

# Plus Size Market Shaping Webinar

14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**This Session will begin shortly**



# Welcome

## Plus Size Market Shaping

HCPA Host: Michelle Airey

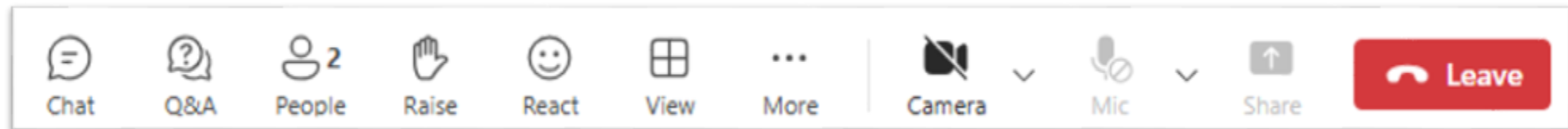
*Head of Education, Quality & Integration*





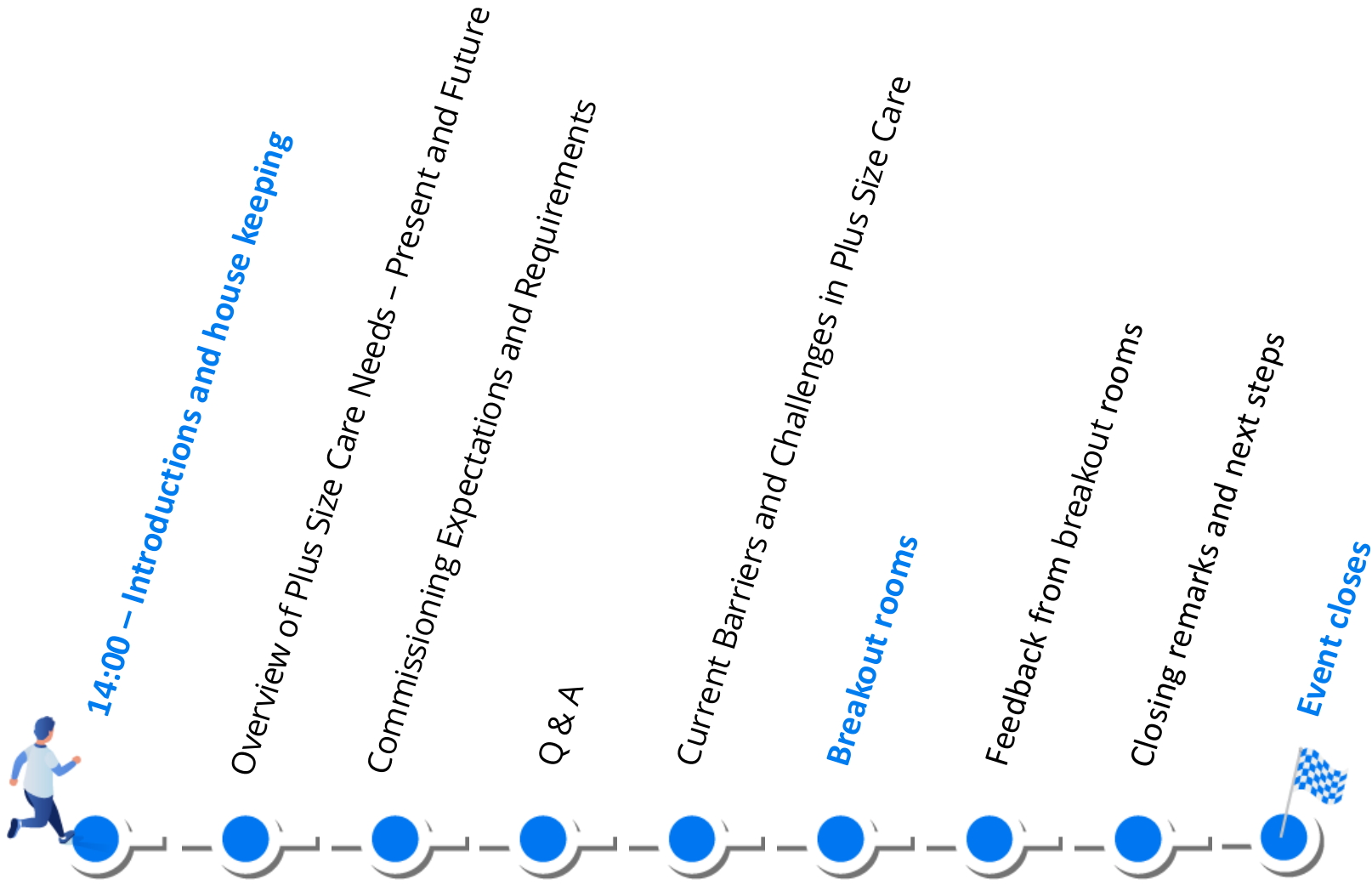
# Webinar Housekeeping

- This webinar is being recorded and may be used to create a video resource for our website.
- We have switched off your microphones. Please use the Q&A or chat box to ask a question and we will switch your microphones on at appropriate times if we need you to elaborate. You will also need to unmute yourself once enabled.
- We have enabled your cameras. If you do not wish to feature in the recording, please leave your camera off.
- You will be assigned to breakout rooms by the event organisers. Each breakout room will be chaired by one of our facilitators. You may experience a short delay as you are moved from one room to the next.





# Agenda





# Overview of Plus-Size Needs – Present and Future

Rosemarie Scrutton – HCC Moving and Handling Advisor

# Introduction to Plus-Size Needs

## **Definition of Plus-Size Needs**

Plus-size individuals require specialized support impacting mobility, equipment, and care delivery.

## **Importance of Inclusive Care**

Addressing plus-size needs ensures dignity, equity, and safety in health and social care environments.

## **Challenges Faced**

Plus-size individuals encounter physical, emotional, and logistical challenges requiring tailored care.

## **Tailoring Services Effectively**

Understanding plus-size needs helps tailor services and resources for effective support.

# Current Needs in Plus-Size Care

## **Specialized Equipment Needs**

Plus-size individuals need wider beds, reinforced chairs, and specialized hoists for safety and comfort.

## **Skilled and Sensitive Care**

Care staff must be trained in safe moving and assisting techniques and be sensitive to challenges faced by plus-size individuals.

## **Mental Health and Lifestyle Support**

Providing mental health support and lifestyle services addresses stigma, isolation, and promotes well-being.



