**CPA Comms leads update**

**8 August 2025**

**CPA updates**

* **Website and Communities of Practice**

We are in the process of updating the website showcasing our [workstreams](https://www.careprovideralliance.org.uk/workstreams/) and [Communities of Practice (CoP)](https://www.careprovideralliance.org.uk/communities-of-practice/).

Our CoPs have resources, and you can also register to join the forum and contribute the conversations.

* Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Community of Practice [here](https://www.careprovideralliance.org.uk/mental-health-learning-disabilities/).
* Join the Neighbourhood Health Community of Practice [here](https://www.careprovideralliance.org.uk/neighborhood-health-community-of-practice/).

We will update you as more CoPs are developed.

* **The use of VAT grouping within the care industry: Q&A document**

HMRC has received feedback and also a number of queries re practical lines to take when dealing with providers. Attached with this email a Q&A document; please read and share with colleagues, members or other impacted stakeholders.  This document should be read in conjunction with the [Revenue and Customs Brief (RCB).](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revenue-and-customs-brief-2-2025-the-use-of-vat-grouping-within-the-care-industry)

If you have any questions, please contact HMRC as per the instructions in the RCB and Q&A document.

You can also find this information and the Q&A document on the CPA website [here](https://www.careprovideralliance.org.uk/the-use-of-vat-grouping-within-the-care-industry-qa-document/).

**Members news**

ARC: Final Call for our Active Support Workshop - 15 September 2025 – 9.30am – 12.30pm

Join our Active Support Lead during a 3-hour online workshop delivered via Zoom and find out more about how Active Support can change the outcomes for supported people as they begin to carry out meaningful activities to enrich their lives – more important than ever in the face of limited opportunities to be involved in activities outside of peoples homes.

This ‘Introduction to Active Support’ workshop is suitable for managers and support staff, and will cover:

* What is Active Support?
* Providing support that promotes participation and engagement
* Looking for opportunities to engage people in meaningful activities at home and in their community
* Simple ways of monitoring staff support
* How to embed Active Support within your team

Cost per participant: £79 (ARC Members) | £100 (Non-members). Details [here](https://arcengland.org.uk/introduction-to-active-support-transforming-the-lives-of-supported-people-with-a-learning-disability-autism-or-both-workshop-15-september02025/?mc_cid=09b9e77005&mc_eid=e865d441e1).

**Government/Regulation**

* **Public advised to stop using certain non-sterile alcohol-free wipes**

Due to risk of infection, non-sterile alcohol-free wipes are not appropriate for the treatment of injuries, wounds or on broken skin, nor for cleaning of intravenous lines. During investigation of an outbreak, certain wipes were found to be contaminated with Burkholderia stabilis. The following products have been found to be affected: ValueAid Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes, Microsafe Moist Wipe Alcohol Free and Steroplast Sterowipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes. In addition, testing also revealed contamination of Reliwipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes, although the contamination was deemed to be with a Burkholderia strain not related to the outbreak cases. Details [**here**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-advised-to-stop-using-certain-non-sterile-alcohol-free-wipes).

* **CQC give evidence for the UK Covid-19 inquiry**

On 7 July 2025 Mary Cridge, CQC’s Director of Adult Social Care, gave evidence as part of Day 5 of the evidence hearings in Module 6 of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry. This Module explores the impact of the pandemic on the publicly and privately funded adult social care sector in England and the devolved nations. Details [**here**](https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/cqc-gives-evidence-uk-covid-19-inquiry).

* **Meeting the Accessible Information Standard**

The Accessible Information Standard (AIS) has recently been updated to include:

* a sixth ‘review stage’
* a self-assessment process to help providers meet the standard.

Details [**here**](https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/meeting-accessible-information-standard).

* **Survey of adult carers in England 2025 to 2026**

Guidance and materials for the survey of adult carers in England (SACE) 2025 to 2026 survey year.  All councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) with an eligible population of at least 150 carers are required to carry out this survey every 2 years. SACE exists in a national policy context that recognises the vital contribution of unpaid carers, and asks carers about:

* their quality of life
* the impact of services on their quality of life
* their general health and wellbeing

Details [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/survey-of-adult-carers-in-england-2025-to-2026).

