

Introducing the Community Infection Prevention and Control Team

Tracey Sharpe and Grace Magani are the Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) Nurse Advisors for Ipswich and East Suffolk and West Suffolk CCGs respectively for community care settings. They work with part-time IPC care homes practitioners across the two patches.

The team was established early this year to work collaboratively with colleagues e.g. Local authority, Acute Hospitals, Public Health England Health Protection Team and Community staff, to support with COVID-19 incidents and outbreaks across all community care settings including care homes, supported housing, learning disabilities and mental health, hospices, and domiciliary care services.

The team works both reactively to support these settings by carrying out support calls, visits and training and proactively to ensure standard IP&C precautions are embedded across all community care settings.

They have so far set up the IP&C Link Champion programme of training and support for in-house staff and will start to implement a rolling programme of audits across these settings in the summer to help identify gaps.

In future they hope to engage more with primary care partnerships to ensure IP&C remains a high priority during COVID-19 and beyond. Their remit will include other outbreaks and incidents that occur in community care settings such as influenza, norovirus etc.

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