



**Integrated
Care System**
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

NHS

**Shropshire, Telford
and Wrekin**

Oct 2023

Care Cascade

Welcome to your care provider update



Welcome Back

We are pleased to provide regular updates for colleagues working in the care sector.

These editions will centre around giving teams the information and resources they need relating to winter planning, with a particular focus on vaccinations including Covid-19 and flu vaccinations.

If you would like to include anything in the next edition, please email laura.case1@nhs.net

Coverage Care: Chris cooks up 45 years' service at Market Drayton home

A dedicated member of staff has clocked up an astonishing 45 years working at the same care home in Market Drayton.

Chris Fair started as an assistant cook at Woodcroft's predecessor home in 1978, a month before his 18th birthday, and moved with the rest of the staff to the new purpose-built home when it opened in 1989.



Chris originally worked for Shropshire County Council, but Woodcroft is now owned by Coverage Care Services, Shropshire's leading not-for-profit care home provider.

Chris progressed from assistant cook to catering manager, a role he filled for more than 30 years. He is now responsible for maintenance at the home – a job which has some benefits, he said.

"I find it better because I have more to do with the residents now, and I like that. My wife likes it better as well, because I do most of the cooking at home now! She is a cook as well but because I'm not cooking during the day anymore, I tend to do it at home."

Chris's role now involves doing any odd jobs which don't require specialist contractors. The 63-year-old said:

"I do all the jobs in the rooms – if residents want pictures hanging or want something doing, I do it for them. I do whatever anyone wants that I can and I find it very rewarding."

Coverage Care Services employs in the region of 1,000 people and several of its employees have recently celebrated reaching milestones in their long-service. Chief executive Debbie Price said:

"We pride ourselves on supporting and training people for a career in care and as a result, the dedication and loyalty of our staff is one of our biggest strengths. Chris is a perfect example of someone who has committed his entire working life to providing for and looking after elderly residents in the local community and for that, we would like to say a huge thank you to him."

"Our catering and maintenance teams are a vital element of the brilliant care provided in our homes and people like Chris, are the reason why we are able to consistently deliver to a high standard."

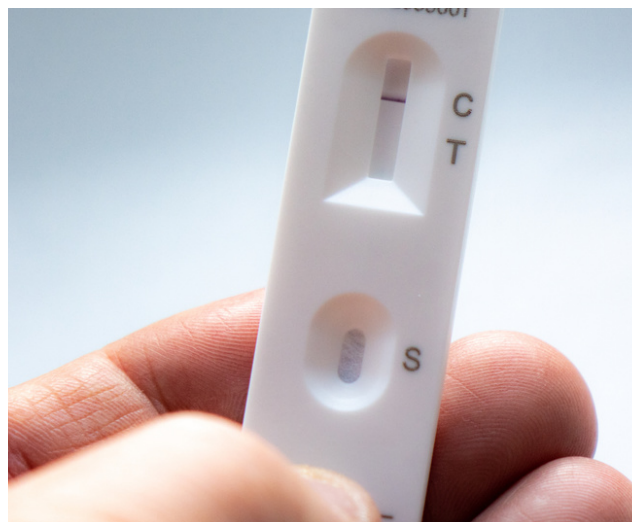
For more information about current vacancies and career opportunities, visit <https://www.carehomejob.co.uk/>



COVID-19 Lateral Flow testing required for patients leaving hospital when going into Care homes

Individuals being discharged from hospital into a care home should be tested with a COVID-19 LFD test within 48 hours before planned discharge. This test should be provided and done by the hospital.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can be admitted to the care home if the home is satisfied, they can be cared for safely. Individuals admitted with a positive test result should be kept away from other residents on arrival and follow the guidance on care home residents who test positive for COVID-19.



Care home residents who test positive should be supported to:

- stay away from others for a minimum of 5 days after the day they took the test
- access appropriate treatments as quickly as possible if they are eligible – refer to the section on COVID-19 treatments for people at higher risk of severe outcomes
- Visitors - The visiting guidance given below is for when the resident is positive. Residents should be supported to receive one visitor at a time with appropriate IPC precautions; one visitor at a time per resident should always be able to visit inside the care home – this number can be flexible in the case that the visitor requires accompaniment (for example if they require support, or for a parent accompanying a child); this does not include visiting professionals
- Visitors should be told about the person they wish to visit being positive before seeing the individual by either the individual themselves and/or the care home, this should be part of the normal visiting process which the care settings currently manage and they are advised that the positive person is advised to stay away from others. This does not apply to non-symptomatic/negative residents.
- go into outdoor spaces within the care home grounds through a route where they are not in contact with other residents
- avoid contact with other people who are eligible for COVID-19 treatments for 10 days after a positive test

The care home manager should also inform the resident's GP of the positive test result.

