Self Care Week is an annual national awareness week that focuses on establishing support for self care across communities, families and generations.

More needs to be done to support people to better look after their own health. Empowering individuals to self care has many benefits for their short term and long term health and this is important since people are living longer.

Helping people to look after their own health, and their family’s health also helps to manage demand on health services.

18 – 24 November 2019
The aim of **Self Care Week 2019**

*Self Care Week* provides people-facing organisations with a focus to hold a targeted campaign to support people to take care of their health and wellbeing and improve their understanding of doing so.

Self care messages are maximised when repeated by many voices through different mediums at the same time, making a greater impact and reaching more of the population.
The Self Care Forum has resources to help you plan for **Self Care Week**.

The theme this year is **Think Self Care for Life** which is suitable for self care messages for all ages and genders and will allow you flexibility to focus on your particular area of self care whether it is prevention, mental wellbeing, self-treatable conditions, signposting, self-management, antibiotic use or health literacy.

▶ **Think Self Care for Life**
Our self care forum website contains resources that you are welcome to use as part of your campaign, here are examples of what is available:

- Fact Sheets
- Leaflets
- Posters
- Web buttons and banners
- Sample press release / article


You can also sign up for self care week updates by [subscribing](http://www.selfcareforum.org/events/self-care-week/) to the newsletter.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limited resource</th>
<th>Moderate resource</th>
<th>Extensive resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Put up a poster or two and add the logo to your websites</td>
<td>Publish self care articles in people-facing and staff communications such as newsletters, websites and social media</td>
<td>Organise a week of self care activities with local agencies such as pharmacists, surgeries, local authorities, CCGs, voluntary groups, schools, gyms etc on awareness raising activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tweet! (include #selfcareweek #selfcareforlife and @SelfCareForum and don’t forget to join the SCW twitterchat)</td>
<td>Hold a targeted educational seminar for example – to support new parents on child health, winter health etc using Self Care Forum factsheets</td>
<td>Hold a coffee morning event with the local population, inviting presentations by local and encouraging interaction with members of the public and focusing on what people can do to take care of their own health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spread the word and include the Self Care Week banner in presentations, speeches and newsletter</td>
<td>Use the Self Care Forum’s template press release to send to local journalists (why not request a SCF quote?)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Limited resource

Moderate resource

Extensive resource
Use key messages

❖ **Social Media** – raise awareness of your planned activities through social media as well as tweeting key messages. (Involve us in twitter using @SelfCareForum #selfcareweek #selfcareforlife).

❖ **Slogans** – use key messages as slogans for web pages or posters or other campaign material.

❖ **Internal or external communications** – if you produce regular communications to colleagues and/or patients such as newsletters, emails or notices (including your notice board), why not have a “thought of the day” piece using your key messages (see slides 8-11).
Key Messages (1)

**Self care for Life**

- Think self care for your life and your family's life
- Self care from the cradle to the grave
- Understand how to self care for the important people in your life
- Make self care a life-long habit
- Self care from head to toe today and everyday

**Mental Health**

- Be mindful of your self, health and happiness always
- Take control of your health – be in control of your life
- Feel good about yourself – take care of your health
- Stay healthy in body and soul by eating well and being active
Key Messages (2)

Pharmacy

- You local pharmacist is the health professional on the High Street
- For advice on managing your medicines, speak to your pharmacist
- Ask your pharmacist for advice to help you self care for life

NHS Website

- Check your health conditions and know what to do next: http://bit.ly/1X0CVwh
- For tips to live well the NHS website can help: http://bit.ly/1pKzd7e
- The NHS website can help with advice on long term conditions: http://bit.ly/1oiB7eo
Key Messages (3)

A&E
- Don’t spend four hours in A&E with a cough or cold – treat yourself or take advice from your pharmacist
- A&E is for life threatening emergencies only – understand which health service is suitable for your health needs

Activity
- Activity is key to long term physical health and mental wellbeing
- 30 minutes of activity a day, keeps the hospital bed at bay
- Move more – live well!

Nutrition
- To help cut down on portion size use smaller plates
- Experts recommend people take a vitamin D supplement in the winter months to prevent vitamin D deficiency.
- Binge drinking causes acid-related digestive disorders
Key Messages (4)

**Occupational Health**

- Don’t work through your lunch break – look after your health
- Make sure you read instructions on medicines especially if you are driving or lifting heavy machinery
- You don’t need to stay away from work with sore throats, coughs or colds

**Antibiotics**

- Antibiotics don’t work on sore throats, coughs or colds
- Overuse of antibiotics is making them ineffective
- Understand when you should and shouldn’t use antibiotics
We will review the impact of **Self Care Week** nationally and want to encourage you to do the same. Here are some economical ways of evaluating your campaign:

- Use an online survey provider such as SurveyMonkey to ask target audiences how the campaign has impacted on the local community.
- Search the internet for local press coverage.
- Keep track of the number of posters, leaflets, etc that have been distributed.
- Monitor take up of any services/ initiatives launched.
- For online content, find out the number of page views and click throughs.

Please share your evaluations with us here: [selfcare@selfcareforum.org](mailto:selfcare@selfcareforum.org)
What is the Self Care Forum?

Established in May 2011, the Self Care Forum is the national UK organisation which aims to further the reach of self care and embed it into everyday life, making it a life long habit and culture.

The Self Care Forum is a resource for people-facing organisations such as CCGs, surgeries, local councils, and the voluntary and private sector to help them support people to take better care of their own health.

The Self Care Forum became a charity in 2016.
Good Luck and please share details of your activities with selfcare@selfcareforum.org or apply for the Self Care Week Award 2019.