* **Yellow heat health alert (hot weather response)**

A yellow heat health alert (hot weather response) has been issued for: Yorkshire and The Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, South East, South West

You can see all the [weather health alerts currently in place across England](https://ukhsa-dashboard.data.gov.uk/weather-health-alerts/heat) on the UKHSA data dashboard.

 Please review the [Weather Health Alert System user guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/weather-health-alerting-system) to explain how you can use the information contained within the alerts to respond to the forecast weather.

We provide guidance on how to take action for a range of professional groups with a duty to respond, with action cards available for [commissioners](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/heat-health-alert-action-card-for-commissioners), [health and social care providers](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/heat-health-alert-action-card-for-health-and-social-care-providers), [voluntary and community sector](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/heat-health-alert-action-card-for-the-voluntary-and-community-sector), and [national government.](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/heat-health-alert-action-card-for-national-government)Summary action cards are also available below:

* [commissioners](https://khub.net/documents/135939561/174099487/Heat-Health%2BAlert%2Bsummary%2Baction%2Bcard%2Bfor%2Bcommissioners.pdf/cec04bee-d06f-1f9e-cec9-da087b751baf?t=1685095190583)
* [voluntary and community sector](https://khub.net/documents/135939561/174099487/Heat-Health%2BAlert%2Bsummary%2Baction%2Bcard%2Bfor%2Bthe%2Bvoluntary%2Band%2Bcommunity%2Bsector.pdf/67baffbd-5931-0491-8bb6-1deb201cdc46?t=1685095217750)
* [care homes and other residential settings](https://khub.net/documents/135939561/174099487/Action%2BCard%2BSummary%2BPoster%2B-%2Bcare%2Bhomes.pdf/ce49a5d3-d07b-a159-2f13-2c2d8a714d95?t=1710866856422)
* [services delivering care to people in their homes](https://khub.net/documents/135939561/174099487/Heat-Health%2BAlert%2Bsummary%2Baction%2Bcard%2Bfor%2Bproviders.pdf/be948aea-c509-b647-560f-306d5a9505a6?t=1710761820841)
* [hospitals and other healthcare settings](https://khub.net/documents/135939561/174099487/Action%2BCard%2BSummary%2BPoster%2B-%2Bcare%2Bhomes%2Band%2Bother%2Bresidential%2Bsettings.pdf/25d5c13c-48be-c9b1-879e-b12f88e57fb2)

For an overview of the weather alerts in place across England, please check the [UKHSA data dashboard](https://ukhsa-dashboard.data.gov.uk/weather-health-alerts). The Met Office may issue National Severe Weather Warnings (for example, extreme heat) with short notice, so you can take appropriate action. Check the Met Office Website to see the [National Severe Weather Warnings](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings) currently in place.

You can also find information of the [latest weather forecast](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/) on the Met Office website.

**Adult social care in England, monthly statistics: August 2025**

The main points outlined in this bulletin are as follows. In the week ending 14 July 2025:

* 86.0% of total beds in care homes were occupied
* there were 350,077 residents in the 91.6% of total care home providers which responded
* 99.4% of care homes in England were able to accommodate residents receiving visitors
* 0.1% of care home staff and 0.1% of domiciliary care staff were absent due to COVID-19-related reasons

Details [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/adult-social-care-in-england-monthly-statistics-august-2025/adult-social-care-in-england-monthly-statistics-august-2025).

**Other sector information**

* **Provider failed to respond to family’s concerns for more than a year**

Care providers across England are being urged to ensure their complaints processes meet basic standards, after the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman found a medium-sized provider had no procedure when investigating a family’s complaint. Details [**here**](https://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news/2025/jul/provider-failed-to-respond-to-family-s-concerns-for-more-than-a-year).

