CARE AND SUPPORT COMMISSIONING

BULLETIN – 05/11/2026

The Bulletin is produced monthly – please ensure key messages are shared with care staff accordingly.

Capacity Tracker ASC Mandatory Submission: 8th to 16th November 2026

The window will open on **Sunday 8th November 2026** for providers to complete their ASC Mandatory submission on Capacity Tracker. **The window will close on Monday 16th November 2026.**

Please refer to Adult social care provider information provisions: guidance for providers on data enforcement – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) regarding the enforcement action DHSC will undertake if providers are not compliant with their ASC Mandatory submission.

New Living Well with Dementia in the Wakefield District Guide

We are pleased to launch the new Living Well with Dementia in the Wakefield District Guide, a practical resource designed to support people living with dementia, their families, carers and those who support them.

The guide has been developed through a collaborative effort involving local organisations and people with lived experience of dementia, ensuring it reflects the information, advice and support that people told us is most important to them.

The guide is available via the Connect to Support website: **View the Living Well with Dementia Guide**

Printed copies of the guide will be available in the near future. If you feel your organisation could help distribute copies within local communities, venues or services, please contact adultsocialcarecomms@wakefield.gov.uk. We would be delighted to work with you to ensure the guide reaches as many people as possible.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the development of this guide and helped make it a valuable resource for our district.

Adult Social Care Information Point - Opportunity for Providers to Get Involved – Bus Station Pilot

Wakefield Adult Social Care is piloting a new **Information Point** at **Wakefield Bus Station** throughout November.
The Information Point aims to provide local people with information, advice and guidance, helping them access support, maintain their independence and connect with services available within their communities.
As part of the pilot, we are inviting local providers and partner organisations to join us for a session and showcase the support they offer to people across Wakefield.
This is an opportunity to:

- Promote your service directly to members of the public
- Raise awareness of the support available in local communities
- Speak to people who may benefit from your services
- Help prevent, reduce or delay the need for formal care and support
- Develop links with Adult Social Care and other local organisations

Sessions run from 2nd November through to 27th November - running Monday - Friday **10am to 2pm** at Wakefield Bus Station.
Providers are welcome to attend for the full session or part of a session. If you are unable to attend in person but would like your organisation to be represented, we would also be happy to display and distribute your leaflets and promotional materials.
If you are interested in getting involved, please contact juliacharlton@wakefield.gov.uk

Preparing for Cold Weather

The UKHSA Adverse Weather & Health Plan includes information to raise both public and professional awareness of the implications for vulnerable people and the actions to be taken to reduce the health risks of vulnerable people during cold weather. Please see attached PDF letter.

Wakefield Council has developed Severe Weather arrangements in partnership with relevant agencies to ensure that necessary and adequate action is planned and taken.

As part of that preparation, attached is a letter for all providers and below are two useful links to the UKHSA publications:

1. Adverse Weather and Health Plan – including specific information for Social Care - Adverse Weather and Health Plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2. Cold weather and health: guidance and advice - Cold weather and health - GOV.UK

In the event of a Met Office: Cold Health Alert throughout the winter months, I will be back in touch to notify.

Wakefield Cares Careers Hub Updates November 2026 (Please see attached)

Please see attached update document from Wakefield Cares Careers Hub.

Now Available - DSTP Version 9 for 2026-27

26/27 Version is 9 is now available and providers can now review and republish their Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) Please be advised that there are no new questions for Standards Met.

There have however been some changes in the wording of existing questions.

Version 9 changes can be summarised as:

- Stronger governance requirements (more alignment with GDPR rules)
- More evidence of compliance
- Regular review and testing expected
- Broader device security controls
- Demonstrable supplier cyber assurance

For most providers this should just mean ensuring their policies and procedures are up to date and that they can clearly show that business continuity plans are being tested.

Free SUPPORT: The Digital Care Hub Website has information and resources to assist you with reviewing and republishing your DSPT Republishing your DSPT | Digital Care Hub

The previous offer is still in place if anyone wishes to book on the monthly workshop (2nd Wednesday of each month) or have a 1-2-1 session then they can email dspt@kircca.co.uk

CQC Mandatory Training Requirement on Learning Disability and Autism

One year on from the publication of the Oliver McGowan Code of Practice, CQC has highlighted progress in meeting the mandatory training requirement on learning disability and autism. CQC has seen positive examples of providers enhancing staff training to meet the needs of the people they support. However, some providers still have work to do to ensure staff receive the required training. CQC reminds providers that this requirement applies to all services delivering a CQC-regulated activity. Mandatory training requirement on learning disability and autism - Care Quality Commission

