

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin's Care Cascade – Thursday 12 May, 2022

Welcome to your latest care provider update.

These updates continue to centre around giving you and your team the information and resources you need, with a particular focus on infection control and Covid-19 - including vaccinations.

This edition is a **International Day of the Nurse special** – and in this edition, we are shining a light on the hard work and efforts of two of our care homes Nurses – one of whom works in Shropshire and the other in Telford.

If you would like to include anything in the next edition, please email Naomi Penrose: naomi.penrose@nhs.net

International Day of The Nurse 2022: A focus on care home Nurses

A spotlight on a Care Home Nurse in Shropshire

A Nurse, who has more than 25 years' experience, working in care homes for older people has shared her experience of caring and why she loves what she does.

Giby Vargesse (***pictured***), who works at Montgomery House in Shrewsbury, acknowledges that although the past couple of years have been – and continue to be challenging – due to the pandemic, she describes her role as being “an immense privilege which makes a difference to the everyday lives of residents”.

She said: “It gives me a great sense of fulfilment and satisfaction that the job I do – and love so much – makes the difference that it does to our residents.

“There's many aspects of the job that I enjoy doing – from getting to know the residents and their history, to communicating with their family members on how they are doing but also utilising my clinical skills and also getting to teach and support my colleagues. That's a good feeling.

“Although the job is hard and the hours are long, I am passionate about what I do and I'd like to think I always will be.”



Giby says that despite the difficulties brought about as a result of Covid-19, it has also paved the way for a number of improvements and advancements.

She said: “The pandemic has been tough but it’s taught us all so much – particularly relating to things that scared us at the very beginning. Now, we take it in our stride because of the learning that has come about.

“Infection prevention and control remains key – but also it’s been great to see the advances that have come about – for example, the Covid-19 vaccine, that’s given vital protection not only to our residents, who have not long has their Spring booster – but also us staff. It’s provided us with that reassurance that we are safe and protected in our jobs.”

Giby says she feels proud that the work of care home Nurses working locally are being recognised this International Day of the Nurse.

She added: “Any Nurse working in a care home – or any Nursing professional at all in fact – will tell you that we don’t do this job for recognition or praise – but it certainly feels nice to be valued and appreciated. Sometimes care home staff can feel overlooked at times, so it does feel good to know that the local health and care system recognises the important work that we do.”

A spotlight on a Care Home Nurse in Telford and Wrekin

Being part of a resident’s healing and recovery is the most rewarding part of being a Nurse – that’s the viewpoint of one the Nurses working in a Telford care home.

Paulette Tomas (*pictured*), Nurse and Deputy Manager at Cottage Christian Care Home, Coverage Care Services Limited in Newport, has shared an insight into what it’s like to be a Nurse in a care home, ahead of this International Day of the Nurse.

She said: “I love my job – don’t get me wrong, it’s hard work and not everyone is cut out for it but for those that can do it and thrive doing so, it’s a truly wonderful and rewarding choice of career.



“There are lots of reasons why being a Nurse is so special but I think my favourite part is when one of our poorly residents starts to recover and heal. Seeing that progress and knowing that you’ve had a part to play in that process is a fantastic feeling. It’s good to know that what you do makes a difference to others.”

Paulette, who moved to the UK from the Philippines back in 2018, says working in a care home has helped her to hone her decision making skills.

She said: “Working in a home means that we don’t have Doctors and Consultants on-hand whenever one of our residents isn’t well, so that means that often we use our own clinical judgement and this has really helped me to strengthen my decision making skills. It’s been really beneficial for my development and training.

“All in all, I feel extremely thankful to be doing a job I enjoy so much, working with such wonderful residents and supportive colleagues.”

Reminder to update the NHS National Capacity Tracker: A message from Deb Webster and Sarah Bass

Managers are being reminded of the importance of the tracker and keeping it up-to-date as it helps to provide an accurate picture of the care sector – including progress but also the challenges that help support the case when we are lobbying central Government for fair funding, PPE, among other things.

Regular completion of the tracker will avoid unnecessary contact from local authority colleagues and the Department of Health and Social Care.

Domiciliary Care Update

Further to the communication regarding Market Sustainability, the Fair Cost of Care Fund and the Cost of Care exercise, which was sent to you last month, we now have information from the Local Government Association regarding some forthcoming webinars demonstrating the Home Care Cost of Care toolkit.

This tool is for use by providers delivering Home Care to people aged 18+. (not supported Living)

Home care cost of care toolkit demonstration and Q+A for home care providers

The Care and Health Improvement Programme are running three webinars where the developer of the Home Care Cost of Care Toolkit, ARCC, will talk through how the tool works.

