

25th November 2022

Deborah Sturdy
Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care



Nursing Industrial Action advice and guidance for Social Care and Support Providers

Dear Deborah,

Today as the Royal College of Nurses has announced their intention to strike for two days on the 15th and 20th December 2022 we wish to seek clarification over the [Preparedness for potential industrial action in the NHS](#) letter issued to ICBs and Trusts on 1 November 2022.

Testing preparedness for the Social Care sector is mentioned within the following bullet point -

Testing preparedness as systems. This work will be co-ordinated with wider winter planning. This will include Exercise Arctic Willow – a multi-day exercise for ICBs (working with trusts) planned to take place w/c 14 November. This will seek to explore the health and social care response to multiple, concurrent operational and winter pressures, and the interdependencies with Local Resilience Forum (LRF) partners in responding to these pressures. Further information on this exercise will be communicated via EPRR routes in due course.

To date we have not been made aware of countrywide contact to Social Care and Support providers from their ICB/ICP in regard to this exercise.

We are aware that DHSC is monitoring the situation working closely with NHSE and discussing local contingency planning with regional leads and in turn local councils, however, it appears we may be out of time to fully tests and arrange appropriate continuity plans that will benefit social care providers on the planned strike days.

We welcome an urgent dialogue and reassurance from DHSC and NHSE of the clinical continuity plans for the following activities;

- Planned nursing interventions – e.g. dressings, catheter care, diabetes management - blood glucose monitoring and insulin administration.
- Emergency nursing interventions – e.g. PEG/ Catheter has come out and a community nurse is required to replace it.
- Delegated nursing tasks – where advice/support is required from the delegator
- Paramedics/First Response – when their responses are impacted by people on strike

Given other challenges this winter (e.g. energy disruption) we often support members with CPA guidance - [Business Continuity Planning - Care Provider Alliance](#). Our advice at present does not explicitly reference strike action, and we wish to ensure we can develop with the appropriate briefing to our sector with departmental support to ensure lives are persevered.

Yours sincerely,

Nadra Ahmed
Chair, Care Provider Alliance
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Status: We believe this letter is in the public interest and as a consequence it could be released as a public document.

Care Provider Alliance

The Care Provider Alliance (CPA) was formed 10 years ago at the request of DHSC and brings together 11 National trade bodies representing circa 19,000 independent and voluntary adult social care providers in England.

There are no other organisations in the sector comparable in size or reach to the CPA, we represent > 70% of all social care delivery, and our members provide care and support to 1.3 million people through residential, domiciliary and community-based services, whether commissioned by local authorities, the NHS or privately purchased.

CPA Member Associations

Ewan King
Chief Executive
Officer



Kathy Roberts,
Chief Executive
Officer



Michael Voges,
Chief Executive
Officer



Prof. Martin Green,
Chief Executive
Officer



Prof. Vic Rayner,
Chief Executive
Officer

Dr. Jane Townson,
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Rhidian Hughes,
Chief Executive
Officer

Nadra Ahmed,
Executive Chairman



Voluntary Organisations Disability Group



Clive Parry,
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Melaine Weatherley,
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Ian Turner,
Executive Chair

