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Hi everyone

I hope that all is well with you. Please find below a quick update about a number of key areas.

Covid update

I am pleased to be able to say that our cautious approach to managing the risks presented by Covid appears to be successful and that we currently have no-one who we support who is symptomatic and it remains the case that no-one we support has tested positive since 24th April. We continue to invest heavily in PPE and have good stock levels to see us through the winter months to help with Infection Prevention and Control.

Since shielding was paused at the start of August, more than 50 staff have returned to work, with more staff coming back each week. The pause of shielding has enabled us to start re-opening our day services and has also seen increased numbers of people return to our respite services.

However, I am conscious that the local rises in cases is a stark reminder of why all the vigilance about social distancing, hand hygiene, the use of PPE and all other Infection Prevention Control measures are as important as ever.

Day services recovery

I am pleased to say that we have already re-opened eight day services in August, including the three main hubs at Bramley, Potternewton and Rothwell, all of which have provided a much needed service to the people we support and family carers. We opened our community bases at Aireborough and Rothwell Sports Centres yesterday and have plans to re-open a further eleven community bases in September, as those buildings become available to us. These eleven services are: Barleyfields, Garforth Leisure Centre, Herd Farm, Hillside, Holt Park Active, Kirkstall Leisure Centre, Middleton Leisure Centre, Pudsey Leisure Centre, Richmond Hill, Scott Hall Leisure Centre and Tech North.

At present we do not have any fixed date for the re-opening of Calverlands, Fearnville, Headingley Heart, John Charles or Otley Court House. However, we are putting alternative arrangements in place for the people who attend these services. Additionally, we are not in a position yet to re-open the cafes that we run at this point in time. Given the requirement for social distancing, we are

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continuing to only offer day services to people who live with family carers or with carers from the St. Anne's Community Carers scheme at this point in time.

Pay update

At a national level, a pay award of 2.75% has been agreed between the Trades Unions and National Local Government employers. We will be implementing this award for all TUPE'd staff, plus staff on Aspire grades above ASP1. The award should be paid in the October salary and backdated to April. One exception to this for TUPE'd staff are a handful of non-care staff who received a part uplift in April (to bring them to a minimum of Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage) and they will receive the remainder of their uplift in October. Individual Staff affected will be contacted by HR.

All ASP1 staff who joined after spin out have already received their annual pay inflation rise which was a 3.33% uplift in April, in line with the rise in the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage.

You can find the latest pay scales which include the uplifts for all scale points here [Link to payscales](#).

AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended and took part in the AGM which was held yesterday. As well as the formal business, we were treated to a fantastic performance from Grease by Dramarama, the unveiling of the new [recruitment video](#) and the [Big Walk](#) video by the Waterloo service from Learning Disability Week. On behalf of the board, Sheila thanked all the staff for their continued commitment, particularly through the recent pandemic.

We ran neither the staff STAR awards nor the long service presentations at the AGM and I will pick up with the Future Matters meeting tomorrow about this and the staff survey.

Thank you once again for everything you are doing to help keep people safe.

Keep well and stay safe.



Andy Rawnsley
Chief Executive

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