* **NHS launches first ever review to tackle LGBT+ health inequalities**

The NHS has launched its first ever review to tackle health inequalities experienced by LGBT+ people, including access to mental health care, cancer screening and primary care services. The detailed work, announced today (29 July), will help the NHS understand how it can do more to meet the needs of LGBT+ people, including understanding barriers to accessing healthcare and the impact of LGBT+ health inequalities on outcomes and patient safety. Details [**here**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2025/07/nhs-launches-first-ever-review-to-tackle-lgbt-health-inequalities/).

* **Age UK warns 2.4 million digitally excluded older people are at risk of being left behind in an increasingly digital world**

New analysis for Age UK has found that 2.4 million (19%, nearly one in five) older people have limited use of the internet – using it less than once a month or not at all.

On the day Age UK delivers its 173,949 strong petition to No 10 Downing Street, the Charity calls on the Government to ensure there is an enforceable, ‘clear guarantee’ to offline alternatives to all public services, including NHS and council services, which can include in person options and assisted digital access. Details [**here**](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/latest-press/articles/age-uk-warns-22.4-million-digitally-excluded-older-people-are-at-risk-of-being-left-behind-in-an-increasingly-digital-world/).

* **How we tackled ageism in 2024**

In 2024 we launched Age Without Limits with a hard-hitting question: ‘Are You Ageist?’ A packed calendar of advertising, events, research and communications then followed. Throughout 2024, we got ageism on the national agenda and got people to take action to challenge ageism. This report revealed 24% of adults saw at least one element of the ‘Are You Ageist?’ advertising campaign. That's around 10 million people! Almost three quarters of those who recognised the advertising campaign had taken action; most commonly to speak to friends and family about ageism. Read more [**here**](https://www.agewithoutlimits.org/our-impact).

* **IFS report: Fair Funding Review 2.0: the impacts on council funding across England**

This report analyses the potential impact of the proposed reforms across councils, and how this will depend on choices the UK government makes about several key elements of the new system. It can be read in conjunction with our [formal response to the government’s consultation](https://ifs.org.uk/articles/response-fair-funding-review-20-consultation-mhclg). Because key elements of the system are still being consulted upon, and the government plans to take account of new data when calculating the final funding allocations for councils, the figures in this report should be taken as indicative of general patterns and trade-offs, rather than as precise forecasts. Read the report [here](https://ifs.org.uk/publications/fair-funding-review-20-impacts-council-funding-across-england).

* **Win a £50 Marks & Spencer voucher by Celebrating Afternoon Tea Week 11-17 August 2025**

At THE CARER, we want to help make your Afternoon Tea Week celebration that bit more special. We’re offering one lucky care home the chance to win a £50 Marks & Spencer voucher – perfect for treating your residents to some extra special afternoon tea goodies! Details [here](https://thecareruk.com/celebrating-afternoon-tea-week-a-cherished-tradition-in-care-homes-11-17-august-2025/).

**Opportunities to engage**

* **Consultation – Late payments: tackling poor payment practices**

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) has published a consultation seeking views on a package of legislative measures aimed at addressing late payments, and ensuring businesses are paid fairly and on time.

The consultation seeks views from businesses, trade representatives, and other organisations or individuals who are interested parties to the proposals. The legislation aims to address late, long and disputed business-to-business payments, and the use of retention clauses in construction contracts. The consultation closes at 11:59pm on Thursday 23 October 2025. Details [**here**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/time-to-pay-up-toughest-crackdown-on-late-payments-in-a-generation-unveiled-in-plan-to-back-small-businesses). Link to consultation [**here**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/late-payments-tackling-poor-payment-practices).

* **Have Your Say: Help Shape the Future of Advocacy**

National Development Team for Inclusion is exploring the creation of a representative membership body for advocacy providers across England and Wales—and need your input. Complete a short survey to share your views on what’s needed, what’s possible, and what benefits and activities such a body should offer. There’s a survey tailored to your role or experience:

* Advocacy organisations – if you are a representative of or an individual employed by an organisation that provides advocacy services, [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/organisations_engagementsurvey).
* Self-employed advocates – if you are an advocate that is not employed by an organisation, [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/selfemployed_engagementsurvey).
* People who have accessed advocacy – either you have accessed advocacy yourself or are a family member or friend of someone who has – [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/accessedadvocacy_engagementsurvey)
* Commissioners – for those who commission advocacy services [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/commissioners_engagementsurvey).

