

January 2026



Derby Care Association

Collaborating Together for a Better Future



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ROUNDUP

 2025 

A Year of Partnership, Progress and Purpose

As the provider-led voice for Derby City's adult social care sector, Derby Care Association continued to champion local providers throughout 2025, strengthening partnerships and supporting services through another year of challenges and change.

New Commercial Partners

During the year, DeCA expanded its commercial partner network, welcoming four new partners:

- [Access Group](#) – providing digital systems that support care delivery, workforce management, and operational efficiency
- [Anthony Collins Solicitors](#) – offering specialist legal expertise for the health and social care sector
- [Aston Brooke Solicitors](#) – supporting international recruitment for adult social care
- [Delphi Care Solutions](#) – offering consultancy, quality improvement, and operational support for care providers
- [Empathika](#) – is an “intelligent hub” for care operations that unifies multiple management functions into a single platform
- [Medicine Drop](#) – providing innovative solutions for medication management and delivery
- [TL Dallas](#) – delivering insurance and risk-management support tailored to the care sector

These partnerships strengthen the range of practical, high-quality support available to DeCA members.

Autumn Conference

Derby Care Association's Autumn Conference was a real highlight of 2025, with strong attendance and excellent feedback from providers across the county.

The event offered:

- Insightful and relevant speakers
- Updates on policy, regulation, and emerging sector priorities
- Valuable opportunities for networking and peer learning

Now in its second year, the Autumn Conference is establishing itself as a key space for Derby's adult social care sector to come together, build connections, and share best practice.



Member Engagement and Sector Support

Throughout 2025, DeCA continued to:

- Communicate regularly with members through updates and newsletters
- Represent provider voices within the wider adult social care system
- Support collaboration between providers, commissioners, and partners
- New Certificate of Membership. Email info@derbyca.org.uk if you would like one to display.



LOOKING AHEAD

2026

DeCA enters 2026 with significant developments planned:

New Website Launch

A new DeCA website will be launched in the coming months to improve accessibility, communication, and signposting to support, events, and resources.

New Commercial Partners

We are also delighted to welcome another new two commercial partners, Christie & Co and Solutions for Care, further strengthening the range of practical support available to members.



DSPT Support Provider for Derby and Derbyshire

DeCA will become the local DSPT support provider for the Better Security, Better Care programme, covering Derby and Derbyshire. We have employed a new member of staff dedicated to this role and they will introduce themselves in due course.

Better Security, Better Care Programme Delivery

Better Security, Better Care is designed to help adult social care providers keep information safe across both digital and paper records.

The programme supports organisations to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) – the annual self-assessment demonstrating good data protection and cyber security practices.

As part of this work, DeCA will be clustering with [Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Care Association](#) and [Lincolnshire Care Association](#), strengthening regional collaboration and shared learning across the East Midlands.

These developments further strengthen DeCA's role in supporting providers with compliance, digital confidence, and good governance.



WELCOME

Our New Commercial Partners

We're delighted to share that Derby Care Association has welcomed two new commercial partners who will be supporting our members.

These partnerships strengthen our mission to champion high-quality care, offer practical support to providers, and bring trusted expertise into our local sector.

Christie & Co

A leading specialist in business property consultancy with over 90 years of experience supporting sectors including care, childcare, health services, pharmacies, and more. They provide valuations, brokerage, and advisory services, helping care providers buy, sell, invest, or plan strategically with confidence. Their UK-wide team of sector experts offers deep market insight and professional guidance throughout every stage of a business transaction.

Solutions for Care

A free support service for the care sector, offering a wide range of practical solutions designed to reduce costs without compromising quality. Their offer spans food and catering support, veterans outreach, nursing and housekeeping supplies, waste disposal, recruitment, stationery and office supplies, printing, hydration products, communications services, and staff rewards. They focus on making providers' lives easier by supporting residents, staff, and day-to-day operations across care settings.

What This Means for Members

- Access to exclusive offers or resources
- Opportunities for learning, innovation, and collaboration
- Stronger links between local providers and sector-leading organisations

We're looking forward to working closely with both partners and sharing more about how they can support you in the coming months.

If you'd like to connect with either organisation or learn more about their offer, keep an eye on our upcoming events and communications.



Tech & Innovation in Supported Living

As part of our wider **Adults Digital Transformation Programme**, Derby City Council's ASC Integrated Commissioning Team are exploring how **assistive technology, digital monitoring tools, and AI** can enhance safety, independence and workforce development.

