

New guidance for care providers on EU Settlement Scheme

The Care Provider Alliance (CPA) has published new guidance about the EU Settlement Scheme for social care providers. The guidance explains how care workers and service users who are EU citizens can apply to continue to live, work, and access funding and care services in the UK after 30 June 2021.

According to the CPA, EU citizens make up around 8% of the total social care workforce in England, meaning that the consequences for employers in the care sector are significant. The CPA guidance includes information about how to support care workers who may need to apply to the settlement scheme. In addition, it clarifies employers' legal obligations, for example the procedure for carrying out 'right to work' checks on new EU workers from 1 January 2021.

The guidance also recommends that care providers should inform

service users and their families about the settlement scheme. According to the CPA, local authorities will expect care providers to take steps to identify and support service users who are EU citizens, especially in cases where they lack the mental capacity to access the scheme without support.

Key recommendations covered in the guidance include assessing how many staff members and service users might need to apply, and review business continuity plans to ensure that they cover the impact that leaving the EU will have on their workforce. Care providers should also ensure that employees who are EU citizens are not subjected to discrimination or harassment.

To support service users, care providers should consider distributing information leaflets, holding meetings with service users and their families, or contacting

Citizens Advice, Age UK, and the Carers Trust to see if they are running local awareness campaigns. They should also identify staff members who can direct service users to sources of information about the EU Settlement Scheme. However, care providers should take steps to ensure that their staff do not act as formal advisers on the application process.

Resources provided in the guidance include links to an employer toolkit published by the Home Office, a template business continuity plan, translated leaflets in various languages, information about digital services to help care workers and service users apply to the scheme online, and contact details for organisations that may be able to help care providers.

Read more about the guidance at: <https://bit.ly/3iftJSn>

