

# *DMCC Covid-19*

## Information Sheet

No 4 November 2020



Welcome to our latest DMCC Covid-19 information sheet that I hope will be of interest to you in these challenging times.

If you would like any further advice or would like to link up with another Memory Café who has opened or working toward this, please send a note to us at [info@dmcc.org.uk](mailto:info@dmcc.org.uk)

June Wildman, Chairperson DMCC

### Contents:

- Supporting family carers for people with dementia to make difficult decisions during Covid-19
- Decision making Form attached (pdf)
- Devon County Council, Funding available to support communities during second lockdown; Vaccine news welcomed, a bid to end holiday hunger and support available if you need it
- New Safe Care Home visit guidance
- Social Care Institute for Excellence training link
- On-line Scams Information sheets available
- HSE information on how to complete a risk assessment prior to re-opening



## **SUPPORTING FAMILY CARERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS DURING COVID-19**

Message from Claire Puckey

Dementia Friendly City Co-ordinator Strategic Co-operative Commissioning

Just sharing some information that might be useful to some of you and the people you support (Please see attached and the information below).

During the pandemic, if a person living with dementia becomes unwell, the family and the person living with dementia may have to make rapid decisions concerning e.g. hospital admission/ whether to receive care at home/ which treatments the person may or may not wish to receive/how to care for the person if they can't visit them etc. These decisions will have an impact on the emotional wellbeing of the person with dementia and the family with lasting feelings of guilt and doubt if they made the right decision.

The Endemic (Dementia and Decision Making During Covid 19) research team at UCL (University College London) have worked with current and former carers, Dementia UK ,

Alzheimer's Society and Marie Curie to develop a decision-making guide to help carers when making decisions during this difficult time, to ensure their loved one gets care, support and dignity if they get Covid-19.

The guide covers a number of decisions carers may need to make if the person they are caring for has or is suspected to have COVID-19. The document will guide carers through the process of making these difficult decisions whilst taking into consideration wishes and preferences of the person living with dementia and the legal aspects of making decisions. There are also useful tips for carers such as the COVID-19 symptoms to watch out for which may differ to the commonly recognised symptoms, where to find help and support when making decisions and how to look after yourself as a carer.

Tracey Lancaster, whose mum is living with dementia said: "I'm dreading the call from the care home to say that mum has coronavirus. I worry about her fighting for breath and therefore we would have to decide if she goes into hospital or what care can be provided in the home. I'm not sure that I could make that decision. So, a decision guide like this one would be invaluable for me and my family."

Marilyn Beattie, whose husband Gordon died in 2019, following a dementia diagnosis, said: "I felt like I was shooting in the dark most of the time. I didn't know who to turn to, or what was available. It would have changed everything if I had an aid like this - a life changer."



## **Devon County Council**

### **Funding available to support communities during second lockdown**

*Devon County Council sent this bulletin at 09-11-2020 05:46 PM GMT*

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/2aac3ca>

DCC have [temporarily reopened our 'COVID-19 Fund'](#) to help provide valuable resources to organisations working in communities that have been affected by this second national lockdown.

The money will help voluntary and community groups to tackle the social and economic impacts of this lockdown and help those who are most vulnerable in their communities.

#### **What's it for?**

The funding is to support community-led schemes that carry out the small but important things that can safely address some of the issues that are arising because of the second national lockdown, including support for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable. These can include:

- safe deliveries of essential goods and services to those who are vulnerable, such as foods and medicines
- support for accessing online information and services

- helping people to stay connected and informed and measures to support mental health and wellbeing
- transport-related initiatives that support safe community responses to the outbreak

## Vaccine news welcomed, a bid to end holiday hunger and support available if you need it

*Devon County Council bulletin at 13-11-2020 04:59 PM GMT*

Latest Information bulletin contains:

- Thank you for complying with national restrictions
- Devon leads £2 million bid to end holiday hunger
- Vaccine news welcome, but Director of Public Health Devon advises caution
- Are you worrying about money?
- Funding available to support communities