These sessions are 90 mins, split evenly between ARCC demonstrating the [Home Care Cost of Care Toolkit](#) and how it should be completed and then taking general Q&A queries.

These sessions are for a care provider audience only and *are free for all to attend*. The sessions are repeats of each other so individuals only need to attend one.

Please click the links below to register for the session, then select Book Now at the top of the Event Page. When registering, please select non-member organisation and enter your details as requested.

Please do check your junk mail inboxes for sign up confirmations and if there are any issues with registering, do email: Marketsandcommissioning@local.gov.uk

- [Home Care CoC Toolkit Demo and Q&A – 19th May from 10.00–11.30](#)

Care Homes: update on development of the fair cost of care tool for Care Homes

CHIP (delivered by ADASS and the LGA) has commissioned iESE to deliver the Care Home Cost of Care Tool which will be free to all councils and providers to use. The tool will be built on the existing web based CareCubed platform and aims to support both councils and care providers in future cost of care work.

IESE are running open sessions for all care providers on the Care Home tool, what it will do, updates on its development, and how local authorities will be gaining access to it upon release.

In order for care providers to book onto an awareness session, you will need to register your interest [by clicking here](#). Upon registration you will receive a confirmation email with the link to join the relevant session.

The dates for provider awareness sessions are:

- 16 May 15:30 – 16:30
- 17 May 12:00 – 13:00
- 18 May 9:30 – 10:30

Both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council are launching the Fair Cost of Care exercise for domiciliary care on 17 May and we will be sending further communication and updates to you directly.

Upcoming wellbeing events

STW ICS Menopause Staff Clinics

As part of our STW ICS Menopause offer we now have a staff menopause clinic. This will be a safe confidential space with an opportunity to discuss with our Occupational Health nurse your personal experience, including symptoms and potential treatment options and also gain further knowledge and understanding about this specific life stage.

Provided by the Occupational Health Team/Nurse at Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust, these clinics are here to help women ask any questions and feel more confident speaking about their symptoms and obtaining help to manage these symptoms. These clinics will help to raise awareness of menopause and will provide support in managing symptoms and wellbeing for people experiencing the menopause.

Dates: 24th May 2022, 21st June 2022, 28th June 2022

Location: - Gains Park, Shrewsbury

Time: 9am - 1pm

Please book via email to: Shropcom.hwb@nhs.net.

All clinics are confidential and are not part of your employee record.

STW ICS Menopause Meet Up – Thursday 26th May 12pm – 1.30pm

As part of the STW ICS Menopause Offer launched by the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS), this session is the fourth in a series of events bringing women together to share their experiences of the menopause.

The session will be held virtually via Teams, and is an informal peer support group where people are free to contribute to the conversation or simply listen to others talk about their experiences.

Registration for the virtual meet up can be accessed here: https://mels.uk/stw_stp2/event/register/246

Offering support and information throughout the session will be Kate Trifunovic, Occupational Health Nurse and a local GP who will be on hand to answer any questions about the Menopause and debunk any myths.

Menopause Meet Ups are here across the ICS in order to help women open up and feel more confident speaking about their experiences. It will also help to banish any unhelpful myths, raise awareness of this important topic, and positively impact staff health and wellbeing levels.

Menopause Meet Up

Date: Thursday 26th May 2022

Time: 12.00 - 1:30pm

Location: Microsoft Teams - https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGQxNWNiMWQtNzlyYy00MTUwLTgyZTYtYjQwNWUzODgyZDMw%40thredad.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2237c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22723689a6-01fb-46bb-812d-a4c755ccef47%22%7d

Can you help the University of Southampton with their research about UTIs in care home residents?

The VENUS Study is about developing a new approach to managing care home residents with possible urinary tract infection (UTI). The University's Research team want to interview nursing staff and carer staff working in care homes, to explore their views about how we can safely manage patients with vague symptoms of UTI without the initial use of antibiotics.

If you think you might be interested in taking part in an interview (lasting 30-60 minutes) then please contact the team, and they will send you more information.

As a thank you for your participation in an interview you will be offered a £20 Love2Shop gift voucher.

There is more information on the [VENUS](#) study website or if you would like to participate in an interview, please text, call, or email:

- Louise Worswick, Research Fellow – venus@soton.ac.uk / 07586976432

How to access your Covid-19 vaccines in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

The Covid-19 vaccines are the best way to protect yourself, your loved ones and vulnerable patients/residents from Covid.

There are a number of ways in which care staff can get a Covid vaccine in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

You can either [book online by clicking here](#) or you can attend a walk-in clinic.

Details of the walk-in clinics available in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin can be found by double-clicking here: <https://www.stwics.org.uk/our-priorities/covid-19-vaccination-programme/walk-in-clinic-times>

Please keep checking back as new sites, dates and times are being added all the time.
