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Dear all

I hope that you and the people close to you are well.

Thank you so much for everything that you continue to do to keep both the people we support and colleagues safe. Lots of people have had to work in new ways and the flexibility that you have shown is greatly appreciated. Just a quick couple of updates from me:

Covid update

I am delighted to be able to report that we currently have no customers who are symptomatic and that no-one we support has tested positive since 24th April. This is a fantastic achievement and is down to the vigilance of you all. We currently have 106 members of staff working at home due to their own long term vulnerabilities and have 3 members of staff who are not in work as neither they nor a member of their household are symptomatic. There have been no further hospital admissions for Covid related issues for either staff or the people we support. You will all no doubt have seen that the government is 'pausing' shielding from the 1st August. We are currently working on a process to ensure that arrangements are in place to fully risk assess the arrangements for individual members of staff before agreeing for anyone to return to work.

PPE stock levels continue to be healthy and it is the use of PPE, vigilant infection control practices and social distancing that continue to be our biggest defences against transmission to the people we support and to each other. Our social distancing policy remains in place at a distance of 2 metres.

Day services recovery

We are in the process of putting together a detailed recovery plan for a small number of our day services to be able to re-open, albeit on reduced numbers. This will be the first phase in what will hopefully be a gradual return to providing a buildings based day service over the coming months. Initially this offer will be to those people who live at home with family carers and we will have reduced numbers in the first instance. In the medium term we will need to be able to flex between buildings based services, community support and an on line offer as demand for services and any local restrictions fluctuate over time. I will write again when we have definitive plans with dates that we will start to re-open. Thank you for your patience on this issue and for your flexibility, which has enabled us to support people in their own homes whilst day services have been closed.

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Particular thanks to those of you who are temporarily based in supported living services and are providing critical cover in those services whilst colleagues are shielding.

Black Lives Matter

As I mentioned in my previous letter, we are looking to facilitate the set up of a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff forum, led by people from those communities that can help influence us in the development of our policies and practices. If you would be interested in joining such a forum please email either Everton Wattley at Everton.Wattley@aspirecbs.org.uk or me at Andrew.Rawnsley@aspirecbs.org.uk

Keep well and stay safe



Andy Rawnsley
Chief Executive

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