Several digital initiatives are planned for 2025-2026, including:

- A Project Team being setup to develop a **TEC first approach**. This is being led initially by our Learning Disability Social Work Team, who will be speaking to Providers wanting to be part of the journey with us in terms of TEC first and exploring how we can improve outcomes for the person and put more tools into people's toolbox. Visual impairment is a particular area where this can be successful.
- **Provider Portal Update** – The Provider Portal has been in development for a number of years with a view to streamlining contracting and payment processes for better efficiency for both Providers and the Council. The project team have already worked to identify Providers who will be invited to test the portal, which should be complete by end of November 2025. A planned roll out will then follow afterwards.
- *Keep an eye out for further communication from the Project Team sometime in December 2025/ January 2026 as they will require at least two named work email addresses from Providers to set up Portal accounts.*
- Our Project and Integration Team are also busy building new **shared data dashboards** which will be used by the Council to improve Commissioning intelligence and market oversight.

FEEDBACK

Providers interested in taking part in future pilots or sharing their own TEC/tech innovations are encouraged to contact [Laura Rose](#) and [Vicki Helm](#)





EHCH Care Home Forum Member Questionnaire

As discussed during the most recent EHCH Care Home Forum meeting on 17th December, we are inviting members to complete the following short questionnaire:

EHCH Care Homes Forum and Care Homes Comms & Engagement Working Group – Member Questionnaire

[CLICK HERE](#)

Responses are completely anonymous unless you choose to share your details.

Your feedback will help us understand whether the EHCH Care Home Forum and the Comms & Engagement Working Group are meeting your needs, supporting your ways of working, and providing valuable content and discussion. This insight will guide how we continue to shape and improve these sessions for the benefit of all members.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views – your input is genuinely appreciated.

NHS

Derby and Derbyshire
Integrated Care Board

Joined Up Care
Derbyshire





Registered Managers Network Meeting

Join us for our next meeting at:

Date: Monday 2nd February

Time: 1pm – 4pm

Venue: Derby College – Roundhouse Campus

Address: 2 Roundhouse Road, Derby, DE24 8JE

Lunch and Refreshments provided

★CQC and Derby City Council Workforce Learning team, will be speaking and answering questions- see agenda attached★

Book your place here- <https://forms.office.com/e/3MmJ7JshZQ>





Midlands Regional Conference – Evolving Together

Tuesday 10 February 2026 | 10:00 – 15:30 | Birmingham

Last year's conference was amazing and our Skills for Care Midlands Team cannot wait to welcome you back for yet another great event!

Building on the momentum of Midlands Moving Forwards, we're now on the journey to Evolving Together – and we want you with us. This year's theme centres on the Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy, exploring how we can attract, retain, train, and transform our workforce to meet the challenges ahead. You'll hear from inspiring speakers across the sector, discover best practice from across the region, and connect with peers who share your passion for delivering high-quality care.

What to expect

- Insightful sessions on recruitment, retention, training, and service transformation
- A range of expert speakers and sector leaders
- Networking opportunities with professionals from across the Midlands
- Interactive exhibition stands showcasing tools, resources, and support
- A chance to develop a personal or organisational action plan to take away
- Ongoing support from the Skills for Care Midlands Team throughout 2026/27

Find all the information and how to book here - [Midlands regional conference – evolving together](#)



Surveys & Research

We have been approached by two researchers who are seeking input from Home Care managers for brief surveys. Participation is voluntary, and both surveys offer incentives for completion. Details are provided below:

1. KCL – Pro-Health Study (Pilot Survey)

Researcher: Abi Burgess, King's College London

Purpose: Pilot survey for the pro-health study

Who: Managers of homecare services (any kind – independent, franchise, etc.)

Time: 10–15 minutes

Incentive: Entry into a prize draw for a £250 voucher; possibility to participate in later phases of the study

Survey Link: https://qualtrics.kcl.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_1LYUcXv3PzuZbv0

Contact: abigail.2.burgess@kcl.ac.uk

2. DeNPRU-QM – Home Care Agencies & Dementia/MS Support

Researcher: NIHR Dementia and Neurodegeneration Policy Research Unit, Queen Mary University of London

Purpose: Collect data on how home care agencies support people with dementia and/or multiple sclerosis

Who: Home care agency managers or senior staff in Lancashire & South Cumbria; North East London; Nottingham & Nottinghamshire; Sunderland & Newcastle

Incentive: £15 voucher per completed survey (max one per agency per area)

Survey Link: https://appletree.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_01jYVsp30Nw9BnE

Contact: Ayoni.darby@qmul.ac.uk / Claudia.cooper@qmul.ac.uk

If you are interested, please follow the links above to participate or contact the researchers directly for more information.

Thank you for considering contributing to these important studies.



CONSIDER



Can you help us learn about distance dementia care?