After 5 days, the resident can return to their normal activities if they feel well and no longer have a high temperature.

If Public Health or IPC can offer additional support to the settings that are finding admissions a challenge then please contact shropshirepublichealth@shropshire.gov.uk or call (01743)251234.

NHS booking opens for life-saving Covid vaccinations

Almost a quarter of a million people in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin can book their life-saving autumn Covid vaccine online from Monday, 18 September as the NHS steps up its winter vaccination programmes early in response to the risk of the new Covid variant.

Anyone eligible can book their Covid vaccinations via the NHS website, by downloading the NHS App, or by calling 119 for free if they can't get online.

GP practices, Community Pharmacies and other local NHS services will also be contacting people to offer both flu and Covid vaccines, and people can book the flu vaccine by searching online for a local pharmacy.

This year's adult Covid and flu vaccination programme has been brought forward on the advice of scientists following the emergence of a new Covid-19 variant (BA.2.86), which has a high number of mutations.

The NHS winter flu and Covid vaccination programme provides vital protection to those eligible and their families over winter, keeping people from developing serious illnesses, and helping to minimise hospitalisations during busy winter months.

People eligible during this year's vaccination campaign include all aged 65 and over, care home residents, frontline health and social care staff, those at increased risk because they are pregnant or have a certain underlying health condition, unpaid carers and household contacts of those at risk.

It is important for those who are eligible to top up their protection, even if they have had a vaccine or been ill with flu or COVID-19 before, as immunity fades over time and these viruses change each year. [Find out more.](#)



Pictured: Care Home resident Julie Hayes receiving her vaccination from Linda Hart, Clinical Team Lead.



Preparing for the future - Advanced Care Planning

Is end-of-life care important to you? Join our group working with the local NHS.

Advance care planning is the process of making decisions about what kind of care we would like to have in the future. It helps to make sure that anyone looking after us knows what matters to us. Having these conversations with our loved ones and our healthcare team can be difficult, with many of us putting them off.



We want to help everyone have these conversations about death and dying so that we can all effectively plan for our future care. Making plans in good time, or at least considering the issues involved in potential care arrangements and medical treatments, can bring peace of mind.

Join our supportive group made up of people with lived experience and healthcare professionals to help us encourage people to have the conversation and make a plan.

We need individuals from all backgrounds, who can use their experience to think creatively about possible ideas and solutions. We plan to work as a co-design group which means we will be working as equal partners in the process.

Meetings will either be in person or online, at times and dates suited to the group's needs. Travel expenses will be refunded, and refreshments will be provided at any in-person meetings.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Jayne Morris by Friday 13th September by email: stw.communications@nhs.net

For further information or to register your interest on line please go: [Preparing for the future – Advanced Care Planning - NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin \(shropshiretelfordandwrekin.nhs.uk\)](https://shropshiretelfordandwrekin.nhs.uk)





The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism

The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism is named after Oliver McGowan, whose death shone a light on the need for health and social care staff to have better training. The Health and Care Act 2022 introduced a requirement that providers registered with the CQC must ensure their staff receive learning disability and autism training appropriate to their role.



**OLIVER'S
CAMPAIGN**

As set out in the Health and Care Act 2022, the government is also required to publish a Code of Practice to provide guidance about how to meet this new legal requirement for training on learning disability and autism. The draft Code can be viewed here: [Government seeks views on learning disability and autism training - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/government-seeks-views-on-learning-disability-and-autism-training) (open for consultation until 19th September 2023)

The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism is the standardised training that was developed for this purpose and is the government's preferred and recommended training for health and social care staff. This training will ensure that you meet the required standards of training for your staff and ensure that staff across health and social care develop a common understanding of key issues and that consistent language is used across health and care organisations. The training is transferable from employer to employer.

For more information about the training, how you can access it and the CQCs role in assessing your compliance with the registration requirements in relation to the code of practice, please take some time to read the following attachments:

1. [General Communications and information on OMMT \(FINAL July 23\)](#)
2. [Information for STW CQC Regulated Providers re OMMT July 2023](#)
3. [OMMT CQC Statement for providers FINAL July 2023](#)

A specific page on the ShroandTel website has been created to host all [Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training information](#).

