**Infection Prevention and Control Link Champion Programme:**

**Community Care Settings**

**Role Description**

**What is an IPC Champion?**

The IPC Champion is a key role within a Care Home, Supported Housing or Domiciliary Care Setting. The role involves "championing the cause" in Infection Prevention and Control, within the care setting. It is an additional responsibility taken on by a substantive member of the care team as part of their “day job”; as such the member of staff should be allowed protected time to focus on the role within their paid hours of work. It is suggested that this might amount to half a day per week, although this may vary based on the size of the care setting and dependency of the service users. In-house training will be given for this role

**Who can be an IPC Champion?**

The IPC Champion may be any member of the care team who has an interest in, and commitment to promoting, excellent standards of infection prevention and control in their workplace, for example a nurse, allied health professional, health care assistant, support worker or manager. The ideal IPC Champion will have confidence and strong leadership skill to promote best IPC practice and where necessary challenge poor practice or non-compliance. Undertaking the IPC champion role with passion and commitment would enable them develop their own potential, thereby empowering them to support the care team to provide quality care, in a clean, safe environment. The Champion will support and approachable to all the staff on matters concerned with IPC and become a role model initiating best practice in infection prevention and control issues within their working area. Each champion will be able participate in the IPC Champion monthly meeting and be able to share the learning with in the team.

**What is the aim for Developing this role?**

* To support the service in ensuring good infection prevention and control (IPC) practices are adopted and maintained in all clinical and non-clinical areas.
* To help create and maintain an environment which will reduce the risk of infection to residents/service users, their relatives, social care workers and healthcare workers. This will be achieved by using IPC knowledge and communication skills.

**What does an IPC Champion do?**

1. Facilitates two-way communication between the care setting and the IPC Team working in the community to provide advice, support and training in infection prevention and control to care settings.
2. With the support of the IPC resource website and IPC Newsletter, the Champions will have the confidence to undertake the role, supporting colleagues to provide the best care to ensure the safety of residents, staff and visitors through good IPC practice.
3. Identifies and escalates to their manager any increase in numbers of infections or linked infections in their care setting, which may indicate a possible outbreak of infection.
4. Assists the Community IPC Team to set up visits or training events at their care setting.
5. Identifies training gaps, feeding this back to the IPC Team so that required training programmes can be developed and delivered in the care setting.
6. Displays posters and leaflets to advise staff, service users and their relatives on aspects of infection prevention and control, for example a display to promote flu immunisation.
7. Undertake/participate in audits/action plans and share relevant information, audit results and actions to team members. Working alongside management and senior staff to improve practice where applicable.
8. Provides updates at staff meetings on IPC issues at the care setting, as well as on new local or national guidance of which their team needs to be aware.
9. Attends any meetings of IPC Champions - in person or online – for professional networking and to share ideas and good practice.
10. IPC Champions plays vital role in Creating culture of learning from the outcome of the incidents and lesion learned will be shared to all staffs with in the practice.

**What does their manager need to do?**

The manager will need to support their IPC Champion in their role by:

* As far as possible, allowing them protected time and resources (such as the use of a computer for online meetings) to fulfil their responsibilities.
* Meeting with them regularly to discuss any issues arising and being open to address any need for change in practice at the care setting.
* Allowing them a regular slot at team meetings to provide an IPC update.

**What are the advantages of being an IPC Champion?**

The IPC Champion role presents the opportunity to develop and enhance your knowledge of infection prevention and control, to work at a cross-organisational level, and to learn skills such as in auditing, planning events and displays, and presenting at team meetings.

**I am interested in becoming an IPC Champion / I am a manager with an interested member of staff – what do we do next?**

Completion of this form indicates that the manager agrees to the nominated member of staff taking on this role and will support them in it as far as they are able. Once the form has been completed could you please send this back to us via address [email.nelondonicb.ipc@nhs.net](mailto:email.nelondonicb.ipc@nhs.net)

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| **Name and Address of Care Setting** |  |
| **Name of Manager** |  |
| Manager’s phone number |  |
| Manager’s email address |  |
| **Name of Nominated IPC Champion** |  |
| Champion’s phone number |  |
| Champion’s email address |  |
| **Date** |  |