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4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Hi everyone,

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

It's really good to be back after a period off work being quite poorly with Covid 19. Big thanks to Neil and the team for covering everything in my absence and to everyone for your kind messages.

After what has been a rotten year, I'm pleased to be able to share a number of bits of good news:

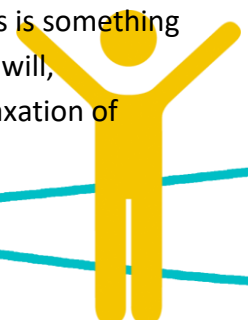
Firstly, the approval of the Pfizer vaccine does appear to offer some hope that life without the current level of restrictions may well be on the horizon. We know health and social care staff are in the priority groups for vaccinations when they are rolled out, though at this point we do not have a definitive position as to when it will become available to Aspire staff.

Secondly, as you may have seen on the news, rapid testing is going to be made available to staff, the people we support and a family visitor for people who live in Care Homes. For us this means our respite services and the crisis unit at Scott Hall. Unfortunately, as yet the government has not made this available to supported living services – though I remain hopeful that this will be rolled out to all care settings in the coming weeks. Family visiting in supported living services still needs to be risk assessed on an individual basis – with us supporting families to have contact with their loved ones in the safest way possible.

Thirdly, we have had good news that the Council's executive board have agreed to the recommendation to continue to contract with Aspire after the end of the current contract period, which is due to expire at the end of July next year. This is great news for both services and jobs. Myself and others at Westfield are working with people in Leeds City Council on the details of how this will work.

Lastly, I'd just like to say a huge thank you for everything that you are doing to keep the people we support and each other safe. From my own personal experience of Covid 19, this virus is something that we should continue to treat with the greatest of caution. I know that many of us will, understandably, want to spend time with family and friends during the upcoming relaxation of

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restrictions over the Christmas period, as will many families of the people we support. Please do so safely.

Collectively, we have done remarkably well in protecting the people we support and we still have had no-one we support or who works for us having been admitted to hospital with Covid 19 since the 30th April. Keeping everyone safe has been down to your incredible hard work.

Take the very best of care



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

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