# Future Needs and Planning

## **Growing Demand for Plus-Size Care**

Rising obesity rates increase the need for specialized plus-size care in healthcare, social care and community settings.

## **Inclusive Design in Care Homes**

Care and Nursing Homes must integrate inclusive design to accommodate individuals with larger body sizes safely and comfortably.

## **Multidisciplinary Rehabilitation**

Effective community rehabilitation requires collaboration among therapists, clinicians, and caregivers for comprehensive support.

## **Proactive Planning Strategies**

Early discharge planning and home assessments are crucial to meet evolving care needs and prevent emergencies.



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# Current Barriers and Challenges in Plus-Size Care

Rosemarie Scrutton – HCC Moving and Handling Advisor

# Systemic and Demographic Barriers:

- **Lack of Demographic Data**

Absence of comprehensive demographic data hampers effective planning and resource allocation for plus size care.

- **Commissioning Gaps**

No designated commissioning contracts or preferred venues for plus size care, leading to inconsistent service access.

- **Crisis Driven Responses**

Care often begins in crisis, with emergency services defaulting to A&E regardless of suitability.

- **Need for Integrated Care Pathways**

Systemic barriers hinder coordinated care development, leading to fragmented service delivery for plus-size patients.

- **Need for Strategic Planning**

Urgent need exists for structured commissioning, data collection, and strategic planning to improve plus size care.

# Terminology and Perception Challenges

## Terminology Bias

Terms like 'Bariatric' or 'Plus Size' often trigger assumptions about high care needs, deterring care provider from accepting care package.

## Stigma and Misperceptions

Misunderstandings about care complexity often lead to reluctance in service provision and reinforce negative stereotypes..

A blame culture still exists within professionals, leading to lack of cooperation, opportunities and access to Community Services.

