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19th March 2020

Dear Carer

Coronavirus (Covid-19) – Information for carers - follow up letter

I hope that you and your loved ones are as well as possible given the incredibly difficult situation we are all facing.

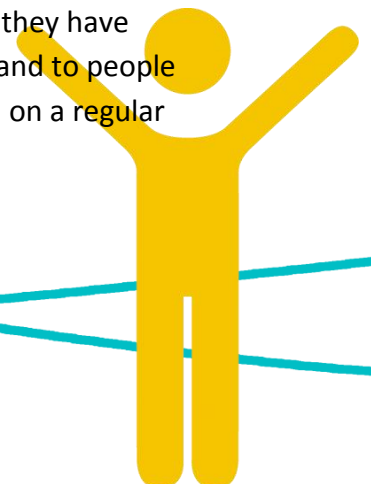
By the time you read this letter, you will be aware that we have already taken the decision to close our day services. This is not a decision that was taken lightly and I am aware that it may create further pressures for you at home. I apologise if this has created additional pressures in your lives.

On the back of the ever increasing number of people across the country who were contracting the virus, combined with the particular vulnerabilities of the people we support (and the vulnerabilities of a number of family carers themselves), we were strongly of the view that the risk of many people with such vulnerabilities being in one place was too great.

Although we have closed the day services at the present point in time, we are still keen to try to support you as best we can. To that end managers and staff from across the service will hopefully have been in contact with you to talk about how we can best provide support, during the period that our day service buildings are closed.

We have set up camp in each of our three main day services (Bramley, Potternewton and Rothwell) from which the management teams will co-ordinate the staff that they have available to them at any given point in time, both to families in their homes and to people who live in our supported living services. We will also endeavour to ring you on a regular basis to see how you are and to see if your support needs have changed.

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If you need to contact us the phone numbers for these three bases are:

Bramley – 0113 3781024

Potternewton – 0113 3782560

Rothwell – 0113 3783755

The telephone numbers for all other community bases may not be answered as we have no staff presence in any other day service site.

We continue to closely monitor government advice and work closely with colleagues in Leeds City Council and the NHS. Please follow the government advice about what to do if you or your relative has symptoms of Covid-19. The current advice is that if you live together in the same household, you should self isolate for 14 days. Given the vulnerabilities of the people we support, I would also advise that you contact NHS 111.

Given that the government are strongly advising the self isolation of all people with learning disabilities, I cannot envisage a set of circumstances where day service buildings will be open again for at least 3 months.

Finally, I appreciate that this is a far from ideal situation, but my overriding hope is that together we can minimise the numbers of people who are affected by this public health crisis.

Keep well and stay safe



Andy Rawnsley
Chief Executive

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