

CARE AND SUPPORT COMMISSIONING

BULLETIN – 31/03/2026

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

Capacity Tracker ASC Mandatory Submission: 8th to 14th April 2026

The window will open on **Wednesday 8th April 2026** for providers to complete their ASC Mandatory submission on Capacity Tracker. **The window will close on Tuesday 14th April 2026.**

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

Wakefield Cares Careers Hub Updates April 2026

Please see attached update document from the Wakefield Cares Careers Hub.

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

Please see attached information document on behalf of WCA.

Memo of the Month March 2026 - Infection Prevention and Control Team

Please see attached March edition for Memo of the Month and “Switch from Coffee to Tea PDF attachment from the IPC team.

Alzheimer's Society West Yorkshire newsletter April to June 2026 – Skills for Care

Please see attached Skills for Care Newsletter.

WDSAB Rapid Read March: Violence Against Women and Girls

Please see attached WDSAB's March Rapid Read document.

Volunteering Opportunity at Cloverleaf Advocacy

Please see attached Volunteering Opportunity through Cloverleaf Advocacy.

Changes to the Mental Health Act Become Law – Government Updates

The Mental Health Act 2025 received Royal Assent on 18 December 2025, modernising and amending the Mental Health Act 1983. It aims to increase patient rights, reduce inappropriate detention, and give individuals more say in their treatment.

Key Reforms Coming into Force (Feb 2026 and onward):

- **New detention criteria** - detention under Sections 2 and 3 will now only occur when a person poses a risk of serious harm to themselves or others, tightening the threshold for compulsory admission.
- **Changes for autistic people and people with a learning disability:**
 - People with autism or a learning disability can no longer be detained under Section 3 for treatment unless they also have a co-occurring mental disorder that meets the new detention criteria.
 - The Act establishes a statutory register for people at risk of detention and places Care (Education) & Treatment Reviews (C(E)TRs) on a statutory footing.
- **Shortened detention periods:**
 - The initial detention period under Section 3 reduces from 6 months to 3 months.
 - Renewal periods also shorten - from 6 to 3 months, then 6 months instead of 12.

- **Introduction of the “nominated person”** - A new statutory role replaces the outdated “nearest relative” system, allowing patients to choose who represents them in care decisions.
- **Improved rights to tribunal access** - Tribunal access becomes more frequent and automated, particularly for people under community conditions amounting to a deprivation of liberty (DoL).
- **Conditional discharge with conditions amounting to a deprivation of liberty** - From 18 February 2026, tribunals and the Secretary of State can impose DoL-level restrictions when discharging restricted patients if necessary to protect others from serious harm. This change addresses legal limitations highlighted in the 2018 MM case.
- **Removal of prisons and police cells as “places of safety”** - People experiencing a mental health crisis cannot be held in police cells or prisons for assessment.
- **Statutory care and treatment plans** - all detained patients will receive a statutory care and treatment plan, giving them a clearer voice and more transparency in clinical decisions.
- **Advance Choice Documents (ACDs):**
 - Patients must be informed and supported in creating Advance Choice Documents, capturing treatment preferences when they have capacity.
 - Clinicians must consider these documents during treatment planning
 - For further information, please see link below

[The Mental Health Act 2025: what you need to know | NHS Confederation](#)

New Supporting Resources on the Reforms to the Mental Health Act Coming Soon – Skills for Care

Skills for Care are publishing a suite of supporting resources on Mental Health Act reforms, providing detailed information and guidance around the reforms, and a range of related themes and topics.

The resources will support adult social care staff and will be available on their website from April onwards.

New Mandatory Questions on DSPT for 2025-26

The latest Data Security and Protection Toolkit is now live for 2025-26 and there have been changes which came into effect on 1st September 2025.

Of the changes, there is a new mandatory question, as well various minor, wording changes to other questions, as well as two new optional (non-mandatory) questions. One existing question has also moved from optional to mandatory.

Digital care hub is working on updating their guidance on the website to reflect the changes. They will also be delivering a webinar on the DSPT 2025-26 changes on 1st October, which you can sign up for here - <https://www.digitalcarehub.co.uk/event/new-dspt-changes-for-2025-26/>

It is recommended to continuing to work on your DSPT and if you need any further support, contact your LSO.

For further information, please read [New mandatory questions on DSPT for 2025-26 - Digital Care Hub](#)

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