



## IPC champions education programme for Somerset care homes underway

WE ARE pleased to share that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Champions Education Programme for care homes is now underway, with the first session successfully held on Thursday 24th April at Wynford House in Yeovil.

This new programme is designed to support care home staff in becoming IPC Champions - empowering them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence

to lead on infection prevention within their settings. The course runs over six months and includes six sessions, each focusing on key IPC principles and practical applications.

During the first session, attendees were introduced to the programme, met fellow participants, and received their IPC workbooks.

On completion of all six sessions, participants will receive a certificate

to acknowledge their learning and contribution to improving resident safety.

We are aiming for this to be a rolling programme, with another cohort planned to start in winter 2025. Further details will be shared in future newsletters.

Thank you to everyone involved for helping to strengthen IPC practices across our care home community.

### Useful stuff!

#### Pop in for an IPC chat

DON'T forget, we have a regular slot every month where you can call in via MS Teams and ask any IPC-related questions. No appointment necessary. The next session will be held on Wednesday 14 May between 2 and 4. [Please click here to access.](#)

#### Email addresses

PLEASE send us your up-to-date email address so that important cascades and also our newsletter reaches you. Let us know by emailing the team inbox.

## Care homes and monitoring oral health

SMILING Matters refers to a report published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in the UK, which

examines the quality of oral health care provided to residents in care homes across England [Smiling matters](#)

Maintaining good oral health throughout life and into older age improves general health and wellbeing, and plays an important part in helping people stay [independent](#).

Poor oral health can adversely affect people's general health – for example, problems with eating and drinking can lead to malnutrition.

There is also considerable evidence that links poor oral health with aspiration pneumonia, particularly in residential settings.

This is because people can inhale bacteria in dental plaque. Good levels of oral care will help

to prevent various medical and dental conditions from occurring.

All residents should have an oral health assessment when they move into the care home, with the result recorded in their care plan.

The toolkit is a resource that helps care homes improve oral health and prevent infections for their residents. [Oral health toolkit for adults in care homes - GOV.UK](#)

The oral health toolkit includes [training materials, templates and links to publications](#). It's a live document, with further resources added as they become available.

[The Larch Team](#) can now offer free face-to-face mouthcare education training within the care setting. Please contact the team directly for further information and booking [LARCH@SomersetFT.nhs.uk](mailto:LARCH@SomersetFT.nhs.uk)



#### Glowbox

WE HAVE a hand hygiene glow box, which providers are welcome to borrow for their in-house training sessions. Collect and return to Wynford House, Yeovil. Email the team inbox to [book](#)

#### Feedback

TO PROVIDE feedback on the Infection Management team, please follow this [link](#)