To access the ShroandTel website:

- Staff will need to sign up for an account by completing this [short form](#).
- They will receive an email asking them to set your new password.
- For any issues, please email support@theweborchard.com.

If you have any questions or queries, please email stw.peopleteam@nhs.net. For further general information about Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism, [click here](#).



Not to be missed

Food Standards Agency Update

The Food Standards Agency have published updated guidance on the consumption of ready-to-eat cold smoked and cured fish for higher risk consumers, which may be relevant to your service users. To find out more, [click here](#).

New NHS Campaign

The NHS has launched a new campaign to support providers and professionals to spot early signs of life-threatening constipation in people with a learning disability.

The NHS have also produced a suite of resources to support. Further details and the suite of resources can be [here](#).

Menopause Meet Up - Ask the Experts

To celebrate World Menopause Day, join us on Teams for a Q&A session with menopause experts Jo, Melanie and Kate who will share their knowledge and answer your menopause questions:

Date: Wednesday, 18 October 2023

Time: 4 - 5 pm

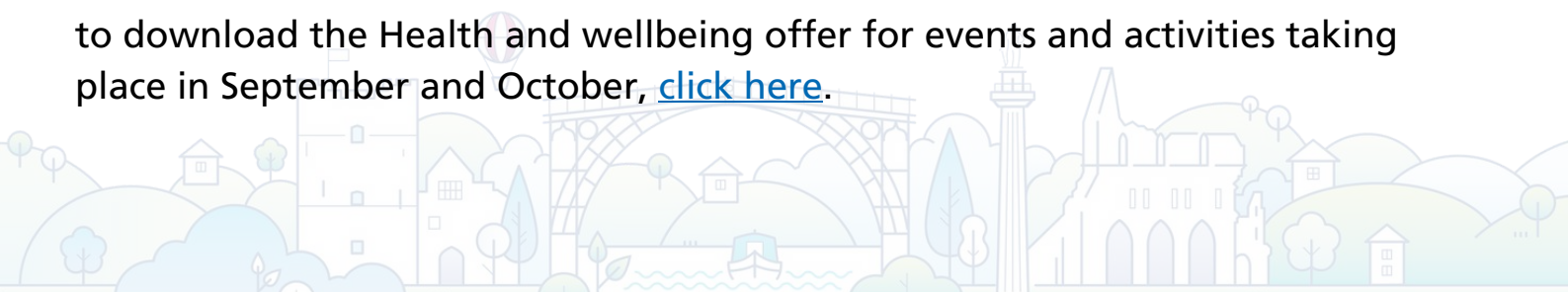
Location: Online – Microsoft Teams

Book your place [here](#).

**Please note that the panel will not provide individual 1:1 medical advice at the event.*

Health and Wellbeing Offer - September

to download the Health and wellbeing offer for events and activities taking place in September and October, [click here](#).



Funding for lifting equipment to help care homes

NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin help fund lifting equipment to enable a sample of self-selecting care homes and care agencies to respond to clients who are on the floor and uninjured.

[AStar Homecare Services Whitchurch](#) posted on social media, "This saved a 8 hour wait for an ambulance and hospital admission. It also enabled us to call Rapid Response team who were amazing along with the GP surgery... Our response time was 15 minutes!"



Telford and Wrekin's Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)

Message from Telford and Wrekin Council - upcoming changes to Telford and Wrekin Council's DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System).

The current DPS (accredited provider list) has been in place since 2016 through Delta. From early 2024 we will be switching procurement platform and moving away from the current system (Delta), and we are taking this opportunity to refresh the current DPS and bring all terms and conditions up to date. The current DPS is open to 31st March 2024 and we envisage the new DPS to take over from 1st April 2024. As part of this exercise, we will review all elements of, but not limited to, the application process, standard questionnaire, information requested and contract terms.

For any providers currently on the DPS, this will however mean that you would have to reapply again early 2024 to the DPS to remain accredited from 1st April 2024.

For any providers who have submitted an application and have a pending status, we have a delay in processing applications due to volume. We must highlight that within Telford & Wrekin we find ourselves in an unusual position in that we have a high number of providers delivering domiciliary care than packages available. We would encourage providers to look at other opportunities within the Councils including; Learning Disability and Mental Health services through a Flexible Contracting Arrangement Framework, which is jointly operated with Shropshire Council. To be accredited to the Flexible Contracting Agreement framework you will need to [register with Delta Tender Portal](#) and complete the submission in readiness for evaluation.

We would encourage all current providers and providers that have a pending application on the current DPS to [register](#) in preparation for the development of the new DPS arrangements.