Emergency Response Teams refusing to support individuals wishing to go home.



# Hospital Admission and Discharge Barriers

## **Weight Not Recorded in Acute Setting**

GPs and acute setting professionals often omit weight documentation, impacting care planning

Notifying Moving and Handling Teams to start discharge planning process is often missed

## **Deconditioning During Hospital Stay**

Prolonged immobility in hospital causes deconditioning in plus size patients, worsening health outcomes without proper interventions

Care tasks are time driven in the Acute Trusts, which impacts on actual requirements for discharge..

Acute settings will automatically provide a wider bed for hospital admission, can cause disablement to individual's bed mobility.

## **Home Environment Not Assessed**

Professionals rarely assess home environments for plus-size needs, delaying discharge readiness..

Clients wishes to not be placed too far away from family and friends, restricts options for discharge

## **Size of Room Requirements**

Care Homes not aware of the size of room required, location and access/egress issues.

# Discharge Planning and Equipment Funding

## Delayed Discharge Planning

Planning often begins too late; complicating transitions and prolonging hospital stays..

## Equipment Funding Ambiguity

Unclear funding policies hinder access to necessary equipment for nursing and care homes.

## Policy Barriers

Hertfordshire Equipment Policy prohibits equipment provision to care homes, creating systemic discharge barriers.



# Cost of Essential Equipment

## **Beds and Mattresses Costs**

Basic 4ft beds cost around £1,143; mattresses range from £400 to £2,000 depending on type and features.

## **Mobility and Hygiene Equipment**

Mobile hoists cost about £1,500; static commodes are priced around £775; slings start at £200 each.

## **Specialized Chairs Costs**

Basic upright chairs cost £500; height-adjustable versions start at £1,200; riser/recliner chairs begin at £3,500.

## **Rental and Budget Implications**

Rental equipment costs £150 per day; high equipment costs highlight need for clear funding and budget allocation.

# Training & Workforce Gaps

## **Lack of Dedicated Training**

There is a significant deficiency in specialized training for care providers supporting plus-size individuals, impacting care quality.

## **Limited Engagement**

Care providers not engaging with commissioning managers and clinical leads to explore options for facilitating such provision despite offers of support from clinicians and ACS moving and handling Advisor.

## **Use of Equipment**

Provider understanding of equipment vs need for multiple care givers.



# Community Rehab & Holistic Support

## **Community Therapist Demand**

Community – based rehab often requires multiple therapists per visit, creating pressure on limited resources, often declined a service as considered “no rehab potential”

## **Lack of Holistic Support**

Lack of coordinated support and limited access to lifestyle change support, eating disorder services, and mental health impact outcomes for individuals.

## **Carers and Family Support**

Family members need support to ensure healthy choices are provided, the care giver is often the person providing meals and drink which may not be necessarily healthy.



## Call to Action: Let's Make a Change!

### **Develop Clear Pathways**

Establishing clear commissioning pathways ensures coordinated plus-size care across healthcare systems.

### **Invest in Training and Equipment**

Providing training and appropriate equipment enhances care quality and addresses plus-size patient needs.

### **Enhance Data Collection**

Improved data collection supports informed planning and development of inclusive plus-size care services.

### **Promote Collaboration and Inclusion**

Collaboration and inclusive design foster dignity, respect, and equitable care for all individuals.



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# Breakout Room Discussion's

1. What is your perception of practical issues you may encounter with a plus size client?
2. What Barriers prevent engagement with Commissioners around acceptance of a plus size client?
3. What avenues can we explore for improvements: e.g. Assessment, Procurement, Equipment Provision?
4. What do you think Commissioners need to know to make these improvements?



