

# Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 17 November 2023

## Funded Nursing Care Extension



Department of Health & Social Care

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) is running a cost collection exercise to inform the 2024-2025 NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC) rate.

The DHSC are keen that as many nursing providers as possible respond, as a greater sample size will mean more reliable results leading to a review of the 2024-2025 FNC rate, and having listened to feedback from care providers are therefore **extending the completion date until midnight on Wednesday 22 November 2023**.

The survey can be accessed via a link in Capacity Tracker. Instructions on how to access the survey can be found [here](#).

If you are struggling to access the survey or have any questions, please contact DHSC's FNC inbox at [fnc@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:fnc@dhsc.gov.uk).

## Winter Preparedness and COVID-19 Testing



Department of Health & Social Care

Symptomatic testing for residents eligible for COVID-19 treatments and outbreak testing will continue throughout the winter period as detailed in the [IPC guidance](#). To enable the sector to continue to test during this time with no limitations or delay due to replenishing stock, we are giving you the opportunity to request additional stock of COVID-19 LFD tests. The number of tests available will depend on your total bed capacity as registered with the CQC.

### **Total Bed capacity**

10 or less - 70 (10 packs of 7) tests available

11 or more - 497 (71 packs of 7) tests available

You will be able to request your additional stock of COVID-19 tests via the [order portal](#) from 20 October to the 3 November.

- Navigate to [COVID-19 test order portal here](#).
- Enter your UON and press continue.
- Select Order LFD tests for winter preparedness.
- Check your organisation's address and press continue.
- Enter the total number of LFD tests that you are requesting according to the table above, and press continue.
- Confirm your order request.

You will receive an email when your tests have been dispatched, informing you of their delivery date.

Requesting additional stock of LFD tests will not affect any orders waiting to be fulfilled or your ability to order LFD tests should you need them at a later date.

If you have any urgent questions regarding testing within your setting, please contact 119.

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## NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC) survey



Department of Health & Social Care

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is currently in the process of setting the 2024-2025 rate for NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC). This is being informed by a one-off cost collection exercise, run via Capacity Tracker. The survey is non-mandatory, but it would be great if as many providers as possible could complete this. The survey is expected to go live on **Wednesday 25 October** and will be open for **three weeks**.

### What is FNC?

Funding is provided by the NHS to residential nursing care providers to support the provision of nursing care. FNC can help manage pressure on acute hospitals and supports system flow by reducing avoidable admissions of individuals with complex discharge needs. It can also relieve pressure on NHS primary care services by enabling nursing care to be delivered within the individual's residential home. DHSC sets the national FNC rate which dictates the amount the NHS pays care homes delivering FNC. This is paid per resident, per week. Given wider inflationary pressures, we are now conducting a further one-off 'cost collection exercise' to ensure that we have the most recent and accurate data available when calculating the national rate. You might recall that we last did this in 2021.

### What information is needed to complete the survey?

We would like to encourage as many providers as possible to complete this survey. Although it is optional, a greater sample size will mean more reliable results, which is why we would like to encourage you to complete the survey when it launches. When you complete the survey, please ensure that you have data on the number of residents by funding type and payroll information on both pay and hours worked by registered nurses for the two months of April 2023 and September 2023 (or your most recent completed payroll period) to hand.

Once the survey has gone live, you will see a link to it when you log into Capacity Tracker and further communications on how to complete it will be sent shortly. If you have any questions, please contact the DHSC FNC inbox at [fnc@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:fnc@dhsc.gov.uk)

For those users who update Capacity Tracker via the Provider Bulk Update Template and would like to complete the survey, please contact the Capacity Tracker Support Centre who are available Mon - Fri (excluding Public Holidays) 8am - 5pm by phoning 0191 691 3729

We thank you in advance for your continued support and engagement.

## Public Health Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) webinar

We at KCC Public Health Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team, are delighted to invite you to our upcoming IPC webinar themed: 'The Key to Safety: Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs)'.

Please note, the webinar is held over two days to accommodate your busy schedule. You are only required to attend on one of the days.

### Webinar Details:

**Date and Time:** 28 November 11.30am - 1pm or  
30 November 12.30pm - 2pm

**Platform:** MS Teams

### Links:

- 28<sup>th</sup> November -  
<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/8b104d1d-f573-4684-973a-864871088ba1@3253a20d-c735-4bfe-a8b7-3e6ab37f5f90>
- 30<sup>th</sup> November-  
<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/db2bc056-3111-435d-bdee-dfb49f0f1115@3253a20d-c735-4bfe-a8b7-3e6ab37f5f90>

### Agenda:

- Introduction to Standard Infection Control Precautions
- The Foundation of SICPs
- Understanding the What, Why, and How of SICPs



- Winter Preparedness: Strategies and Recommendations
- COVID and Flu Vaccination: The Importance and Implementation
- Interactive Q&A Session

### **Why attend?**

- Delve into the core foundations of SICPs.
- Grasp a clear understanding of the rationale and execution of SICPs.
- Equip yourself with essential strategies for winter preparedness.
- Learn about the significance and rollout of COVID and flu vaccinations.
- Engage with leading experts and peers in the field.
- Elevate the safety and quality of care delivered to service users.