Help Skills for Care understand skills gaps across adult social care – Skills for Care

Skills for Care is running four surveys as part of its Workforce Upskilling programme to better understand skills gaps and future training needs across adult social care in England.
The organisation is keen to hear from care workers, individual employers, personal assistants, senior carers, team leaders, registered managers, deputy managers and others working across adult social care to help build a clearer picture of workforce development needs across the sector.
There are four surveys available. Please choose the one most relevant to your role, or complete more than one if several are relevant to your experience:

- Digital
- Delegated Healthcare Activities
- Prevention
- Leadership and Management

All responses are anonymous and your feedback will help us understand where further training and support may be needed and help shape the next steps for workforce upskilling.
Please take part and share the surveys with colleagues and networks across adult social care.

Care Workforce Pathway for Adult Social Care – Skills for Care

Please see link to the Care Workforce Pathway:
https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fd43a2d7748d9411c97cc461eaaf4b5bf.…

Further information through the link - Getting started

Join the Wakefield (Domiciliary) Registered Managers Network – Skills for Care

Are you a Registered Manager for an adult social care provider based in Wakefield, supporting individuals in the community?

What to expect from a local network
Being part of a network offers managers:
• Peer support – connect with other managers facing similar challenges locally
• Knowledge sharing – exchange ideas and best practice, share experiences
• Guest speakers – for example CQC, commissioners, Integrated Care System (ICS) representatives and other sector organisations
Why should you join a local network
• Feel more supported and less isolated in your role
• Stay informed about sector developments and best practice
• Ability to ask questions and get answers in a safe, supportive environment
• Take ideas and learning back to your service

To join the local Registered Managers Network, please contact the Locality Manager, Ailsa Benn, at ailsa.benn@skillsforcare.org.uk

Activity Coordinators' Meeting Dates for Care Homes 2026

Please see attached upcoming meeting dates for 2026 - where Care Homes can share ideas, discuss best practice, and learn from one another.

Join Wakefield Care Association – Membership Applications Now Open (Free for 2026/27)

On behalf of Wakefield Care Association, please see below the information -

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to invite CQC registered, independent, private and VCSE Adult Social Care Providers across Wakefield to join Wakefield Care Association (WCA) as we continue to develop a single, strong, collective voice for adult social care providers in our area.

The Care Association has made significant progress over recent months, and we are now opening membership as we move into the next phase of development. Our Executive Board is now in place, with a wider board currently being formed, and regular provider meetings are already underway to ensure providers are shaping our priorities and direction.

Progress to date includes:

- ✅ A clear Plan on a Page setting out our vision and priorities
- ✅ Board roles and governance policies agreed
- ✅ Branding, dedicated email address and website established
- ✅ Formal letter submitted to Wakefield DASS regarding funding pressures
- ✅ Trusted Assessor survey completed, with findings shared with Wakefield Council
- ✅ Company officially registered with Companies House
- ✅ Administrative support in place via KirCCA

Wakefield Care Association is a not-for-profit organisation, created by providers, for providers, with a shared commitment to:

• Represent the sector clearly and credibly

• Influence care sector decision making

• Support collaborative working

• Drive improvements in adult social care

Why join? By becoming a member, you will:

• Be part of a united provider voice influencing local, regional, and national strategy and decisions

• Have opportunities to shape priorities, raise issues, and share solutions

• Access regular provider meetings, updates, and shared learning

• Strengthen the collective position of independent, private and VCSE adult social care providers

• Help build a sustainable, collaborative future for adult social care in Wakefield

Membership details

• Membership for 2026/27 is completely FREE

• Open to all CQC registered independent, private and VCSE adult social care providers operating in Wakefield

• No obligation — just a shared commitment to collaboration and improvement

We are at an exciting point in our journey and would welcome you to join us as the Care Association continues to grow and develop.

Please click on the link below to complete the online membership application form.

👉 Join here: **Membership Form – Wakefield Care Association**

If you have any questions, please contact us at: admin@wakefieldca.co.uk

We look forward to working with you.

Health & Social Care updates – Gov.co.uk

Please see below link to recent updated guidance and information on Gov.co.uk for topics relating to Health & Social Care. https://www.gov.uk/search/all?parent=department-of-health-and-social-care&order=updated-newest&level_one_taxon=8124ead8-8ebc-4faf-88ad-dd5cbcc92ba8&level_two_taxon=7d67047c-bf22-4c34-b566-b46d6973f961&organisations%5B%5D=department-of-health-and-social-care