**How confident do you feel in providing safe and comfortable care for plus-size individuals?**



**Have you ever received formal training specifically on plus-size care or bariatric equipment?**



**In your current role, how often do you support plus-size individuals?**



**Which of the following do you think is the biggest barrier to safe plus-size care?**



**Do you know the safe working load (SWL) of the equipment most often used in your care setting?**



**When planning care, do you consider what the person can do for themselves, irrespective of weight or body dynamics.**



**Does your workplace currently have the right equipment to support plus-size individuals safely and with dignity?**



# Equipment



**Would you be interested in training that covers: (select all that apply)**



**How would you prefer this type of training to be delivered?**

# *What do you want from future webinars?*

Webinar evaluation form



# Newsletters

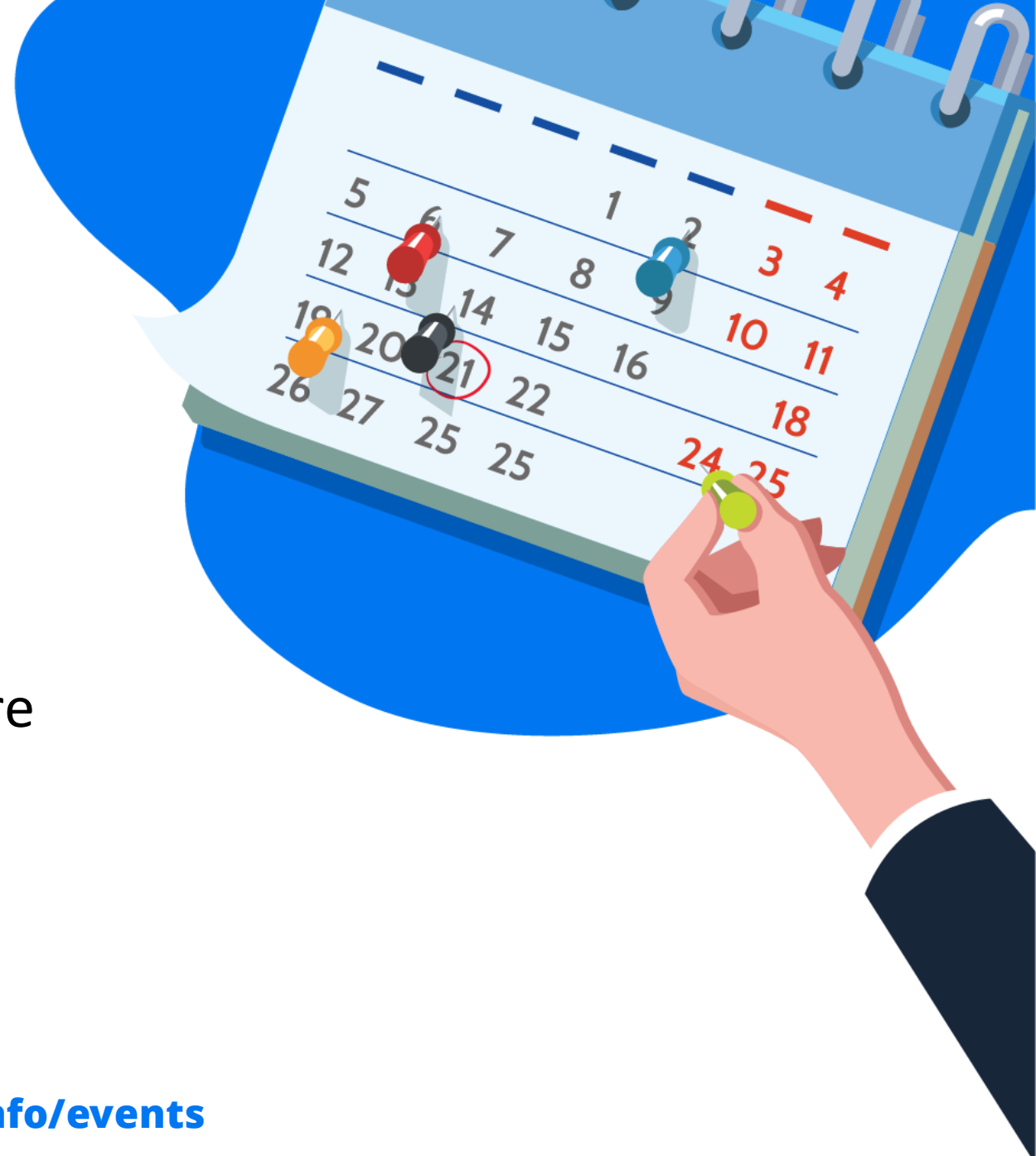
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