

## **Infection Prevention Team Newsletter October 2024**

### **Who we are, what we do and how we can support your Home**

The Westmorland and Furness Council Health Protection team consists of 3 staff: Nicky, Meryl and Sam.

We provide Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) outbreak management and support to 72 Nursing and Residential Care Homes across Westmorland and Furness, a similar number of Supported Living residential homes, and some day care & domiciliary care settings too. Most of you will come in to contact with us when we carry out Infection Prevention audits or when you have an outbreak of infectious disease within the Home but that's not all we do!

We also create and update IPC e-learning modules, manage IPC link worker meetings and provide ad-hoc webinars in response to topical outbreaks and current local infection issues. We plan and support staff vaccination programmes for seasonal influenza, monitor population uptake data of national screening and immunisation programmes and work with ICB & NHS provider colleagues to implement improvement strategies where necessary. Also contribute to Emergency Preparedness, Resilience & Response (EPRR) planning and training exercises, support Asylum Seeker and Refugee health programmes and work with IPC partners to reduce and manage antimicrobial resistant organisms.

### **FREE e-Learning**

You can access our e-learning training module free of charge by following the link [Free IPC training online](#) (if this is your first time you will need to create a new account). Please note that recent changes to the Learning platform means this may not be available immediately, hopefully this will be resolved soon.

### **FREE access to Gold Standard policies**

Our policies are on the internet and accessible via this link [IPC Policies and Procedures](#) (scroll down to find us on the page). We use the 'Harrogate' policies, recognised as 'gold standard' in the UK and we strongly advise managers and IPC link workers to look closely at these and if necessary update any local IPC policies you may have.

### **Flu and Covid Jabs**

It is very important that all staff take up their Flu and Covid jabs as early as possible. We have already seen a significant outbreak of Flu in one of our local care homes resulting in some very poorly residents and staff, necessitating hospital admission (for both residents and a staff member's family).

*We are always here to help- email us at [IPC@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:IPC@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)*