Surveys are open until Thursday 03 September 2025. Read more [here](https://www.ndti.org.uk/news/representative-membership-body-for-advocacy):

* **Care and Support Alliance pen portraits**

The CSA is developing a series of pen portraits to help the Casey Commission better understand the real-life experiences of people who need, use, or provide care and support. The portraits will reflect the diversity of older people, disabled people, and unpaid carers across England whose lives are directly affected by the social care system. They will show not only the challenges and barriers that people face - such as gaps in provision, difficulties accessing services, or emotional and financial pressures - but also the positive difference that good care can make when it is available, personalised, and consistent. If you would like to be involved, CSA has created some resources:

* [**A template to guide you in writing a pen portrait**](https://u33131571.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.-2BVSjUHgGdVDxpaD-2Bg2nbmGkqS-2FB-2BFOoj3E6PFXoEdCkwBHuI-2F-2BtkR5Zaf0UfN6cqoyVpA2Wyk5XHoGTFb-2B6zwR87csCukEkiSWT17EEPcx8-3DQbep_T6CZ7Dik7STibep-2F0A4aWgUibHSTt3Xxf3NiJp3kuiDarI82zGuR3ueMxxzpKaca2vCtPDiB1hlYbhuQEjKUIVOT7Mx-2BHK7fkQBxLibV-2F4mx-2BYwvz27VIWgSln3cMNV7DRl1OOShHtGeAdTrD1lgNlJvsxp3CqAea-2FdfIkzrYLJg6NMxpxyecN5uunMjQiE5yny2GfH5qKK9bauOfAtQS7UxoVe16G9HuOWFNVZoNZNIIfYEsKBiBu6dSAxsYdoQwKyCLqoO8vrULHc9Ni1-2Fx8l4kz7RU8caWVxxqYibe4gvWu6KyptcFpbu4RPC7AnMGeSEk9NwmzOMwryY9nlg5A-3D-3D)
* [**An example to show how it might look in practice**](https://u33131571.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.-2BVSjUHgGdVDxpaD-2Bg2nbmGkqS-2FB-2BFOoj3E6PFXoEdCkwBHuI-2F-2BtkR5Zaf0UfN6cqWQLXt7C-2Bi-2BhdbZSowvhPncX3aysWagMjdo5byUMagvM-3DctxQ_T6CZ7Dik7STibep-2F0A4aWgUibHSTt3Xxf3NiJp3kuiDarI82zGuR3ueMxxzpKaca2vCtPDiB1hlYbhuQEjKUIVOT7Mx-2BHK7fkQBxLibV-2F4mx-2BYwvz27VIWgSln3cMNV7DRl1OOShHtGeAdTrD1lgNlJvsxp3CqAea-2FdfIkzrYLJg6NMxpxyecN5uunMjQiE5zvq1kmx8j-2FPX8tAfJZgKzJSlyD6KzL1NoUqb-2Fpp3ZsF2y5XwnJdqV1-2FENNDmtu6-2BifNB-2FXifir5HFZftElp6P-2B9C5afW9ouIrqKgGSz1buRdE71yMT-2BJXIwF3K5kmUSKUJpGsap0dy4zVjkUEJyuSA-3D-3D)
* [**A consent form to be filled in by any participants**](https://u33131571.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.-2BVSjUHgGdVDxpaD-2Bg2nbmGkqS-2FB-2BFOoj3E6PFXoEdCkwBHuI-2F-2BtkR5Zaf0UfN6cq45glxtCvR6Y1lYdT8B2prkEJnKDEL7AcgXiZEKnYOL0-3D7nM3_T6CZ7Dik7STibep-2F0A4aWgUibHSTt3Xxf3NiJp3kuiDarI82zGuR3ueMxxzpKaca2vCtPDiB1hlYbhuQEjKUIVOT7Mx-2BHK7fkQBxLibV-2F4mx-2BYwvz27VIWgSln3cMNV7DRl1OOShHtGeAdTrD1lgNlJvsxp3CqAea-2FdfIkzrYLJg6NMxpxyecN5uunMjQiE5-2Blb33mToQ0zd0Sl9iYsOlg-2BKCYVnBpxSCndso1ay2RAFiMee4AYV1Pt7FO5VcmT1FMpB2FBgdLZauHF-2FCAyBz5ndciQnNEVbb4fLmzN1FBuPht-2BMmjIgHjPW8f2gvoG2yAfkhR-2Fc1XGpSoKjRL2xlg-3D-3D)

