**Staff news**

**Hospice at Home:** We said farewell to Claire, HCF, and Christine, HCA and we wish them both well.

**1st February 2022 is Dignity Action Day**

Dignity Action Day aims to ensure people who use care services are treated as individuals and are given choice, control and a sense of purpose in their daily lives.

Dame Joan Bakewell, Dignity in Care Ambassador said:

“Dignity Action Day highlights a more respectful way of behaving towards vulnerable people. The very old and the very young clearly need our respect, but it wouldn’t do any harm to spread the dignity message across the population then we can all benefit.”

Our **SPDNS Code of Conduct** refers to dignity in care – as a reminder:

**The Department of Health’s “Dignity in Care” campaign highlights everyone’s right to be treated with respect. This challenges us all to provide a quality service that respects people’s dignity. You must:**

* Have a zero tolerance of all forms of abuse
* Support our service users with the same respect you would want for yourself or your family
* Treat each person as an individual by offering a personalised service
* Enable people to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control
* Listen and support people to express their needs and wants
* Respect people’s right to privacy
* Ensure people feel able to complain without fear of retribution
* Engage with family members and carers as care partners
* Assist service users to maintain confidence and positive self esteem
* Act to alleviate people’s loneliness and isolation

**Direct Observations:** During this current quarter (January to March) we are carrying out direct observations with all care staff. This includes observation of medication administration, hand hygiene and putting on/taking off PPE. Your supervisor/Health Care Facilitator will be in contact with you to arrange a suitable date/time with you

**COVID-19**

1. **Booster vaccinations:** If any of you have not yet had your booster vaccination, please arrange this as soon as possible, thank you.
2. **Weekly PCR tests:** A reminder to all staff that you must **continue with your weekly PCR tests**. You should not be taking lateral flow tests as an alternative. Thank you. Also please check expiry dates of PCR tests to ensure they are not out of date.
3. **Availability of Lateral Flow Devices (LFD’s – often referred to as lateral flow tests) from local libraries in Southend and Essex**

We know that some of you have been having trouble getting hold of LFD’s due to national supply issues. We have heard that this is being urgently addressed and the situation should soon improve. However, in case you were not aware, you may be able to obtain supplies from local libraries. They may limit how many they will give to any one person. Call in if you are near a library to see if any are available.

1. **NHS COVID App**

As you will be aware from memos, staff newsletters and the news, there is a requirement for all registered Health and Social care providers carrying out regulated activities to be able to evidence staff vaccination status for COVID 19. We now have confirmation of what is acceptable as evidence. Individuals that have been vaccinated by the NHS in England may demonstrate their vaccination status using the NHS COVID Pass service via the following 3 routes:

* The NHS App
* The NHS website – NHS.uk
* The NHS COVID Pass letter

**An individual’s NHS appointment card (which details your vaccinations) cannot be used as proof of vaccination status.** Over the next few weeks, the management team will therefore be contacting you to ask to see this evidence so we can document this in line with legislation for the 1st April 2022. **Attached to this newsletter are details of the NHS App.**

**Please attend the office to collect your thermal mug, to keep you warm while at work!**