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/2ac19d9>



### **NEW SAFE CARE HOME VISIT GUIDANCE!**

**Message from Claire Puckey**, Dementia Friendly City Co-ordinator, Strategic Co-operative Commissioning

We've discussed the difficulties with care home visiting during the pandemic a few times in our PDAA meetings and this is just to let you know that on the 4th of November the Department of Health and Social Care published new guidance to support safe care home visits during this second lockdown.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-to-support-safe-care-home-visits-during-lockdown?utm\\_source=235e072d-286f-4d4f-b9b1-4ec29dcf35b4&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-to-support-safe-care-home-visits-during-lockdown?utm_source=235e072d-286f-4d4f-b9b1-4ec29dcf35b4&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

The guidance is saying that all care home residents should be allowed to receive visits from their family and friends in a Covid-secure way, with social distancing and PPE and that homes, especially those that haven't allowed visits since March, will be encouraged and supported to make safe provision for them. It gives a few possible examples of how this might be done.

Also the guidance says:

- There is a group that is looking at developing plans to allow specific family and friends to visit care homes supported by testing with trials set to start later on this month.

- A new national programme will be rolled out in the next few weeks of weekly testing for professionals who regularly visit care homes.
- 11,000 iPad tablets are to be distributed to thousands of care homes across England to help residents keep in touch with loved ones.



## Department of Health and Social Care with SCIE

### - Training and remote learning available from Social Care Institute for Excellence (some free courses available)

Courses are delivered by subject experts to ensure their relevance and practical application. Including e-learning and webinar sessions.

[e-Learning courses from SCIE](#)  
[Virtual training webinars](#)

The screenshot shows the SCIE e-learning website interface. It features three main course cards, each with a thumbnail image and a brief description. The first card is for 'Infection control', the second for 'Dementia awareness', and the third for 'Safeguarding adults'. Each card includes a 'What is it about?' section, a 'Who is it for?' section, and a call to action to 'Find out more and start studying'.

**Infection control**  
**What is it about?**  
 Understand infection control and how to stop the spread.  
**Who is it for?**  
 All frontline staff working in health or social care.  
 > Free! Find out more and start studying

**Dementia awareness**  
**What is it about?**  
 Learn about what dementia is and how to live with it. Aligned with Tier 1 of the National Dementia Training Standards Framework.  
**Who is it for?**  
 All staff who work with people living with dementia.  
 > Free! Find out more and start studying

**Safeguarding adults**  
**What is it about?**  
 Explore what safeguarding adults means and how to manage it effectively.  
**Who is it for?**  
 All frontline health and social care staff.  
 > Find out more and get a quote now

<https://www.scie.org.uk/training>



## ON-LINE SCAMS

Information available From the Trading Standards South West and Friends Against Scams

**ONLINE SCAMS**

Advice from Trading Standards South West on how to stay safe from online scams.

**Common online scams**

Scammers increasingly use email and the internet to con people out of money, obtain personal details, or to install harmful software. Here are some common techniques to be aware of:

- You receive an email (a "phishing" email) that looks like it's from your bank, HMRC or another trusted organisation asking you to confirm your account details by replying to the email or clicking on a link.
- You receive an email saying that you've won an overseas lottery or a prize, but you need to send some money first for taxes or processing fees.
- You receive an email from someone overseas asking if they can transfer money into your UK account in return for a percentage of the money.
- You receive a call out of the blue to tell you there's a problem with your computer or wireless internet. The caller offers to

**BE SCAM WISE**  
SPOT - AVOID - REPORT

**Warning signs**

Here are some key warning signals to look out for:

- The language in the email is strange or has spelling and grammatical errors.
- You're contacted unexpectedly by a company or person you've never heard of.
- You're being asked to provide your personal or banking details.

**Are you or your loved ones being targeted by scams?**

Help to manage finances and avoid scams for people at risk and those who support them

Logos: The National Citizens Advice Bureau, BU The Bank of England, LLOYDS BANK, HALIFAX, BANK OF SCOTLAND

If you would like a copy of either of these please drop an email to [infor@dmcc.org.uk](mailto:infor@dmcc.org.uk) and we can forward it on to you.

NB. DMCC hopes to produce our own version of a leaflet, suitable for people with dementia and will include a card that can be laminated that can be left by a phone

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**HSE information on how to complete a risk assessment prior to re-opening follow the link:**

[https://www.hse.gov.uk/#utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=digest&utm\\_term=logo&utm\\_content=header](https://www.hse.gov.uk/#utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=digest&utm_term=logo&utm_content=header)