Researchers at University of Greenwich would like to understand what is like for people living with dementia and their families when they live far away from each other, including how homecare staff support with this. We would like to speak to:

- People living with dementia who receive support from homecare staff and support from family or friends who live 1 or more hours away
- Family or friend carers supporting a person living with dementia who receives support from homecare staff and who lives 1 or more hours away

What will happen if I take part?

- You will have the opportunity to discuss the research and ask questions.
- You will have a conversation lasting 20 to 45 minutes with a researcher who will ask about your experiences of having or giving support from a distance.
- You can also take some photographs that represent your experiences of distance care which we can look at and talk about during the interview.
- You will be offered a £25 shopping voucher so say thanks for your time.

Who is doing this research?

This research is being led by researchers at University of Greenwich. The research team also includes researchers from King's College London, London School of Economics, University of Hull, and Dementia UK (a UK dementia charity).

Who should I contact to discuss the study?

If you are interested in taking part in this research or want more information, you can contact Aysegul Kafadar at A.H.Kafadar@greenwich.ac.uk.

CONSIDER



Can you help us learn about distance dementia care?

Researchers from the University of Greenwich would like to talk to homecare staff who support people living with dementia whose family members live at a distance (1 or more hours away). This will help us understand how homecare staff currently support distance dementia care and how this can be improved.

What will happen if I take part?

- You will have the opportunity to discuss the research and ask questions.
- You will take part in an interview lasting 20 to 45 minutes where a researcher will ask about your experiences of supporting people living with dementia when their families live at a distance (1 or more hours away). This can be done via video or telephone call.
- You can also take some photographs that represent your experiences of distance care which we can look at and talk about during the interview.
- You will be offered a £25 shopping voucher to say thanks for your time.

Who is doing this research?

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DSPT
Better Security.
Better Care.



**Digital
Care Hub**



**Derby Care
Association**
Collaborating Together for a Better Future



**Lincolnshire
Care Association**



**NOTTINGHAM & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
CARE ASSOCIATION**




Cyber Security – Back to Basics

We're launching a new series of short, practical DSPT support webinars designed to make data security simple and jargon-free.

This first session covers the essentials: strong passwords, password managers, MFA, staff training and why updates matter — all explained in a clear, accessible way.

 24th February

 13:00–13:30

 Online via Microsoft Teams

Perfect for owners, managers, admin teams and frontline staff.

Book your place **HERE**  <https://buytickets.at/dspt>



**Commercial Partner
Offers for
DeCA Members**





Solutions for Care

For over 10 years, Solutions for Care, as a trusted partner, have provided FREE support to the care sector, consistently helping providers and staff save time and money.

SolutionsforCare, providesupport in solvingthe headachesof Care Management with a seamless and transparent approach towards efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Solutions



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Solutions
for Care

Call us today!

Email: info@solutionsforcare.co.uk

www.solutionsforcare.co.uk



Navigating Mergers and Acquisitions in the Social Care Sector



Learn what to consider.



If you are thinking about selling, buying or merging your service, or are simply curious about the process, our blog [Navigating Mergers and Acquisitions in the Social Care Sector](https://delphi.care/blog_articles/navigating-mergers-and-acquisitions-in-the-social-care-sector/) breaks down what to consider before you start, what good due diligence looks like, and how to navigate the transition in a way that protects both people and quality of care.

There is a lot more to it than just numbers and paperwork. Helping care providers prepare properly and make confident decisions is something we feel is important to share.

Click here to take a look https://delphi.care/blog_articles/navigating-mergers-and-acquisitions-in-the-social-care-sector/.

If you would like any further information, please get in touch on 0330 133 3002 or email enquiries@delphi.care - We are here to support you.



We would like to thank all of our commercial partners for their continued support of the UK care sector, and of Derby providers. Your support helps us keep moving the sector forward.



Please click on the logo and you will be directed to our commercial partners websites



Become a Member of Derby Care Association

Join a committed and growing community dedicated to strengthening care provision across Derby. Whether you're a care provider, professional, or advocate, Derby Care Association is here to support you and amplify your voice.

✨ Membership Benefits Include:

- 🔍 Access to up-to-date sector insights and best practice
- 🤝 Networking opportunities with local leaders and care experts
- 📁 Professional development resources and training opportunities
- 🗣️ A platform to share your ideas and help shape the future of care in Derby.

Since 2024, we've seen the real value of collaboration, from successful conferences and provider engagement to the growing impact of our member forums and working groups. We're also proud of our strong partnerships with Derby City Council and the Joined Up Care Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), all working together to support adult social care in Derby.



[REGISTER HERE](#)





*Please share your good
news stories with us.
Help us put care in the
spotlight!*



info@derbyca.org.uk