We believe this event will provide invaluable insights and tools to further enhance the care standards within your establishment.

Please note, registration via MS Teams is required to join the webinar. Follow the link above to register.

Looking forward to your participation!

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**Safer Care Service - join one of our seminars**



**Kent** Fire &  
Rescue Service

**together**

If you are a responsible person or owner of a health and care premises, our Safer Care Service initiative is designed to help reduce risk, help you meet your responsibilities under the Fire Safety Order, and help businesses stay safe and resilient.



Maidstone, where you can learn more about fire detection, warning systems and evacuation.

There are two dates to choose from – 10 November 2023 and 22 February 2024, each offering a morning or an afternoon session. Book your place now by going to our website at [www.kent.fire-uk.org/safer-care](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/safer-care).

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## Co-designing the future of residential and home care across Kent

Kent County Council and NHS Kent and Medway would like to invite care providers to take part in discussions about co-designing the future of residential and home care across the county for the benefit of all.



As part of this, we want to work with you and get your perspectives and inputs on aspects such as care costs and contractual models to support future market sustainability and provision of care.

Working with our partners 31ten, we want to offer you the opportunity to participate and help us shape how we meet the care needs of our residents moving forward.

Over the coming weeks, 31ten will be contacting care providers on behalf of the Council and the NHS to schedule sessions where they will support you to share information on your current provision alongside your feedback and views on what the future should look like. These will be held virtually and in-person and are intended as the first stage of an ongoing dialogue with you over the coming months into 2024. These discussions are intended as part of an informal early engagement opportunity.

The Council and the NHS would like as many of you as possible to take part and collaborate with us on this. To take part or find out more, you can contact [Kent@31ten.co.uk](mailto:Kent@31ten.co.uk).

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## Funding has increased for International Recruitment

Due to unprecedented demand, two £1500 grants per care service are now available meaning providers can:



- access up to £3,000 towards their international recruitment costs!
- Providers who have previously received a £1,500 grant are now invited to apply for a second grant.

### **Please see details below:**

The government has made funding available to support international recruitment into the social care sector during the 23-24 financial year.

In order to be eligible for a grant, a provider must meet the following criteria:

- Be registered with the CQC as a provider of social care
- Be located (determined by registered CQC location) in one of the Local Authority areas in the South East region
- Have an overall CQC rating which is above the 'Inadequate' rating at the time of application (i.e. 'Outstanding', 'Good' or 'Requires Improvement')
- EITHER intend to apply for a Licence to Sponsor skilled workers OR to hold a licence already and intend to recruit at least one international worker on a Skilled Worker Visa between 1 April 2023 and 15 March 2024
- Confirm that they will understand and will abide by the provisions of the Ethical Recruitment Framework (See the Code of Practice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-international-recruitment-of-health-and-social-care-personnel/code-of-practice-for-the-international-recruitment-of-health-and-social-care-personnel-in-england>)
- Confirm that they are able to offer any international workers they recruit work in accordance with the requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa
- Correctly and fully complete the correct [application form](#).

A provider's eligibility will be assessed at the time of application. Each must apply to the hub for the local authority whose area includes that location. For Kent and Medway, this is the Kent Integrated Care Alliance (KiCA).

Providers do not need to have applied for a licence or recruited a skilled worker in order to

apply for a grant, however they will have to provide evidence that their licence has been awarded or that they have employed a new skilled worker **between 1 April 2023 and 15 March 2024** before a grant will be paid to them.

The [application](#) is for providers included in the **Kent and Medway Council Districts**. Please ensure it is completed in its entirety, double check all details are correct, and do not hesitate to contact [recruitment@kica.care](mailto:recruitment@kica.care) or [grants@sesca.org.uk](mailto:grants@sesca.org.uk) if you have any concerns or queries.

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Want to have your say on social care? Join the Your voice network!



If you aren't already a member, are interested in hearing more about social care in Kent and would like us to keep you updated about opportunities to get involved, receive our newsletter or link you up with our lived experience groups.

Please [join our Your voice network](#) online or contact [makingadifference@kent.gov.uk](mailto:makingadifference@kent.gov.uk) to speak to a member of the team.

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We'd love to hear from you!

Our mailing address is:

[Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk)