

A pathway for the remobilisation of adult daycare, short breaks and transport services

The physical and psychological impact of the pandemic has been felt by families and service users who are struggling to continue with the current level of day care and short breaks provision. This impact has also been felt by many people with learning disability who live outside of family homes in supported living and/or residential settings. Following a review of all of the information provided by Trusts as part of the scoping, the underpinning IPC Guidance and the feedback from family/carers through the engagement process, the following pathway is being proposed as the way forward for the remobilising of day care, short breaks and transport services across all HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland.

Guiding Principles

Four key guiding principles underpin the proposed pathway.

Person and family centred

Ensuring the needs of the person with learning disability and their family (where appropriate) are considered at all times.

Health and Wellbeing protection

All decisions should focus on promoting and protecting the health and wellbeing of service users and staff involved in day care, short breaks and transport services.

Partnership and Engagement

This pathway has been developed in partnership with families of adults with learning disability and Department of Health. Ongoing partnership and engagement with individuals and their families in the implementation, monitoring and review of the pathway will be a key focus moving forward.

Proactive Surveillance

Proactive surveillance is required to help ensure that any emerging concerns with the implementation of the pathway are identified early and addressed in a timely manner. A formal review of the implementation of the pathway will be undertaken within 3 months of inception.

Whilst all health and social care settings can be a source of virus spread, including among staff and service users, the risk of the spread of infection in day care, short breaks and transport services can be mitigated by using appropriate PPE, good hand and respiratory hygiene, good cleaning and ventilation, managing footfall and where possible maintaining physical distancing.

The proposed pathway sets out the conditions required for the **full** resumption of all day care and short breaks services.

Where there is high uptake of vaccines (80% upwards); weekly PCR testing for both staff and service users (for those unable to tolerate swab testing they should complete saliva PCR (LAMP) testing weekly; good IPC measures in place and the appropriate use of PPE, this may allow for physical distancing to be a lower priority.

It is anticipated that the new IPC guidance to be published in November will provide further clarity on the physical distancing considerations with regards to HSC settings. The new guidance will be considered as part of the overall dynamic risk assessment to be undertaken by Trusts as part of the implementation of the pathway.



Where the vaccination thresholds for staff and services users are less than 80% additional mitigations will need to be applied. Adjustments to the service model may need to be considered to e.g. extended opening hours, changes to shift patterns, and working in bubbles to reduce the number of contacts and footfall within services.

Where vaccination thresholds are less than 70% for staff and service users this will require all service restrictions to be applied and alternative support will need to be provided to families.

A dynamic risk assessment will be required for each setting taking account of all the above measures.

Individual risk assessments will also be required for each service user accessing day care and short breaks service to ensure a person and family centred approach to the implementation of the pathway. The risk assessment will need to consider all of the risk factors including vaccination status, ability of the individual to participate in testing, help and support required with hand and respiratory hygiene and the ability of the individual service user to understand and adhere to social distancing principles.

The risk assessment will detail all reasonable adjustments required to support the individual and their family to access day care, short breaks and transport services.

Applying the four key principles above, a three stage approach to implementation of the pathway is suggested as follows:

