about their services.

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