Please email any portraits to [**csa@nas.org.uk**](https://u33131571.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.-2BVSjUHgGdVDxpaD-2Bg2nbmGkqS-2FB-2BFOoj3E6PFXoEdCkwBHuI-2F-2BtkR5Zaf0UfN6cqwtxPnvIn0EbmB59pI2XTT8PvJK999Nbtc8yHtH-2FSlhs-3Dtsn2_T6CZ7Dik7STibep-2F0A4aWgUibHSTt3Xxf3NiJp3kuiDarI82zGuR3ueMxxzpKaca2vCtPDiB1hlYbhuQEjKUIVOT7Mx-2BHK7fkQBxLibV-2F4mx-2BYwvz27VIWgSln3cMNV7DRl1OOShHtGeAdTrD1lgNlJvsxp3CqAea-2FdfIkzrYLJg6NMxpxyecN5uunMjQiE5qUTQ-2FHxdUBwh3jiI1dOa845vTca97RLOYZkMJYh4l66dlOkPuzWWD-2FKDUqOrW3a8UK5q-2BumVV8cqJr6B2mnTL-2FjC6sG0b1zHh4D-2BxTWtkvZdlsnYxUKCCdhFZzenefBsG1L9HUx3Nb0cazH8QFxDyQ-3D-3D) by **14th August.**

* **If you haven’t done so already, the study Exploring Learning Disability Nurses’ Perspective on NMC registration needs more participants**

We know the numbers of Registered Nurse Learning Disabilities (RNLDs) on the NMC register has declined over the past five years (NMC, 2023a), we also know that many RNLDs work in social care and are choosing to lapse their NMC registration. Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care in England, has called for urgent research to understand why RNLDs are losing their professional identity within social care and leaving the NMC register. This study, ‘Exploring Learning Disability Nurses' Perspectives on NMC Registration: Implications for Students and Individuals Living with a Learning Disability’, aims to address this gap.

This [research](https://adult-social-care-nursing.salford.ac.uk/work/rnld-study/) has two arms

* Survey for RNLDs who are currently, or have previously been, registered with the NMC see -  <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/salford/rnld-questionnaire>. We hope you will consider completing the survey
* We are also seeking to interview (either one to one or in groups) RNLDs who have lapsed their registration with the NMC in the last 10 years. If you are interested in participating in this please email Vanessa at  v.a.heaslip@salford.ac.uk

This research has full ethical approval from the University of Salford and if you want any further information, please email Vanessa on v.a.heaslip@salford.ac.uk

* **The Fair Funding Review 2.0: closes 15 August**

This consultation seeks views on the approach to determining new funding allocations for local authorities and fire and rescue authorities, building on the [local authority funding reform: objectives and principles consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-funding-reform-objectives-and-principles) which the government has formally responded to in parallel.

This consultation covers:

* determining local authority funding allocations
* approach to consolidating funding
* measuring differences in demand for services and the cost of delivering them
* measuring differences in locally available resources
* the New Homes Bonus
* transitional arrangements and keeping allocations up-to-date

It also covers:

* long-term approach to the business rates retention system
* devolution and wider reforms, including how we can bring Strategic Authorities closer to the Local Government Finance Settlement
* ways we can reduce demands on local government to empower them to deliver for communities; and sales, fees and charges reform.

It invites views on the possible equalities impacts of these proposals. Details [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-fair-funding-review-20).