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Dear all

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

Thank you once again for everything that you are continuing to do to keep the people we support safe. I am really pleased to welcome back those of you who have already returned to work after shielding at home, and look forward to welcoming more of you back as we work through your individual risk assessments to ensure that this is done in a way that is safe for you.

#### **Covid update**

Once again, it's good to be able to report that we still have no-one who we support who has tested positive since 24<sup>th</sup> April. Also, we have only had one member of staff who has tested positive in that period, and thankfully she had not had any symptoms. This is a huge achievement which is due to your continued use of PPE, vigilant infection control practices and social distancing (which for us is still 2 metres), all of which are our best defence against transmission to the people we support and to each other. We have effective supply chains in place and our stock of PPE continues to be healthy. This includes face masks which, following recent guidance, means that all staff and visitors in all care settings should wear a mask at all times, even if they are not undertaking care tasks.

#### **Day services**

On Tuesday of this week it was great to be able to welcome back the initial groups of people who we support at Blackgates, Morley, Naburn, Strawberry Lane and Rothwell with Bramley, Cross Gates and Potternewton re-opening next week. Where practically possible, we hope to have all bases re-opened in a rolling programme by the end of September albeit just for people who live with family carers in the first instance. So, welcome back also to those people who we support who live at home with family carers; returning to their day services will give them the chance to see friends once again and their families some much needed respite from their caring responsibilities.

Running alongside this, we will continue to provide some community support and a programme of online activities so that we have a flexible day service offer that is responsive to peoples needs during the ongoing pandemic.

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### **Black Lives Matter**

The first meeting of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff forum was held yesterday as one initiative to ensure we move to being anti-racist. I found [this BBC video](#) a really helpful way to understand the difference between being non-racist and being anti-racist. If you are interested in joining the BAME forum please email Everton Wattley at [Everton.Wattley@aspirecbs.org.uk](mailto:Everton.Wattley@aspirecbs.org.uk) or contact him at Bramley 0113 3781024.

### **AGM, Staff Awards and recruitment to the Board**

Our AGM is due to be held in September and we are currently looking at options for holding a scaled-back virtual AGM. With this in mind, we intend to postpone the STAR Awards for the time being. We will consult with the Future Matters group in September about how and when we can host the Awards at a later date and how we approach recruitment to the Board this year for both staff representatives and reps from the people we support – given the extraordinary circumstances we all find ourselves in.

Thank you once again for your continued dedication and support.

Keep well and stay safe.



**Andy Rawnsley**  
**Chief Executive**

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