



September 2019 E-News

Welcome to our September Issue. We are already planning our November Conference and this time we will be holding it in Basildon. If any of our members in the South of Essex and in Thurrock have previously been put off by having to travel to Marks Tey, this one is for you!

*The provisional Conference programme includes sessions on How to increase the number of private clients in your Business; LGBT+ Awareness in Care Settings and an update on the Future Funding for Social Care. We will also be welcoming Moira McGrath – the new ECC Director for Commissioning and Policy. **Hold the date – 7th November 2019.***

As well as the usual national and sector updates, please check out our Local News Section for announcements about how you can get involved in the replacement for the ‘Live at Home’ Domiciliary Care contract, and also the ECC Workforce Survey.

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Hot Topics

Care services 'at risk' as funding doubts grow

Councils in England fear they will be left with a big hole in their care budgets because three stopgap funding pots are due to end next year.

Local government leaders warn they will have to start scrapping services within weeks [unless extra money arrives in the government spending plans.](#)

Nearly £2.4bn of the £16.6bn set aside this year for services for the elderly and disabled comes from the three short-term funds. But they are due to close in March.

What's happened to the social care plan?

NHS care funding a 'postcode lottery'

The biggest source of temporary funding is the Better Care Fund, that was set up to encourage joint working between councils and the NHS. It is worth £1.8bn to councils this year and pays for a variety of different services, including care home places and emergency care teams to support people at home.

Councils are warning these services would be vulnerable unless the government acts. The other two smaller pots are one-off funds that were set up to plug gaps while the government came up with plans to reform the entire system of social care funding. It was envisaged those reforms would be in place by now, but they have been delayed numerous times.

The Prime Minister is reported to have said the Government's 'ready to implement' social care plan for England has now been delayed, and may not be announced until next year

Explaining the need for cross-party support, the Prime Minister is quoted as saying "We will be advancing plans in due course that satisfy two criteria - nobody should be forced to sell their home and everybody should have dignity and security in old age." The plans will be issued 'in due course'.

[Read more here](#)

CQC News



Tribunal upholds CQC decision to refuse registration to 'campus style' accommodation for people with learning disabilities and / or autism

A First-tier Tribunal has ruled in favour of the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) decision to refuse an application submitted by Lifeways Community Care (Lifeways) to vary a condition of its registration. Lifeways had applied to add an additional location to look after people requiring accommodation and personal care.

[Read more here](#)

Business Updates

10 charts that show what's gone wrong with social care

What exactly has gone wrong and who's affected?

Social care - organised by councils - is a broad term that covers everything from children's social workers and fostering through to services for disabled adults and the care provided to people in their old age. But some have been affected more than others.

[See the charts here](#)

General Updates

New guide to developing your staff from Skills for Care



The updated guide which includes the mandatory requirements (topics and frequency) however it is not obviously found [see here for the detail](#).

Service Sector Updates



Older People

Dame Barbara Windsor has called on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to "sort out" care for people who have dementia.

The former EastEnders star, who has Alzheimer's, launched an open letter with her husband Scott Mitchell to coincide with their appointment as ambassadors for Alzheimer's Society.

Ministers in England have been promising to publish plans on social care reforms since 2017. The government said Mr Johnson was "committed to fixing" the care system.
[More here.](#)



Learning Disabilities

~ See CQC Update above ~



Domiciliary Care

Using multi-compartment compliance aids (MCAs) in home care services
Updated [guidance](#) from CQC

GPs and other healthcare professionals must make reasonable adjustments to help people take their medicines. The Equality Act 2010 requires such adjustments and MCAs may form part of these.

You might use a range of different MCAs in adult social care settings. These could include, NOMAD® trays or pharmacy-sealed blister packs. MCAs can be a convenient way for people to take their medicines. MCAs do not always simplify how people take their medicines. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society and NICE have both suggested that MCAs should not be the first-choice intervention to help people manage their medicines.



Mental Health

Skills for Care signs commitment to improving mental health through prevention-focused approaches

Skills for Care has signed up to the [Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health](#), that brings organisations together to tackle poor mental health.

The Prevention Concordat, that's co-ordinated by Public Health England (PHE), is the first time that agencies across the community and care sectors have come together to make prevention a priority for mental health.

Local News

Home Care Market Engagement Event – 15th October 2019, Chelmsford

If you are currently providing Home Care service in Essex, especially if you are doing so for County Council clients, you will want to attend this event next month.

ECA was asked by ECC to do some of the early work to develop a new contractual model for Home Care that will replace *Live at Home* by February 2021. Over the past few months, a few ECA members have been working in small groups to look at key areas including Workforce, Technology, Business Models, etc.

On 15th October, we will be sharing the current thoughts at an event that ECC is putting on. The Council will also be speaking about their Commissioning intentions, the Adult Social Care 'Business Plan' and other relevant issues.

This is your opportunity to hear what the future of Home Care in Essex might look like and have your chance to comment and input into the process. The event will run from 10 till 2 and includes a light lunch. Get your ticket here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/working-together-on-the-new-live-at-home-contract-tickets-71527082429>

You will need the password: NewLAH2021

Essex County Council launch Provider Employee Survey

Essex County Council want to understand issues relating to recruitment and retention in care so that they can develop a strategy which will help improve things. In order to do this, the Council is undertaking a survey with care workers in Essex.

The survey asks about working in the care profession, experiences, roles and your future intentions. We hope that you will pass this email on to your staff for them to respond. All answers are anonymous and there is a prize draw for a charitable donation.

ECA were asked to comment on the original proposals for this questionnaire and we are pleased that some of our feedback was acted on. We think this survey could potentially give a lot of rich information about working in social care locally and we believe ECC will act on this. We hope that you will feel able to encourage your staff to take a few minutes to complete the survey.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE PART](#)

If you have any questions about completing or accessing the questionnaire, there is a helpline available on 0800 0092 117 or email: <mailto:helpline@enventure.co.uk>.

STOP PRESS – Digital Social Care website

The national Digital Social Care website is a dedicated space to provide advice and support to the sector on technology and data protection. It provides guidance on issues like:

- Choosing software and equipment
- Storing information securely
- Sharing care records electronically

You can access the website through this link: <https://www.digitalsocialcare.co.uk/>

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