



August 2019 E-News

We hope that you are enjoying the summer and managing to take a break from work to enjoy the good weather (as and when you can find it!)

In our latest newsletter, we have the usual range of national updates, although things seem a little quieter this month. In local news, we have been speaking to Essex County Council about how our members can get involved in their programme of new Extra Care schemes as well as running a number of working groups to shape the replacement for the 'Live at Home' home care contract.

Another area of focus for us is the challenges and opportunities that technology brings. Some of you may have been involved in the roll-out of NHS email to care homes in some parts of the county. We welcome this initiative which we think will improve communication, but the requirements to complete the NHS Digital Toolkit have proved challenging at times and the approach across the county has not been consistent, given the three STP areas we straddle.

We have applied to the Local Government Association Digital Social Care fund for a grant to help support small to medium providers who may be struggling in this area. We have also been speaking to ECC and Regional NHS to see what other resources might be available.

Contents

**Use the table of contents to go straight to the section you're interested in*

[Business Updates](#)

[Older People Care News](#)

[General Updates](#)

[Learning Disabilities News](#)

[Domiciliary Care News](#)

[Service Sector Updates](#)

[Mental Health News](#)

Hot Topics

Age UK's Charity Director Caroline Abrahams examines what Prime Minister Boris Johnson's early comments on social care suggest for the future.



“My job is to protect you or your parents or grandparents from the fear of having to sell your home to pay for the costs of care.”

“And so I am announcing now - on the steps of Downing Street - that we will fix the crisis in social care once and for all with a clear plan we have prepared to give every older person the dignity and security they deserve.”

Caroline Abrahams Age UK Director [discusses here](#).

Changes to the Provider Information Return

From 7 August 2019 CQC will be requesting that all providers complete an updated PIR and this will then continue on an annual basis.

Requests for the PIR will be sent during the anniversary month of your first site visit. This will allow them to expand how they use information from the PIR to support our continuous monitoring of services and they will also continue to use the PIR as part of any inspections that take place.

They will be writing to all providers with details of the updated questions/guidance and a reminder of when your first site visit date was to assist with planning for your PIR.

CQC News



Kate Terroni's Blog

Chief Inspector Kate Terroni alludes in her Blog this month at changes to how CQC assess quality, linking with the “Making it Real” I statements. [Read the blog here](#)

Driving improvement through technology

A [new resource](#) from CQC recognising the growing importance of tech in care and provides a series of case studies.

New Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement.

[Read the MoU here.](#) The NDG promotes the provision of advice and guidance about the processing of health and adult social care data in England. Dame Fiona Caldicott has held the non- statutory position since 2014 and was appointed the first statutory National Data Guardian in April 2019.

The NDG role was put on a statutory footing in April 2019 established under the Health and Social Care (National Data Guardian) Act 2018 to act as an advocate for patients and service users on how health and care data is used.

CQC publishes annual report and accounts for 2018/19

The CQC annual report and accounts reflect both their achievements in 2018/19 as well as highlighting areas for improvement. - [See it here](#)

CQC sign up to #Hellomynameis campaign

The #Hellomynameis day is an international campaign in memory of Dr. Kate Granger MBE. We are starting to use 'hello my name is' badges during inspections to support this campaign. - [Read more here](#)

Business Updates

Recommendations for CQC-regulated providers



Skills for Care have published their recent publication for providers on recommendations on how to deliver 'good' and 'outstanding' care, and meet CQC standards. [Read more here](#)

General Updates

Oral Health eLearning

Following last months Report from CQC "[Smiling Matters](#)" Skills for Care have launched an e-learning resource on Oral Health. [Access it here.](#)

Service Sector Updates



Older People

~ Nothing specific this month ~



Learning Disabilities

Healthwatch have published their report Learning Disabilities Insight.

Over the last year, people with learning disabilities (LD) have spoken to Healthwatch Surrey about what's most important to them. Their experience of accessing health services, social care services, and other issues that impact health and wellbeing. Parents and Carers also shared their perspective with us.

[Read the report here.](#)

Learning disability and mental health

People with a learning disability can be more likely to experience poor mental health. Skills for Care have [developed free resources](#) to help adult social care staff talk to people about their everyday mental health, and enable them to get the support they need.



Domiciliary Care

Involved & informed: good community medicines support

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), in collaboration with several other partner organisations, has launched a [new initiative](#) to encourage better medicines support for people who are receiving social care services in their homes.

ECA are continuing to work with ECC to update the '**Live at Home**' contract. A number of working groups have been meeting to look at areas such as workforce, technology, business models, etc to help shape the thinking and improve on the existing arrangements. The intention is to hold a provider event in Sept/Oct to share progress to date and get the views of the wider care market. Look out for further details.



Mental Health

Making it Real for personalisation in mental health - Working examples of how three organisations are weaving together recovery, co-production, and peer support to deliver personalised care and support for people with mental health conditions.

[New resource here](#)

LOCAL UPDATES

A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY? MORE EXTRA CARE SCHEMES TO BE DEVELOPED IN ESSEX

We hear from Essex County Council that one of the ways they are hoping to meet the increasing need for care and support for older people is through a programme of Extra Care housing, with an intention to develop over 1000 units of accommodation in the county over the next few years.

Extra Care Housing is similar to sheltered housing but with a higher level of care and support available on site. People living in Extra Care schemes typically have a care need of between 6 and twenty or so hours per week. Schemes may be social housing, owner/occupier, or a mixture.

Rather than being a replacement for Residential Care, I see Extra Care as meeting additional needs and the Essex will continuity to need a range of good quality residential care alongside any new developments.

ECA members may be well-placed to get involved in future Extra Care Developments. Future schemes may be developed by a Housing Associations who will take on a housing management function, but there is usually a separate care provider. Our members may already be running services (care homes or home care) in a locality and have a well-established workforce that could grow to support a local Extra Care Scheme. We have invited ECC to come to our next conference in November to tell us more about the opportunities that may be coming up.

ECA PARTNER UPDATES

Disability in the workplace – free guide on creating an inclusive environment

Our partners, Citation, have got a new free to access guide. It covers how to create an inclusive recruitment process; welcoming disabled people into your business; completing risk assessments and making reasonable adjustments so your disabled colleagues don't face barriers to doing their job.

Disability in the workplace – free guide on creating an inclusive environment

In the modern workplace, disability should not be a barrier to recruiting great employees.

That's why our partners, Citation, have put together a free guide on how to create an inclusive recruitment process.

It covers how to welcome disabled people into your business, completing risk assessments, and making reasonable adjustments so your disabled colleagues don't face barriers to doing their job.

[GET YOUR FREE GUIDE](#)

Got any questions? Ask Citation

Citation are experts in HR, Employment Law and Health & Safety. Their services include a dedicated local consultant, 24-hour expert advice line, and full legal documentation.

[Get in touch](#) with Citation to organise a free audit of your business, or [click here](#) for more information about their services.

If you've got any questions about the guide or anything related to HR or Health & Safety, call **0345 844 1111** to speak to a friendly advisor.

*Copyright © *|2019|* *|Essex Care Association Ltd|*, All rights reserved.*

Our email address is:

office@essexcare.org.uk

Our phone number is:

01268 565551

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).